

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 proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	Acceptance of government funds for Household Support Fund (HSF)
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
The HSF is funded by central government to provide support to families and individuals in particular hardship at a time of rising costs. SCC has been advised that funding will be made available to Local Authorities for the period 1/04/2024 to 30/09/2024.	
Summary of Impact and Issues	
There may be groups who are particularly vulnerable to rising prices even for example large families or single income families. In previous phases of Household Support Fund, it was intended to cover a wide range of low-income households in need including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers, and people with disabilities. Household Support Fund allows local authorities to provide additional support at a time when some households are struggling with the current cost of living crisis.	
Potential Positive Impacts	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional support for families and individuals in need at a time of rising prices. • Enable families to access other support including advice and guidance on benefits and other support they may be eligible for. 	
Responsible Service Manager	Sara Crawford/Maria Byrne
Date	07/03/2024
Approved by Senior Manager	Claire Edgar
Date	tbc

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	Failure to accept and distribute this fund will impact significantly on poorer pensioner households who may be able to access this support.	Accept the funding.
Disability	Failure to accept and distribute this fund will impact significantly on households with a disabled person who may be able to access this support.	Accept the funding.
Gender Reassignment	None identified.	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	None identified.	
Pregnancy and Maternity	Failure to accept and distribute this fund will impact significantly on pregnant women or those unable to work households who may be able to access this support.	Accept the funding.
Race	Failure to accept and distribute this fund will impact significantly on individuals and families from all ethnicities who may be able to access this support.	Accept the funding.
Religion or Belief	None identified.	
Sex	None identified.	
Sexual Orientation	None identified.	
Community Safety	None identified.	
Poverty	Failure to accept and distribute this fund will impact significantly on individuals and families from all parts of the City who are struggling financially and who may be able to access this support.	Accept the funding.
Health & Wellbeing	Failure to accept and distribute this fund will further impact on the health and wellbeing of families and individuals already negatively impacted by the cost of living crisis.	Accept the funding.

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Other Significant Impacts	None identified.	

DRAFT