

# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Disabled Facilities Grant



## STAGE 1: What is being assessed and by whom?

What is being assessed - including a brief description of aims and objectives?

The Council has a statutory duty to approve mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's) for major adaptations. This work helps people to live independently in their own homes, thereby helping to contain the potential increase in costs to Social Care Services.

The legislation governing DFGs is the 1996 Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act. DFGs are mandatory and are available from local authorities in England and Wales, subject to a means test. The grants are to provide adaptations to the home environment to promote independence and keep people living in their own homes.

Responsible Officer

Malisa Collyer, Strategic Manager, Community Connections

Department and Service

Community Connections

Date of Assessment

1<sup>st</sup> June 2017

## 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	The average age in Plymouth (39.0 years) is about the same as the rest	Older people and Younger People are recognised as potentially	Advice for those with a contribution to make to the cost of the works	MC ongoing.

**STAGE 2: Evidence and Impact**

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	<p>of England (39.3 years), but less than the SW (41.6yrs).</p> <p>The city has the third lowest percentage of older people, and the fifth highest percentage of children and young people (under 18) of the 16 SW county and unitary authorities.</p> <p>75 % of DFG applicants are Older People, and as such the above statistics do not reflect the demand for this type of service.</p> <p>Younger people (18-24) are more likely to be unemployed, and thus may have an income making them ineligible for grant assistance.</p> <p>Disabled Facilities Grant;</p>	<p>vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Grant is means tested.</p> <p>Homes that cannot be adapted to meet the occupiers need. Owner Occupiers are encouraged and supported to move to more suitable home. Tenants are supported to find more suitable accommodation either via MAT or Devon Home Choice.</p> <p>Services offered in lieu of DFG - Private Adaptation and Home Improvement Works Technical Services is available to all owner occupiers in need of home adaptations to</p>	<p>given by Housing Renewals.</p> <p>Support to move home given on a 121 ad hoc basis. Discretionary re-location grants offered to owner occupiers.</p> <p>Advice regarding charge offered upfront before and service commences. Non-refundable deposit it taken.</p>	

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	Assistance is also available for Children, however, these are not means tested.	enable independent living of any age. Service is chargeable, thus only those able to pay for this service will be able to access.		
Disability	<p>28.5% of households in Plymouth declare themselves as having a long term health problem or disability (nationally this is 25.7%).</p> <p>National evidence suggests:</p> <p>A substantially higher proportion of individuals who live in families with disabled members live in poverty, compared to individuals who live in families where no one is disabled.</p> <p>19% of individuals in</p>	<p>Limitations of the approved budget potentially result in some disabled people waiting for their adaptations. If the disabled person is considered eligible (i.e. means testing) for grant funded adaptation works they will receive works to their home environment, however, they may have to wait.</p> <p>A prioritisation system has been employed to ensure those most in need receive their</p>	<p>Continued monitoring of prioritisation scheme to ensure fairness and compliance by officers.</p> <p>Notification to customers of the anticipated wait time.</p>	MC ongoing.

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	<p>families with at least one disabled member live in relative income poverty, on a before housing costs basis, compared to 15% of individuals in families with no disabled member.</p> <p>21% of children in families with at least one disabled member are in poverty, a significantly higher proportion than the 16% of children in families with no disabled member.</p> <p>Disabled Facilities Grant; Assistance is available to all people in need of home adaptations to enable independent living. These grants are targeted at those with disabilities, but not necessarily those registered disabled.</p> <p>Private Adaptation and</p>	<p>adaptation soonest (please see Independent Living Assistance Policy 2016).</p>		

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	Home Improvement Works Technical Services is available to all owner occupiers in need of home adaptations to enable independent living of any ability.			
Faith, Religion or Belief	<p>Data shows that 32.9% of the Plymouth population stated they had no religion.</p> <p>Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish and Sikh combined totalled less than 1%.</p> <p>0.5% of the population had a current religion that was not Christian, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, or Sikh such as Paganism or Spiritualism.</p> <p>Of those DFG completed in 13/14 56% identified as Christian; 1% Muslim;</p>	<p>No adverse Impact.</p> <p>Small number of applicants from minority religions identified.</p>	<p>Work with Social Inclusion Unit to promote services to Minority groups.</p> <p>Review application rates from BME communities.</p> <p>Monitor the impact of promotion to BME communities.</p>	MC – 31/03/2018.

