

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Cost of Living 2023 - 24

STAGE I: What is being assessed and by whom?	
What is being assessed - including a brief description of aims and objectives?	<p>When considering this EIA it is important to have due regard to the public sector equalities duties imposed upon the Council by section 149 Equalities Act 2010.</p> <p>Plymouth residents are struggling with the rising cost of living. Food and non-alcoholic beverage prices rose by 16.7% in the 12 months to February 2023, up from 16% in January. The annual rate of inflation for this category had risen for 17 consecutive months, from minus 0.6% in July 2021 however January saw a very slight drop in the rate. In May 2023 there is ongoing double digit inflation in basic food stuffs. For many the very basics are becoming unaffordable with many parents worrying about how they will feed their children in the schools holidays.</p> <p>The price of home fuel is one of the biggest drivers for increased cost of living and this remains a pressure with an increase of 66.7% in Electricity and 129.4% in gas over the last 12 month.</p> <p>Research undertaken during December 2021 to January 2022 found that 20% of Plymouth households are food insecure (either with very low or low security) and levels of insecurity were even higher in some types of households. Specifically, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security had been most severe in households with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Income below £20,000 pa:• 1+ person with mental health condition:• Children present: and/or• Single adult households. <p>Furthermore, reflecting the diverse levels of deprivation and prosperity in the city, significant differences in food security were found in different areas of Plymouth. A quarter of households in the Western & Waterfront wards were currently food insecure (27%). Those in social housing or private rented accommodation are also much more likely to be food insecure than those people with mortgages. Households with children/young people were significantly more likely to be experiencing food insecurity (28%) than those without (16%). Nearly half of lone adult households with children/young people said that they were experiencing insecurity (45%), making them among the most likely of all groups to need food support.</p>

STAGE 1: What is being assessed and by whom?

	<p>There has been an 89.4% increase in approaches to CAB for the period of April to December 2022 compared to the same period in 2021 when considering the five key cost of living issues. Notably the biggest increase in approaches relates to charitable support and food banks which has risen by 346% in the same period this is followed by energy related approaches which saw a 140% increase. There has however been a 32% decrease in council tax arrears issues and smaller drops in approaches for energy debts and Personal Independence Payment claims.</p> <p>The Cost of Living Working Group will develop an Action Plan to support residents to become more resilient to energy, food and financial insecurity</p>
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Department and Service	Office of the Director of Public Health
Date of Assessment	25 th May 2023
Author	Rachel Silcock, Community Empowerment Operational Lead

STAGE 2: Evidence and Impact

Protected Characteristics (Equality Act)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and feedback)	Any adverse impact?	Actions	Timescale and who is responsible?
Age	17.4% of the Plymouth population are aged 15 and under (Census data 2021). In 2021 children and young people 17 and under accounted for 19.5 per cent of the population. The percentage of 20-24 year	No. Our strategic intentions confirm the ambition to truly give every child "A Bright Future" by commissioning and providing place based Integrated Children, Young People and Families	To include; Provide funding from the Household Support Fund to our most vulnerable children, young people and families in our society, across the full range of	To be further developed through the Cost of Living Working Group Ruth Harrell and Sharon Muldoon

