

**SSA EQUALITY IMPACT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS**

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Resources</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Revenue Services</b>
<b>Service/policy/function being assessed</b>	<b>Social Fund</b>
<b>Which borough (s) does the service/policy apply to</b>	Wandsworth
<b>Staff involved</b>	<b>Peter Forde, Nichola Obande, Eleni Ioannou, Aveen Kelly</b>
<b>Date approved by Policy and Review Manager</b> All EINAs must be signed off by the Policy and Review Manager	26/09/2018

**SUMMARY**

**Please summarise the key findings of the EINA.**

The change proposed will allow for more people to apply for assistance from Wandsworth Discretionary Social Fund. This addresses the concerns from the foodbank with regards to claimants who are awaiting a decision or reconsideration of their ESA award and in some circumstances left with no income at all to pay for their essentials.

The EINA has shown that the scheme was open and accessible to most claimant types. With the change there is more scope for people awaiting to be defined as having a disability by the DWP to apply for assistance, therefore the change has a positive impact on claimants with disabilities.

**1. Background**

**Briefly describe the service/policy or function:**

**Current Policy**

The Wandsworth Discretionary Social Fund Scheme was designed to replicate the DWP Social Fund and provides for two specific award:

- Community Care Grants (CCG) - their prime objective is to help people: -
- (i) to establish or maintain themselves in the community following a stay in institutional or residential care; or
  - (ii) help people setting up home as a part of a resettlement programme following, for example, time in a homeless hostel or temporary accommodation; or
  - (iii) assist with certain travelling expenses, for example, for funerals of a family member or hospital visiting; and

Crisis Payments (CP) - are intended for applicants who are unable to meet their immediate short-term needs in an emergency or because of a disaster.

They are awarded for immediate living expenses to avoid serious damage or risk to the health or safety of the applicant or a member of the family.

The current primary criteria for an award under the Wandsworth Discretionary Social Fund are that to qualify for consideration for any award under the Council's Social Fund Scheme, a claimant must: -

- be in receipt of a qualifying out of work or disability benefit; (consideration could be given in exceptional circumstances to low income working households); and
- be ordinarily resident in the Borough of Wandsworth (and have lived in the Borough for six weeks prior to applying and is expected to be resident in the Borough after receipt of the award) or have been placed by the Council (under its homelessness duty) in temporary housing outside the Borough or, in the case of someone leaving prison or residential care, be about to move into the Borough of Wandsworth.

**Proposed Change**

On the eligibility criteria for the Discretionary Social Fund it is recommended that the criteria for the Wandsworth Discretionary Social Fund (WDSF) now includes applicants that are awaiting a decision on an application for an out of work or disability benefit. The Council will also ensure that the WDSF is fully published across all the Foodbank voucher holder within the Council.

**Reason for the change**

The change to the scheme will allow for claimants awaiting a decision for an out of work benefit or disability benefit to be able to apply for extra assistance and addresses the concerns that the delays in the first award of Universal Credit being made causes hardship. This in turn should ensure that the spend on WDSF is maximised.

Wandsworth Foodbank raised the point that a number of guests referred to the foodbank were unaware of the WDSF. As part of the changes the scheme will be fully publicized across all the food Bank voucher holders within the council and the WDSF team will ensure these sections have specific advice and information available on the WDSF. This will also help to maximise spending.

**2. Analysis of need and impact**

Protected group	Findings
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wandsworth is the largest inner London Borough and has a growing population, currently estimated at 324,400 residents. The population of Wandsworth is</li> </ul>

