

## MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Equality Impact Assessment

**Title of Policy/Service/Contract:** Private Sector Housing Renewal

**Division:** Housing, Environmental Health and Building Control

**Lead Officer:** Yvonne Leddy

**Date Assessment completed:** November 2012

#### 1. SCOPING

##### 1.1 What are the aims of the policy, service/service change or contract?

To provide effective housing renewal assistance to residents in the form of advice, support, grants and loans.

The main type of assistance available is Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants. In exceptional cases, we may consider a minor works loan or home renovation loan.

##### 1.2 Who does the service/policy/contract affect? Who are the main customers (internal or external)?

The main aim of the policy is to enable vulnerable and disabled people to remain in their homes in comfort and safety and in exceptional cases to assist vulnerable occupiers to eliminate Category 1 Hazards in their property.

##### 1.3 What equality information is available, including any evidence from engagement and analysis of use of services?

By virtue of the eligibility criteria, the grants are only available to those who are registered or capable of being registered as disabled and require financial assistance.

##### 1.4 What does this information tell us about the equality issues associated with the service and implications for the protected groups?

Not applicable

##### 1.5 Are contractors or partnerships used to deliver the service? Yes

If No go to section 2.

If yes, please refer to the guidance notes, particularly Appendix One of the MSDC Guidance "Integrating Equality and Diversity into Procurement", and complete the next three questions.

##### Identify the contractors/partnerships used to deliver the service.

The Council works closely with West Sussex County Council Adult Services and Children and Young People's Services in the provision of adaptations to dwellings for

disabled occupiers. A recommendation must be received from an Occupational Therapist before a DFG can be considered. The West Sussex Social Services are also required to comply with relevant legislation and equalities policies and has its own comprehensive equalities policies.

**What is their contribution to equality in service delivery and the promotion of equality?**

See above.

**How are equality issues addressed through contractual arrangements and service level agreements?**

Not covered by formal contract or service level agreement.

## 2. Assessment of Impact; Analysis and Action Planning

Any gaps in information or provision, opportunities to promote equalities and good relations identified above need to be translated into SMART actions and recorded here. These actions need to be delivered and monitored through the service planning process.

Opportunity to promote equality, good relations and/or address barriers to service/differential impact	Current action taken to address these	Further actions required and timescales	Lead Officer	How will impact be measured
The needs of different ethnic groups including white minorities, but also established white communities				
Experience of staff administering the Disabled Facilities Grants scheme, suggests that there is little take up of grants from the BME community. This may be due to cultural traditions of larger inter-generational families living together. There is also limited take up of Disabled Facilities Grants by Gypsies and Travellers.	Some work undertaken with Gypsy and Traveller authorised site management to promote the availability of Disabled Facilities Grants.	It is planned to undertake at the final inspections following completion of the adaptations, a survey including “about you” questions such as ethnicity.	Yvonne Leddy	Evidence of DFG take up will inform any necessary action to target particular groups.
The needs of men and women. Including taking account of pregnancy and maternity.				
None identified.				
The needs of disabled people				
Disabled Facilities Grants are only available to those individuals who are registered or capable of being registered as disabled. Eligibility guidance is laid down in Government guidance. Access to the grants is normally through a person's GP or Occupational therapist. Officers provide home visits throughout the process to assist applicants.	Operation of the scheme as per Government guidance. We work with housing associations on adaptations for those in social housing and with the Mid Sussex Wellbeing Team, to ensure that older, disabled and vulnerable people can access DFGs and other grant schemes	None identified.		
The needs of people with a religion or belief				
None identified.				

Opportunity to promote equality and/or barriers to service/differential impact	Current action taken to address these	Further actions required and timescales	Lead Officer	How will impact be measured
The needs of gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and heterosexual people				
None identified.				
Issues from marriage and civil partnership				
None identified.				
The needs of different age groups, for example older and younger people				
Under 18s cannot apply for loan assistance as they are not eligible to own a property in their own right. The national test of financial resources applied to all grant and loan applications, provides additional allowances as age increases. Disabled Facility Grant applications for dependents under- 18 are not subject to a test of financial resources (National Criteria). Older people often have limited mobility and require alterations and adaptations to stay in their home.	We work with housing associations on adaptations for those in social housing and with the Mid Sussex Wellbeing Team, to ensure that older, disabled and vulnerable people can access DFGs and other grant schemes.	None identified.		
The needs of transgender communities				
None identified.				
The needs of people who are disadvantaged by socio-economic factors such as low incomes, skill or living in a deprived area				
All of the assistance is aimed at those on low incomes.	The scheme is designed to apply to people who are on low incomes and is means tested. We provide home visits and work with landlords to provide DFG's etc.	None identified.		
The needs of people who live in a rural area				
There may be access issues for people living in rural areas.	Services are available to residents across the District and we offer home visits and inspections.	None identified.		

### 3. Mid Sussex District Council Equality Impact Assessment Summary

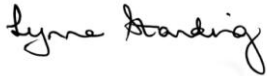
Key Findings	Future Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disabled Facilities Grants are governed by statutory guidelines and are aimed at people with disabilities and in financial hardship.</li><li>• Experience of staff administering the Disabled Facilities Grants scheme, suggests that there is little take up of grants from the BME community.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is planned to undertake at the final inspections following completion of the adaptations, a survey including “about you” questions such as ethnicity. Evidence of DFG take up will inform any necessary action to target particular groups.</li></ul>

### 4. Signing off this assessment and action plan



Signature .....  
Person undertaking the assessment

Date ...3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012



Signature .....  
Head of Service

Date .....3.12.12.....

Please send your completed impact assessment to Neal Barton for publication on the website.