

## Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **public sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people's needs. The Council's Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the council to better understand the potential impact of the budget proposals and consider mitigating action.

<b>Name or Brief Description of Proposal</b>	<b>HOU 21 - Supported Services:</b> Introduction of a new charging model to better identify the individual service elements for Community Alarm customers within Southampton City Council Supported Housing accommodation (i.e. monitoring, maintenance and responding).
<b>Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)</b>	The Community Alarm Service is provided via a hard wired alarm and pull chord system within the home. Currently, 3,300 Southampton City Council tenants receive this service. The current charge for this service is a flat fee of £1.25 per week (since 2009). The proposal is to introduce a new charging model of £1.25per week monitoring, £0.85per week maintenance, £0.75per week responding.
<b>Summary of Impact and Issues</b>	The proposal will have a financial impact with the potential for increased financial hardship for vulnerable residents. Let-ability of properties could be affected.
<b>Potential Positive Impacts</b>	This would increase the income to fund and develop the service and to more accurately reflect the real cost of providing the service. It would also enable the service to be extended to: give residents within (aged) 50 and 60 plus blocks, the option of choosing the responding service.
<b>Responsible Service Manager</b>	Jean Brown
<b>Date</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> October 2015

<b>Approved by Senior Manager</b>	Nick Cross
<b>Date</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> October 2015

### Potential Impact

<b>Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Details of Impact</b>	<b>Possible Solutions &amp; Mitigating Actions</b>
<b>Age</b>	This is a targeted service - for older people and elderly frail.	
<b>Disability</b>	This is a targeted service - for disabled people.	
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
<b>Race</b>	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
<b>Sex</b>	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
<b>Community Safety</b>	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
<b>Poverty</b>	Increase in charge.	Proposed charges are still within the average local market rate. Charges kept below the rate of inflation as no increases since 2009. Maintenance charge is Housing Benefit eligible The responding service is optional for 50/60 plus blocks.
<b>Other Significant Impacts</b>		