

**Disability Equality Impact Assessment  
Record Sheet**

<b>Policy or Action Title:</b>	Proposal 19 Strategic Funding Review of the Third Sector				
<b>Policy Action owner Name &amp; Title:</b>	Mary Hall Voluntary and Community Sector Engagement Manager				
<b>Date:</b>	26 January 2011				
<b>Type of assessment(✓)</b>	Type 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Type 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Type 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is this a policy or an action (please state)</b>	<p>This is based upon a re-focus of funding given to the third sector to ensure that this is more strategic and means that it will increase impact on the delivery of the priorities agreed in One Darlington: Perfectly placed. The aim of the proposal is also to maximise the benefit of limited resources by working with other funders to ensure that we utilise effectively funds which currently are undersubscribed within Darlington.</p> <p>The proposal looks at four types of funding distributed by the Council :</p> <p>Community Grant Discretionary Rate Relief Rent Subsidy Strategic Grant.</p>				

**What evidence supports this?**

All applicants for these grant funding pots will have different impacts with some groups being affected by only one funding stream and others by a number of different ones. Some of these groups will also be impacted upon by other budget proposals and changes to services. This will have an impact on organisations directly but this in turn may have an impact on disabled people as individuals and their families and carers. At the current time some of these impacts are unclear but will become evident in the next couple of months as services are restructured.

Work has been undertaken to plot the impact of grant changes over a period of two years and it has already become obvious that some groups may face a greater impact than others. Each organisation receiving grant has been plotted for each funding stream and multiple impacts have therefore been identified.

However simply because an organisation that supports disabled people is impacted upon by these changes it does not necessarily mean that this will impact on the services available to that client group. In some cases better partnership working, sharing of back office etc may mean efficiency savings can be made and the impact on frontline services is minimal.

Conversely, grants may be reduced to organisations that do not specifically serve disabled people but may impact upon them as they nevertheless access the services provided by these organisations. For example, removal of strategic grant to community centres may impact upon disabled people in that locality. Further work will be required with specific grant recipients to understand these impacts.

**What are the positive and/or negative effects that the policy or action will have on disabled people?**

### **Community Grants**

The impact of removing community grant will have greatest impact on older people and younger people as a number of these grants support social activity for these age ranges. As stated in the proposal the majority of the funding is likely to be available through County Durham Community Foundation (CDCF) and the impact is therefore anticipated to be minimal in terms of numbers affected but there is a risk that some people will not apply to CDCF. For this reason it is important that the Council continues to monitor the situation at least initially.

### **Discretionary Rate Relief**

The proposal is to cap discretionary rate relief at £2000 for the 20% discretionary relief that the Council provides to charitable organisations. This will only impact on organisations that have multiple buildings or have larger premises in the town centre. This is therefore a potential concern to users of these services and it includes people with a long-term illness and disabled people with a range of impairments. However the financial impact of this funding change in itself is minimal but it needs to be looked at in terms of a broader picture.

### **Rent Subsidy**

Proposals here are to phase in commercial rents where groups currently receive subsidy whilst allowing time for contracts to be reviewed to include full cost recovery. However some of the organisations will have interim issues until contracts are reviewed. This will impact on a limited number of organisations as the majority of groups have been put onto commercial rent as leases were reviewed. Again, it is not clear yet what the impact will be on any individual as this will depend on the budget setting decisions of these organisations and on any multiple impacts.

Understanding and assessing positive and negative impacts will be dependent upon one to one discussions with these organisations specifically about DEIA. Initially discussions have been held with groups receiving these grants as a preamble to changing funding arrangements but these were not based upon specific figures and set in the context of potential cuts from a number of funders.

## **Strategic Grant**

There is a direct impact on one organisation that serves disabled people but there may be an indirect impact in reducing existing grants in year one if the proposal is accepted.

Year two involves a refocusing of criteria and this may lead to improved targeting of grant to those services supporting health and well-being, personalization and choice which will impact upon a number of disabled people in a potentially positive way.

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### **Who was involved? (state names/organisations/disability e.g. sensory impairment, impaired mobility, wheelchair user, etc)**

A number of grant recipients (all those receiving Strategic Grant) have been involved in discussion on a one to one basis which includes DAD, Darlington Media Group and eVOLution all of whom serve disabled people. A level 2 assessment will need to be undertaken with representatives of the voluntary and community sector. It will be important that this does not solely look at the impact of the changes on organisations whose main purpose is to support disabled people but it must include broader organisations used by disabled people.

### **What action will be taken as a result of the impact assessment?**

A level 2 impact assessment needs to be undertaken if the proposal is agreed.

### **How and when will this action be monitored?**

Monitoring of disability equality impact assessments can be undertaken by the Disability Equality Impact Assessment Sub-Group.

**Please tick [✓] as many of the following as the policy or action will achieve.**

Promote equality of opportunity	✓
Eliminate unlawful discrimination	✓
Eliminate disability-related harassment	
Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people	
Encourage participation by disabled people in public life	
Take steps to meet disabled people's needs	