

## Initial Impact Assessment Template

Please use the following template to help determine whether a community impact assessment is required.

<b>Name of Policy</b>
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Local Crisis and Resettlement Assistance Policy
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<b>Purpose and function of policy</b>
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( Please provide a brief description, for example, services affected)
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To outline the entitlement and decision making process for Local Crisis and Resettlement Assistance.

This is a new area of responsibility for the Council. Previously the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) provided discretionary Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for living expenses but with effect from 1 April 2013 these are being abolished. Community Care Grants were awarded for a range of expenses, including household equipment, and were intended to support vulnerable people to return to or remain in the community or to ease exceptional pressure on families. They were also intended to assist with certain travel expenses. Crisis Loans were made to meet immediate short-term needs in an emergency or as a consequence of a disaster when a person had insufficient resources to prevent a serious risk to the health and safety of themselves or their family.

Each council is being provided with funding for new Local Welfare Provision. It is for each council to decide how they will spend this new Local Welfare Provision funding. The funding is to allow councils to give flexible help to those in genuine need. There is no expectation for councils to replicate the DWP's scheme.

Spending decisions are and will continue to be a matter for each council and the Government does not intend to start placing restrictions on any future decisions they may make on funding.

Telford & Wrekin Council has decided that it will provide two types of assistance – Local Crisis Assistance and Local Resettlement Assistance. Subject to the entitlement criteria within the policy we will give assistance to the most vulnerable residents when they suffer a crisis or require resettling back into the community. The assistance will be via the provision of goods or services.

**Local Crisis Assistance** – will cover situations where a household has insufficient resources to meet an urgent need that poses an immediate and substantial risk to their health and safety. A crisis may include no access to specified essential items, the imminent risk of homelessness, the imminent risk of children being taken into care, unexpected death of an immediate family member, domestic abuse, neglect and harm, a flood, fire and gas explosion. The type of assistance may include crediting a gas or electric meter, provision of a food parcel via Telford & Wrekin

Crisis Network and repair or provision of an essential white good or furniture. This assistance will not be reliant on entitlement to particular benefits but on the resources available (income, savings, access to credit or insurance pay out) to a person / family to enable them to overcome the immediate risk to their health and safety caused by a crisis.

**Local Resettlement Assistance** – will give assistance to vulnerable people to live independent lives to remain or become integrated within their community by the provision of goods or services. Examples of those who may require assistance include people leaving care, people requiring assistance to remain in the community rather than enter care, help to ease exceptional pressures, help for a prisoner or young offender on home leave or release to re-adjust to life outside of prison, help for people to set up a home as part of a resettlement programme following a period without a settled way of life. The person will need to be in receipt of a specified means tested benefit and not have the resources (income or savings) to be able to provide themselves with the goods or service. The type of assistance will typically be the provision of essential white goods or furniture but may include crediting a gas or electric meter or provision of a food parcel via Telford & Wrekin Crisis Network.

**Who does this policy affect**

<b>Workforce / Employees</b>		<b>Service Delivery / Communities</b>	<b>X</b>
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**Author(s)**

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**Job title and Service Delivery Unit**

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**Date completed: 26.02.13**

**Sign off (line manager) and date**

If signed off by e-mail please confirm by identifying when and by whom

A separate guidance note is available to support you through the completion of this assessment. You can find it on the intranet.

The general equality duty states that we must have due regard to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different groups

Complete the table below, assessing the impact of your policy on people with protected characteristics, including employees and customers. You should also consider the elements of the above general duty.

Protected Characteristic	Positive impact		Negative impact			Reasons/evidence
	Yes	No	High *	Low #	No	
Age		X			X	Applicants must be over 16 years but other than that age has no impact on whether we will award assistance. The nature of the assistance granted is likely to help those who are most vulnerable in the community which will include young adults and the elderly e.g. young adults coming out of Local Authority care or the elderly discharged from residential care. Those under 16 years of age are not subject to the Equalities Act and any duty to provide assistance will fall upon the parent or legal guardian (who can where appropriate make an application to the scheme).
Disability	X				X	A disabled person being discharged from residential care or an extended hospital stay may be awarded assistance to help them resettle back into the community if they meet the qualifying criteria of the policy.
Gender (Sex)		X			X	Gender has no impact

						on whether or not assistance will be granted.
Gender reassignment		X			X	Gender reassignment has no impact on whether or not assistance is granted.
Marriage/civil partnership		X			X	The status of a couple e.g. whether or not they are married or in a civil partnership has no impact on whether or not assistance is granted.
Pregnancy/maternity		X			X	Whether or not someone is pregnant or on maternity leave will have no impact on whether or not assistance is granted.
Race		X			X	Race has no impact on whether or not assistance is granted.
Religion/belief		X			X	Religion or belief has no impact on whether or not assistance is granted. However if a person is a member of a religious order who is fully maintained by the order they will not qualify for assistance.
Sexual Orientation		X			X	Sexual orientation has no impact on whether or not a assistance is granted.
Deprivation (inc rural/urban)	X				X	The assistance given is discretionary but the policy is designed to help the most financially vulnerable to overcome a crisis by providing their basic living needs or to help the most vulnerable to resettle into or back into the community by providing basic

						specified essential items. By giving assistance we aim to reduce financial deprivation a person / family is experiencing.
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# High – there is significant evidence of adverse impact or potential for adverse impact. The policy etc has consequences for or affects significant numbers of people and/or has the potential to make a significant contribution to advancing equality.

# Low – there is anecdotal or little evidence to suggest adverse impact. The policy etc operates mainly within a small unit and affects few people.

**Am I required to carry out a Community Impact Assessment?**

If you have ticked negative impact as High, then a Community Impact Assessment will need to be completed, available on the intranet.

If a Community Impact is not required, you are required to monitor and review the proposed changes after implementation to check they work as planned and to screen for unexpected equality impacts. Please provide details of how you will monitor evaluate or review your proposals and when the review will take place in the box below

**Monitor and Review**

Please provide details of how you will monitor evaluate or review your proposals and when the review will take place.

**How will you monitor/review proposals?**

Monthly and quarterly collection of data is to be undertaken by the Revenues and Benefits Service.

Details of the broad reasons for awards, the type of assistance granted and number of people granted assistance will be reported within the Revenues and Benefits Quarterly monitoring report which is circulated to all Revenues and Benefits staff and the Assistant Director for People and Customer Services.

In addition it will be necessary to monitor expenditure on at least a monthly basis to ensure that the budget is not overspent.

This is a new area of responsibility for the Council. Therefore the working group who have shaped this scheme will also meet on a regular basis, at least quarterly, for the first year, to review the effectiveness of the assistance scheme. The working group includes members, the Assistant Director for People and Customers, the Benefit Service Deliver Manager, the Customer & Registration Services Manager, the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Department for Work and Pensions.

Characteristic data from individuals accessing the scheme will be collected and analysed.

Consideration will be given to undertaking user feedback to find out the effectiveness of the scheme.

**When will the review take place?**

As above it will be necessary to closely monitor the effectiveness of the scheme. In the first year it is envisaged that reviews will be undertaken quarterly and a more detailed review undertaken towards the end of the first year.

User feedback will be considered towards the end of the first year of the scheme.