	<p>much younger than both the London and England average. Nearly half of all people living in Wandsworth are aged between 25-44 years old. It has the highest proportion of people aged 30-34 years creating a young population 'bulge' which is unique nationally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The age of the claimants applying for assistance through the WDSF is in line with the Wandsworth population statistics with most claims from people aged between 25 – 39 (2017/18 WDSF stats).</li> </ul> <p><b><u>WDSF Age stats</u></b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>Number of claims</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>25-39</td> <td>715</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40-65</td> <td>627</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over 65</td> <td>53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Under 25</td> <td>163</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(blank)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Grand Total</b></td> <td><b>1558</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Age	Number of claims	25-39	715	40-65	627	Over 65	53	Under 25	163	(blank)		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1558</b>
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<p><b>Disability</b></p>	<p>According to the 2011 Census, 11% of Wandsworth residents had their day-to-day activities limited by a long-term health problem or disability.</p> <p>32% of the applicants for WDSF were on Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments or had indicated on their form tht they were registered severally mentally impaired. This number demonstrates that the fund is being accessed by claimants with disabilities. This percentage is likely to increase with the new change being proposed that claimant waiting for a decision will be able to apply for assistance.</p>														
<p><b>Gender (sex)</b></p>	<p>There were more female applicants then males for the WDSF 2017/18.          Female applicants = 1140 (73%) compared to 412 (27%) Male applicants.          To establish the reason why, more research would be needed. However ONS data on benefit claimants in Wandsworth indicates that there are more women than men who are claimants (55% of claimants are female and 45% are male).</p> <p>This figure may also change due to the scheme being publicized on a wider scale to the Foodbank voucher holders.</p>														

<b>Gender reassignment</b>	No local or national data (localised scheme)																		
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	No local or national data (localised scheme)																		
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	No local or national data (localised scheme)																		
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	<p>The population is diverse, with over a quarter of the population having a nationality other than British. The 2011 Census showed that 53.3% of the Wandsworth resident population was White British, a further 18.1% White other and 28.6% BME. 17.4% of the BME population declared as mixed ethnicity e.g. White &amp; Asian.</p> <p>In 2017/18 the majority of applicants for WDSF were White British with 992 There are considerably less applications from Black and minority ethnic (BME) even though these groups account for over a quarter of the population in Wandsworth. BME residents were underrepresented in WDSF applicants.</p> <p>WDSF Ethnicity table 2017/18</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>WDSF Ethnicity</th> <th>Number of applicants</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>White</td> <td>992</td> <td>68%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White other</td> <td>67</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BME</td> <td>235</td> <td>16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed BME</td> <td>130</td> <td>9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Any other</td> <td>29</td> <td>2%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Further research would need to be done to find out the reasons why there is less applications from BME group.</p> <p>This number may increase when the scheme is publicized more widely among the Foodbank Voucher holders.</p>	WDSF Ethnicity	Number of applicants	Percentage	White	992	68%	White other	67	5%	BME	235	16%	Mixed BME	130	9%	Any other	29	2%
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<b>Religion and belief, including non belief</b>	No local or national data (localised scheme)																		
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	No local or national data (localised scheme)																		
<b>Across groups i.e older LGBT</b>	No local or national data (localised scheme)																		

<b>service users or bme young men</b>	
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### 3. Impact

<b>Protected group</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<b>Age</b>	None	None
<b>Disability</b>	Claimants awaiting a decision on disability benefit will be able to apply for assistance from the fund	None
<b>Gender (sex)</b>	A high proportion of WDSF claimants are female and are therefore more likely to benefit from the change.	None
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	The change has no impact	None
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	The change has no impact	None
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	The change has no impact	None
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	The change has no impact	None
<b>Religion and belief, including non belief</b>	The change has no impact	None
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	The change has no impact	None

### 4. Actions

Put in this table actions you have identified that will be included in your strategy/policy and supporting action plan or mitigating actions you have identified that need to be undertaken.

Include how the impact of actions will be measured for example if you resolve to make a service more accessible for older residents say what your current baseline is and what target you want to achieve.

These actions will be tracked by the Policy and Review Team.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
To effectively advise Foodbank voucher holders about the WDSF scheme	Nichola Obande	
Monitor uptake and review equality data on WDSF claimants to identify reasons why men and BME claimants are underrepresented.	Nichola Obande	