

Policy or action disability impact assessment record sheet

Policy or Action Title: AS8. Severe Disability Premium Disregard Project			
Policy Action owner Name & Title: Heather McQuade Finance Manager for Housing and Adult Services		Date: 24.01.11	
Type of assessment	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3
		✓	
<p>Is this a policy or an action? Please state:</p> <p>A review of Fairer Contributions Policy is required as part of the actions of this project, which is to reduce the Severe Disability Premium Disregard used in financial assessment, thereby increasing Council income through service user contributions for non residential support and services.</p> <p>Guidance on eligible Disability Related Expenditure will be produced for staff.</p>			
<p>What are the positive or negative effects that the policy or action will have on disabled people?</p> <p>Some people who currently receive the qualifying benefits for the Severe Disability Premium Disregard will no longer have the disregard used in the financial assessment and as a result may be asked to contribute more to the cost of their care/support.</p> <p>The development of a Disability Related Expenditure Policy will ensure a more individual assessment and consideration of the financial impact of the person's disability.</p> <p><u>Comments from consultation with disabled people</u> Contributions that disabled people have if not handled properly i.e. being sent debt letters because of late payment contributions, etc, which upsets and causes stress. It is the way it is handled, that has a negative impact. Disabled people are people and therefore will experience the same effects of the cuts that everyone else experiences, plus the impacts of disability specific cuts too.</p> <p><u>Comments from Learning Disability People's Parliament</u> There was a concern that if they could no longer get services they could afford then disabled people would stay at home, become lonely and depressed and lose confidence. If fewer people used services, it may be that staff or activity</p>			

stopped and this was a worry.

Resident suggested that if possible it may be worth DBC identifying all individuals who could be impacted and consulting them on their situation.

A meeting with Lauren Robinson and Gordon Pybus as a source of disability expertise on 25 November, identified that a type 2 DEIA would be required.

A further meeting is planned for 9 February with Lauren Robinson and Gordon Pybus to seek views on the action plan for the DEIA's for adult social care projects.

Until the project is confirmed by the Transformation Board and Cabinet individual consultation with individuals will not be undertaken so as not to raise anxiety levels amongst those people who may be affected.

What evidence supports this?

Comments from general public at Talking Together events held on 8th and 16 November

Consultation with disabled people on 16 November

Consultation with older people on 15 November

More detailed evidence will not be available until the proposal has been approved by the Transformation Board and Cabinet and the Disability Equality Impact Assessment on implementation carried out.

Comments received from the Talking Together events

Discussion with established groups of older and disabled people

Discussions with people who receive adult social care and who have had a financial assessment and who currently receive the Severe Disability Premium Disregard.

Who was involved?

Darlington Association on Disability as a source of disability expertise

General public at Talking Together events held on 8th and 16 November

Consultation with disabled people on 16 November

Consultation with older people on 15 November

Once approved by the Transformation Board and Cabinet, involvement in the Disability Equality Impact Assessment will also include:

People who currently receive adult social care and who have had a financial assessment and who currently receive the Severe Disability Premium Disregard. Discussion with established groups of older and disabled people.

What action will you take as a result of the impact assessment?

Individual reviews of the financial assessment will be undertaken on those people who will be affected, and the positive/ negative impacts of the proposals will be identified and recorded.

How and when will this action be monitored?

The Adult Social Care transformation team have mapped out the individuals likely to be affected by the proposals, so that when their care/support needs are reviewed, any possible multiple impacts from other proposals can be identified, and consideration is given as to whether these can be mitigated.

Monitoring will be undertaken to identify those people who decline to receive services following the financial assessment.

Updates will be provided to the Disability Equality Steering 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	✓