

Community and Equality Impact Assessment

As an authority, we have made a commitment to apply a systematic equalities and diversity screening process to both new policy development or changes to services.

This is to determine whether the proposals are likely to have significant positive, negative or adverse impacts on the different groups in our community.

This process has been developed, together with **full guidance** to support officers in meeting our duties under the:

- Equality Act 2010.
- The Best Value Guidance
- The Public Services (Social Value) 2012 Act

About the service or policy development

Name of service or policy	Household Support Fund (3) October 2022 – March 2023
Lead Officer	Donna Radley (Head of Welfare)
Contact Details	Donna.Radley@lbbd.gov.uk

Why is this service or policy development/review needed?

On 26th May 2022 the Government announced as part of a number of measures to provide help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living that the Household Support Fund (HSF) would be extended from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.

As a result of those announcements the Council received the following allocations:

- Household Support Grant £2,162,051.52.

This EIA is required to support the Councils proposed scheme implementation and disbursement of funds.

1. Community impact (this can be used to assess impact on staff although a cumulative impact should be considered).

What impacts will this service or policy development have on communities?
 Look at what you know. What does your research tell you?

Please state which data sources you have used for your research in your answer below

Consider:

- National & local data sets
- Complaints
- Consultation and service monitoring information
- Voluntary and Community Organisations
- The Equality Act places a specific duty on people with ‘protected characteristics’. The table below details these groups and helps you to consider the impact on these groups.
- It is Council policy to consider the impact services and policy developments could have on residents who are socio-economically disadvantaged. There is space to consider the impact below.

Demographics

- **Local communities in general**

Barking & Dagenham is a diverse borough as outlined by the following demographic trends below.

➤ **Age**

Barking & Dagenham currently has a total population of 214,107. Of this population currently 63.4 % (135,749) are considered of working age (16 – 64) & 9.2 % (19,807) are considered of pension age (over 65).

There are currently 18,695 live Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support cases, of which 11,468 (71%) are working age and 4,595 (29%) are of pension age.

(Census 2020)

➤ **Disability**

Barking & Dagenham currently has 4,661 people of working age (16-64) claiming Disability Living Allowance & 4,100 claiming Personal Independence Payment.

(DWP Stat-Xplore 2021)

➤ **Gender reassignment**

Barking & Dagenham is currently estimated to have approximately 40 people in the borough who have or who will undergo gender reassignment.

There is currently no monitoring data available within existing schemes or caseloads to distinguish claimant's by gender reassignment.

(Gender Identity Research and Education Society advice 2016)

➤ **Marriage & civil partnership**

Barking & Dagenham currently has 41.9% of the population aged 16 and above as registered as married, 38.8% are single and not married, and 0.2% are in a same sex civil partnership.

There is currently no monitoring data available within existing schemes or caseloads to distinguish claimant's by civil status.

(Census 2011)

➤ **Pregnancy & maternity**

Teenage pregnancy rates are significantly higher than average. The under 18 conception rate in 2018 was 20.3 per 1,000 females aged 15 to 17, which was the 4th highest in London.

(LBBD teenage conception data 2018)

➤ **Race and ethnicity**

The proportion of the borough population identifying as coming from black and minority ethnic backgrounds has increased from 19.1% to 50.5% between the 2001 and 2011 censuses, and is now at 66%, compared to 34% identifying as White British based on the 2020 census.

This sits above the London average of 61.8%.

There is currently no monitoring data available within existing schemes or caseloads to distinguish claimant's by race or ethnicity.

(Census 2020)

➤ **Religion**

56% of the population identify as Christian, 18.9% identify with no religion and 13.7% identify as Muslim.

There is currently no monitoring data available within existing schemes or caseloads to distinguish claimant's by religion.

(Census 2011)

➤ **Sex/Gender**

Currently 51.5% of the borough's residents are female, and 49.6% are male.

(Census 2011)

➤ **Sexual orientation**

Between 10,000 – 14,000 people in Barking & Dagenham are lesbian, gay and bisexual.

There is currently no monitoring data available within existing schemes or caseloads to distinguish claimant's by sexual orientation.

(Stonewall estimates)

➤ **Socio-economic disadvantage**

Barking and Dagenham is estimated to have a total population of 214,107, an increase of 1,201 since 30 June 2019:

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- 58,551 children (persons aged between 0 and 15), equating to 27% of the population;
- 135,749 people of working age (between 16 and 64), which is 63% of the population; and
- 19,807 people of retirement age (65 and over), reflecting 9% of the population

Housing Benefit & Council Tax Support is means tested across low-income socio-economic groups. There are currently 18,695 live cases, of which 11,468 (71%) are working age and 4,595 (29%) are of pension age.

On the first allocation of the Household Support Grant 2021/22, including free School Meal Voucher Provision, 74% of the applications were made by households including children. Of that allocation 64% of the funds were for the provisions of food.

According to the BEIS Data from 2019, LBBB has the highest proportion of households in fuel poverty (22.5%).

Further details regarding LBBB's Socio-economics can be accessed via [Social Progress Index | LBBB](#) and broken down by ward.