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	<p>olds (8.0%) is higher than that found in England as a whole (6.0%).</p> <p>In Plymouth, 34% of households are deprived in at least one dimension of education, housing, health and employment, and nearly 16% are deprived in at least 2 dimensions (Census 2021). There are 9,900 (18.6%) children living in poverty, which is one in five. Data shows that 7,308 children under 16 are living in income deprived households with 79% living in workless households, indicating that they are more likely to be experiencing child poverty.</p>	<p>services covering wellbeing, physical and mental health, social care and education. Children, young people and families will be supported to stay safe, healthy, achieve and aspire. The Cost of Living Action Plan will support our ambitions, during these challenging times, which includes support to other vulnerable groups</p>	<p>ages, specifically food vouchers during the school holidays to those families on Free School Meals and other vulnerable families.</p> <p>Review opportunities to ensure they are signposted to good quality information and advice for income maximisation</p>	
Disability	<p>The 2021 census data on disability has not yet been released. From the 2011 census, there are 3,142 children with disability. Plymouth schools report that of every 1,000 children 17.5 have a learning difficulty. A total of 31,164 people (from 28.5 per cent of</p>	<p>No adverse disability related impact has been identified.</p>	<p>Households with a disability or long-term illness will be prioritised for support from the Household Support Fund. A take-up campaign of under claimed benefits will target these groups</p>	<p>To be further developed through the Cost of Living Working Group</p> <p>Ruth Harrell</p>

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	households) declared themselves as having a long-term health problem or disability (national figure 25.7 per cent of households). 10% of our population have their day-to-day activities limited a lot by a long-term health problem or disability. 1,297 adults registered with a GP in Plymouth have some form of learning disability (2013/14). There are 27166 adults with a disability in work. There are 23,407 carers aged between 18 and 64 in Plymouth known to our services. There are 17,937 state pension age people with disability (2011).			
Faith, Religion or Belief	In the 2021 Census, in Plymouth the most common response to the religion question was “No Religion” with 48.9 per cent (129,338) 42.5 per cent (112,526) of the population describe themselves as “Christian” remains the largest faith group in the city	This programme will not discriminate against faith, religion or belief.	All information provided will be circulated to faith groups with options to have multi-language versions	Ongoing. Policy and Intelligence Team Office of the Director of Public Health

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	<p>1.3 per cent (3,474) of residents describe themselves as “Muslim”, the second largest faith group, this is followed by Buddhists which account for 0.4 per cent (1,018) of residents</p> <p>Hindu 0.3 per cent (814) and Jewish 0.08 per cent (207)</p> <p>0.58 per cent (1,527) of the population answered that they have “Other religion”</p> <p>There are 0.04 per cent (96) Sikh</p> <p>5.9 per cent (15,695) of people did not answer the question about religion.</p>			
Gender - including marriage, civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity	<p>The 2021 census shows that 50.9% of the Plymouth population are female and 49.1% are male.</p> <p>Pregnancy and maternity data has not yet been released from the 2021 census.</p> <p>The 2021 census question on marriage and civil partnership only relates to those 16 or over, so the</p>	<p>This programme will not discriminate on the basis of gender, except where single parent households will be prioritised for funding, the majority of which are female</p>		<p>Ongoing. Policy and Intelligence Team/Public Health England Child Health Profiles</p>

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	<p>cohort is circa 218k residents in Plymouth. Of these:</p> <p>40.1 per cent (87,840) have never married and never registered a civil partnership. A very similar number 39.9 per cent (87,275) are married to a person of the opposite sex.</p> <p>10 per cent (23,443) are divorced,</p> <p>6 per cent (13,329) widowed</p> <p>With 2.5 per cent (5,527) separated but still married.</p> <p>0.49 per cent (1,073) are, or were, married or in a civil partnerships of the same sex.</p>			
Gender Identity and Gender Reassignment	<p>The data on gender reassignment from the 2021 census has not yet been released, so there are currently no official estimates for gender reassignment at either national or local level</p> <p>There is data on the responses to the Gender Identity (GI) Census</p>	No gender identity or reassignment related impact has been identified.		Ongoing. Policy and Intelligence Team/Public Health England Child Health Profiles

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	<p>question in 2021. This question was voluntary and was only asked of people aged 16 years and over.</p> <p>94.2 per cent (205,959) people aged 16 years and over in Plymouth have a gender identity the same as their sex registered at birth (England and Wales 93.5 per cent)</p> <p>5.2 per cent (11,444) people aged 16 years and over in Plymouth did not answer (England and Wales 6 per cent)</p> <p>0.5 per cent (1,221) of people aged 16 years and over in Plymouth have a gender identity different from their sex registered at birth (England and Wales 0.5 per cent). Of these:</p> <p>GI different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given, 0.2 percent (405) (England and Wales 0.24%)</p>			