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	<p>40.5% No Religion; 2.5% other.</p> <p>The Council's Policy is to treat all those that apply for assistance fairly and on an equitable basis founded on case by case needs assessment regardless of 'protected characteristics'.</p> <p>The Council regularly monitors its application for assistance to ensure that policies and procedures comply with current equal opportunities legislation.</p>			
Gender - including marriage, pregnancy and maternity	Citywide data shows that overall 50.6% of our population are women; this reflects the national figure of 50.8%. Of those in receipt of DFG 2014/15 60% were women.	No adverse impact anticipated -		

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	<p>Given the age range of applicants for DFG, and the statistic that women live longer, the above % is as expected.</p> <p>The Council's Policy is to treat all those that apply for assistance fairly and on an equitable basis founded on case by case needs assessment regardless of 'protected characteristics'. The Council regularly monitors its application for assistance to ensure that policies and procedures comply with current equal opportunities legislation.</p>			
Gender Reassignment	National figures (ONS 2013) indicate that up to 10,000 people have gone through this process, with 23 known cases in	No adverse impact anticipated		

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	<p>Plymouth.</p> <p>No specific evidence to suggest trans people are any more or less likely to require adaptations to their home environment can be found.</p> <p>The Council's Policy is to treat all those that apply for assistance fairly and on an equitable basis founded on case by case needs assessment regardless of 'protected characteristics'. The Council regularly monitors its application for assistance to ensure that policies and procedures comply with current equal opportunities legislation.</p>			
Race	92.9% of Plymouth's population is White British	No impact anticipated	Work with Social Inclusion Unit to promote services to	MC – 31/03/2018.



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	<p>7.1% are Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) with White Other (2.7%), Chinese (0.5%) and Other Asian (0.5%) the most common.</p> <p>We are a dispersal area for asylum seekers: up to 300 people will be accommodated in the City at any given time.</p> <p>Of those DFG completed in 13/14 85% identified as White British; 0.4% White Irish; 0.3% Chinese; 0.4% Other and 14% did not give information.</p> <p>The Council's Policy is to treat all those that apply for assistance fairly and on an equitable basis founded on case by case needs assessment regardless of 'protected characteristics'.</p>	<p>Customers for whom English is a second language may be disadvantaged as Application form and associated paperwork is to be published in English.</p>	<p>BME community.</p> <p>Review application rates from BME communities.</p> <p>Monitor the impact of promotion to BME communities.</p> <p>Policy and related documentation can be translated in to required language upon request via 'Translate Plymouth'. Publications for local information and marketing will be given to organisation using the most appropriate language. Organisations will be consulted on the most appropriate language and translation and other formats offered.</p> <p>Staff have been trained in Equality &amp; Diversity</p>	

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	The Council regularly monitors its application for assistance to ensure that policies and procedures comply with current equal opportunities legislation.		and comply with the requirements.	
Sexual Orientation -including Civil Partnership	<p>It is nationally estimated at between 5 to 7 % of the population are Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB). This would mean that approximately 12,500 people aged over 16 in Plymouth are LGB.</p> <p>Of those DFG completed in 13/14 1% identified as Bisexual; 0.5% as Gay; 0% as Lesbian; 85% as Heterosexual and 13.5% preferred not to say.</p> <p>The Council's Policy is to treat all those that apply for assistance fairly and on an equitable</p>	No adverse impacts anticipated.	<p>Work with Social Inclusion Unit to promote services to Minority community.</p> <p>Review application rates from Minority communities.</p> <p>Monitor the impact of promotion to Minority communities.</p> <p>Staff have been trained in Equality &amp; Diversity and comply with the requirements.</p>	MC – 31/03/2018.

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	basis founded on case by case needs assessment regardless of 'protected characteristics'. The Council regularly monitors its application for assistance to ensure that policies and procedures comply with current equal opportunities legislation.			

<b>STAGE 3: Are there any implications for the following? If so, please record 'Actions' to be taken</b>		
<b>Local Priorities</b>	<b>Implications</b>	<b>Timescale and who is responsible?</b>
Reduce the inequality gap, particularly in health between communities.	Mandatory grant is available to those with specific living requirements due to disability in relation to the home environment. The grant is available city wide and is means tested, therefore is targeted towards those who are unable to fund adaptations via their own funds.	Allocation of funding is insufficient to meet demand and as such a percentage of those awaiting adaptations may have to wait longer than anticipated.
Good relations between different communities (community cohesion).	Disabled Facilities Grants are mandatory means tested grants, with no targeted intervention within communities. DFG is applicable to all tenures of housing.	n/a

**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?
Human Rights	<p>Disabled Facilities Grant is aimed at improving health and safety within the home. This will help reduce hospital admissions and reduce the risk of admission to residential care.</p> <p>The Disabled Facilities Grant is contained within the Independent Living Assistance Policy 2016 which is written in line with the Equalities Act 2010. It therefore adheres to the UN Convention of the Human Rights as part of UK law.</p> <p>Plymouth City Council recognises Article 14 of the Human Rights Act – The right to receive Equal Treatment and prohibits discrimination including sex, race, religion and economic and social status in conjunction with the Equalities Act which includes age and disability.</p> <p>All staff and service users will be treated fairly and their human rights will be respected.</p> <p>No adverse impact on human rights has been identified.</p>	n/a

**STAGE 4: Publication**

Director, Assistant Director/Head of Service approving EIA.		Date	
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