(Case load data extraction 01/04/2022)

Potential impacts	Positive	Neutral	Negative	What are the positive and negative impacts?	How will benefits be enhanced and negative impacts minimised or eliminated?
Local communities in general	X	X		The scheme has an open application process which is accessible to all residents within the borough experiencing financial difficulty.	<p>The proposals to allocate funding reflect government guidance.</p> <p>The council will use data already held to target the take up of support from those household known to be on a low income.</p> <p>Outreach services are available to support targeted work and the general application process through the use of the Community HUBS, home visiting and telephone support.</p>
Age	X	X		The open application process is available to all ages and therefore supports all residents of different ages. The targeting of families in receipt of Free School Meals will support low-income	<p>The proposals to allocate funding reflect government guidance.</p> <p>General applications are available to all ages and support both Working age and Pension age residents.</p>

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				<p>households with children and is likely to predominantly benefit younger families.</p> <p>Targeted work will identify residents in sheltered accommodation and will predominantly benefit older residents.</p>	<p>Funds are allocated to Working age residents through the Free School Meal voucher scheme.</p> <p>Targeted work will also focus on Pension age residents in sheltered accommodation.</p> <p>Further targeted work with partner voluntary organisations (DABD) will target older residents of Pension Age.</p>
Disability	X	X		<p>Proposed targeted work will be directed to those with disabilities and/or caring responsibility.</p>	<p>The proposals to allocate funding reflect government guidance.</p> <p>General applications are also available.</p>
Gender reassignment		X		<p>No impact.</p>	<p>The proposals to allocate funding reflect government guidance.</p> <p>The scheme provides flexibility to recognise and support individual household circumstances.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership		X		<p>No impact.</p>	<p>The proposals to allocate funding reflect government guidance.</p> <p>The scheme provides flexibility to recognise and support individual household circumstances.</p>
Pregnancy and maternity		X		<p>No impact.</p>	<p>The proposals to allocate funding reflect government guidance.</p> <p>The scheme provides flexibility to recognise and support individual household circumstances.</p>
Race (including Gypsies, Roma and Travellers)		X		<p>No impact.</p>	<p>The proposals to allocate funding reflect government guidance.</p> <p>The scheme provides flexibility to recognise and support individual household circumstances.</p>
Religion or belief		X		<p>No impact.</p>	<p>The proposals to allocate funding reflect government guidance.</p>

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					<p>The scheme provides flexibility to recognise and support individual household circumstances.</p>
Sex		X		No Impact.	<p>The proposals to allocate funding reflect government guidance.</p> <p>The scheme provides flexibility to recognise and support individual household circumstances.</p>
Sexual orientation		X			<p>The proposals to allocate funding reflect government guidance.</p> <p>The scheme provides flexibility to recognise and support individual household circumstances.</p>
Socio-economic Disadvantage	X	X		The scheme is primarily focused on those financially disadvantaged residents, with targeted awards to households already qualifying for free school meals	<p>The proposals to allocate funding reflect government guidance.</p> <p>The service will use existing customer data to make automatic awards to households on FSM.</p> <p>Work will be undertaken with internal and external partners to promote availability of the scheme to low income households.</p>
Any community issues identified for this location?		X		No impact	No issues recognised

2. Consultation.

Provide details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult the whole community or specific groups affected by the service or policy development e.g. on-line consultation, focus groups, consultation with representative groups.

If you have already undertaken some consultation, please include:

- Any potential problems or issues raised by the consultation
- What actions will be taken to mitigate these concerns

The proposed scheme is intended to provide short term support to low-income households which are at risk due to the increase in energy costs and wider cost of living crisis. Given the timing of the funding/scheme announcement and short window for delivery no external consultation has been possible.

Experience of operating similar schemes through the pandemic has been used in defining the scheme.

3. Monitoring and Review

How will you review community and equality impact once the service or policy has been implemented?

*These actions should be developed using the information gathered in **Section 1 and 2** and should be picked up in your departmental/service business plans.*

Action	By when?	By who?
The service will gather customer data as part of the application process which will be used alongside the data held for Council Tax Support to ensure that take up is representative of the wider borough demographic. Any learning will be used to inform similar schemes going forward.	Ongoing	James Johnston
Regular monitoring based on performance frameworks	Ongoing	Robert Nellist

4. Next steps

It is important the information gathered is used to inform any Council reports that are presented to Cabinet or appropriate committees. This will allow Members to be furnished with all the facts in relation to the impact their decisions will have on different equality groups and the wider community.

Take some time to summarise your findings below. This can then be added to your report template for sign off by the Strategy Team at the consultation stage of the report cycle.

Implications/ Customer Impact

From the Household Support Grant vouchers will be provided over the October, Christmas and February holiday periods to families whose children are in receipt of Free School Meals. It is proposed that a £15 voucher is issued in October, £50 voucher over Christmas and a £15 voucher over February school holiday periods. This will be aligned to the former awards made using the Household Support Grant in 2021/22 and will continue to support households with children.

Approximately 11,000 children are expected to benefit from the awards at a cost of £950,000.

A monetary and/or voucher allocation is proposed to front line organisations in order to enable immediate support to be made available at the point of contact. Examples of such organisations include:

- Food Banks and Community Food Hubs for food provision
- The Source, DABD & Independent Living Agency for Energy Support

An open application process for grants for residents of the borough is available on a 'case by case' basis.

A Targeted approach to promotion and priority given to:

- Households with Carer Responsibilities and Disabled Occupants
- Sheltered/Supported Accommodation
- Care Leavers & those supported by Adult Social Care
- Families identified to have low financial resilience
- Residents identified as not being eligible for the cost of living payments as set out on 26 May 2022

Applications that are open to all including any resident who received the FSM Voucher or Pensioner award.

5. Sign off

The information contained in this template should be authorised by the relevant project sponsor or Divisional Director who will be responsible for the accuracy of the information now provided and delivery of actions detailed.

Name	Role (e.g. project sponsor, head of service)	Date
Stephen McGinnes	Director of Support and Collections	07/10/2022