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	<p>Trans man, 0.1 per cent (266) (England and Wales 0.1%)</p> <p>Non-binary, 0.1 per cent (238) (England and Wales 0.06%)</p> <p>Trans woman, 0.1 per cent (204) (England and Wales 0.1%)</p> <p>All other gender identities 0.0 per cent (108) (England and Wales 0.04%)</p>			
Race	<p>94.9 per cent (248,727) of residents in Plymouth identified their ethnicity as “White”; 2.3 per cent (5,957) of residents identified their ethnicity as “Asian” making this the city’s second largest ethnic group. 1.8 per cent (4,656) of Plymouth residents identified that they are from a “Mixed/Multiple ethnic background”</p> <p>1.1 per cent (2,786) of residents identified their ethnicity as a “Black”. The percentage of residents who</p>	No adverse impact has been identified	Support measures will be promoted in partnership with a wide range of BAME organisations. Appropriate measures need to be put in place to ensure that language barriers do not adversely affect people’s ability to access support.	Ongoing. Policy and Intelligence Team/Public Health England Child Health Profiles

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	<p>identified their ethnicity as “Black” has almost doubled since 2011 especially those who identify as Black Caribbean and Black African. 1.0 per cent (2,579) identified their ethnicity as “other ethnic background”.</p> <p>Data from the 2021 census relating to a person's first or preferred language (age 3+). In Plymouth: 92.7 per cent of residents speak English as their main language. (England and Wales 91.1%) This is followed by Polish, with 1.02 per cent of residents (2,700) (In England and Wales this was also second with 1.1%) Romanian with 0.55 per cent (1,640) (England and Wales this was also third 0.8%) Portuguese with 0.22 per cent of residents (575) (England and Wales, third was Urdu and Panjabi 0.5%)</p>			

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	There are 119 residents who's first and preferred choice is 'sign language'			
Sexual Orientation	<p>There is no data on this for CYP aged 15 years and under. From the 2021 Census, 88.95 per cent (199,465) people aged 16 years and over in Plymouth are straight or heterosexual 6.60 per cent (14,429) people aged 16 years and over in Plymouth did not answer 4.45 per cent (9,730) of people aged 16 years and over in Plymouth are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other (LGBO) of these:</p> <p>2.06 per cent (4,509) are bisexual; 1.97 per cent (4,297) people are gay or lesbian. 0.42 per cent (924) have another sexual orientation</p>	No adverse impact has been identified	The Household Support Fund and other support measures in the plan will be promoted in partnership with a wide range of LGBTQ+ organisations	Ongoing Ruth Harrell

STAGE 3: Are there any implications for the following? If so, please record 'Actions' to be taken		
Local Priorities	Implications	Timescale and who is responsible?
Reduce the inequality gap, particularly in health between communities.	The development and implementation of the Cost of Living Action Plan will positively impact on a wide range of families currently living with poverty and inequality. This project aims to minimise the impact of the Cost of Living crisis by delivering information and support to those that most need it.	Ongoing Ruth Harrell
Good relations between different communities (community cohesion).	No adverse impact on community cohesion has been identified, as statutory requirements will enable all vulnerable families and communities to access good quality support and services whatever their circumstances. The implementation of interventions such as Welcome Spaces has the impact of bringing people and communities together.	Ongoing Ruth Harrell
Human Rights	It is important that all residents are treated fairly, their views are taken into account and that their human rights have been respected. No adverse impact on human rights has been identified.	Ongoing Ruth Harrell

STAGE 4: Publication			
Director, Assistant Director/Head of Service approving EIA.	Ruth Harrell, Director for Public Health	Date	25 th May 2023