

Initial Equality Impact Assessment

Department	Department of Education and Social Services
Policy change	To cease the provision of the Carers Grant in 2015
People involved	Derrick Douglas Sandra Storey Clare O'Connor

1. What are the aims of the policy change?
To release money to fund the new duty to meet the eligible care needs of carers under the Care Act 2014.
2. What is the rationale behind the policy?
The Carers Grant Scheme is a fund, set up by the Council, to provide some extra preventative support for carers in Wandsworth and to support them to have a life outside of caring. The grant is currently paid as a maximum amount of £250 per carer and total spend on the grant is capped at £170,000 per year. Carers are not financially assessed to receive the grant and experience to date is that the grant is very popular and the total allocation was used up within the first 5 months of 2014/15. There will be a new duty on the council to meet the eligible needs of carers as a result of the Care Act 2014 from April 2015 and money released from ceasing the grant could be used towards funding the additional cost of services. Local modelling has indicated that as many as 1,000 new carers could come forward for an assessment as a result of the Care Act.

1. What information do you have on the policy and the potential impact of your policy in relation to the following?

Table 1: Number of carers in receipt of carers grants

Grouping	Description	National Census % for Wandsworth 2011	Number in receipt of Carers grants 2013-14	% receipt of Carers Grant 2013-14
Race	White/White Other	71.4%	393	51.7%
	Black/Black British	10.7%	161	21.2%
	Asian/Asian British	10.9%	147	19.3%

	Mixed	5.0%	10	1.3%
	Other ethnic groups	2.1%	29	3.8%
	Not Stated	0.0%	14	1.8%
	Not Known	0.0%	6	0.8%
Sex	Female	52.0%	545	71.7%
	Male	48.0%	212	27.9%
	Unknown	0.0%	3	0.4%
Disability	This information is not captured for Carers although it is for the people they care for who are either elderly frail, disabled or have a long term health condition. Carers are expected to be in reasonable health themselves in order to be able to care for others although this is not always the case.			
Age	18-64	73.2%	520	68.4%
	65+	8.8%	240	31.6%
Faith	N/A	N/A	Data not collected	
Sexual Orientation	N/A	N/A	Data not collected	

Overview of data

Race – the percentage of carers in receipt of the grant from BME backgrounds is 45.6%. This is significantly above the borough average of 28.6%. The percentage of carers who are Black/Black British is double the borough average and the percentage who are Asian/Asian British is almost double the borough average.

Gender-the percentage of females claiming the grant is 71.7%. This is above the borough average of 52.0%

Age- 31.6% of grant claimants are aged 65+. This equates to more than 3.5 times the borough average of 8.8%.

4. Thinking about each group below please list the impact that the policy will have.

	<u>Positive</u> impact of policy	Possible <u>negative</u> impact of policy
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Race	<p>The new duties under the Care Act will mean that potentially these carers will have their needs met in a different way via an assessment process which could extend the availability of services to more than those currently claiming the grant which is capped at a maximum amount. Releasing money from the cessation of the grant will support the council being able to fund these services.</p>	<p>Twice as many carers from BME communities access the grant and may be disproportionately affected. However, the new duties under the Care Act will mean that potentially these carers will have their needs met in a different way via an assessment process which could extend the availability of services to more than those currently claiming the grant which is capped at a maximum amount.</p> <p>The counter to this is this may act as a disincentive to some carers from BME communities whose first language is not English and who do not fully understand the process or may not wish to go through it.</p> <p>In order to mitigate against this the council will pay particular attention to promoting and publicising information about the Care Act to BME carers and communities and will ensure that information is made available in a range of translated materials if necessary. A national awareness raising campaign will commence in the New Year to ensure that as many carers as possible are aware of their new entitlement to assessment and potentially an increased range of services if eligible.</p> <p>The Council will work closely with organisations that support carers to make sure that they are fully aware of the changes and can explain them to people who use their services and support them through the new processes.</p>
Sex (previously Gender)	<p>As above</p> <p>The new duties under the Care Act will mean that</p>	<p>More than twice as many women than men received the carers grant last year (2011 Census see table 1 above) and may be</p>

	<p>potentially carers will have their needs met in a different way via an assessment process which could extend the availability of services to more than those currently claiming the grant which is capped at a maximum amount. Releasing money from the cessation of the grant will support the council being able to fund these services.</p> <p>The national advertising campaign could also make men more aware of their entitlements as a carer and come forward for an assessment.</p>	<p>disproportionately affected. In order to mitigate the impact of this the Council is planning an extensive information and communication exercise to promote carers awareness of their new entitlements under the Act. Female carers in particular are often in contact with their GPs through symptoms of stress and tiredness and GPs will be fully informed and be able to refer these carers for an assessment.</p>
Disability	<p>The new duties under the Care Act will mean that potentially carers will have their needs met in a different way via an assessment process which could extend the availability of services to more than those currently claiming the grant which is capped at a maximum amount. Carers with a disability or supporting someone with a disability could potentially access a much greater range of support e.g more respite, support with keeping their home in a habitable state etc for themselves and for the person they care for than is currently available with the grant.</p>	<p>Disabled carers or carers supporting people who are disabled may well be house bound and in particular may have used the grant for a carers break or equipment such as a laptop to keep in touch with their family and friends etc. These services will still be available via an assessment if they meet an eligible outcome and professionals such as Occupational Therapists , hospital staff and GPs will be able to tell these carers about the range of support available to them.</p>
Age	<p>Younger carers could have a wider range of services available to them as a result of the Care Act which promotes carers being able to return to work, sustain employment or receive help with childcare if they meet</p>	<p>Older people who have previously applied for the grant may be deterred by the more complex process of assessment and may have more difficulty understanding. The Council will mitigate against this by working closely with the</p>

	the eligibility framework.	organisations that support older people such as Age UK and the Carers Centre to ensure that they are supported through the process.
Faith	As above The new duties under the Care Act will mean that potentially these carers will have their needs met in a different way via an assessment process which could extend the availability of services to more than those currently claiming the grant which is capped at a maximum amount.	None identified
Sexual orientation	As above The new duties under the Care Act will mean that potentially these carers will have their needs met in a different way via an assessment process which could extend the availability of services to more than those currently claiming the grant which is capped at a maximum amount.	None identified

5. Is a full EIA required? No This EIA contains robust data on current usage levels and is clear on the potential impact on current service users

- Does the policy support a frontline service? **Yes**
- Is it clear what impact the policy will have on all the equality groups?
The data on receiptants of the carers grant indicates which groups of individuals may be more impacted than others.
- Overall will the change have a negative impact on any of the equality groups. **Yes potentially, however the change is being made in order to release money to fund the new duty to meet the eligible care needs of carers under the Care Act 2014. This should mean that more carers who meet the new eligibility framework are able to access services. In addition a number of mitigating actions have been identified**
 - **An extensive national advertising campaign will ensure all sectors of the population are informed about Care Act changes.**
 - **A local information campaign will target groups that could be negatively impacted.**

- **Publicity material will be made available in a arrange of formats where required**
- **Council staff will receive extensive training for them to be able explain and apply the Act to service users and carers.**
- **Health staff will be informed about the Act and how to refer people for an assessment**
- **The Council will work closely with voluntary sector organisations such as Age Uk and the Carers Centre to ensure that people understand the changes and the new processes that will be implemented.**

Comments – A full EIA is not required as there is robust data on usage of the grant and the impact of it ceasing is clear..

Signed

Date:

Approved by: