

Equality and Public Health Full Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment Id: #360

1.0 Screening Information

Project Name

Household Support Fund - Pensioner Support

Name of Project Sponsor

Hannah Perrott

Name of Project Manager

Louise West

Name of Project Lead

Lisa Bedford

Please give a brief description of the project

To deliver a cash voucher scheme via the post office to pension credit recipients with data provided by the Department of Work and Pensions as part of the governments Household Support Fund. This has been deemed the most appropriate route to try and achieve a third of the funding allocated to directly support pensioners across the county with the increased cost of living.

Data Protection screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Equality and Public Health screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Environmental Sustainability screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

1.1 Background and Purpose

Background and Purpose of Project?

To support your answer to this question, you can upload a copy of the project's Business Case or similar document.

The Household Support Fund is a government initiative to help vulnerable residents with the rising costs of living, primarily for food, fuel and other essentials. The scheme was launched in October 2021 and extended at the end of March 2022. A further extension has just been announced, the details of which are yet to be confirmed but it is anticipated it will be similar to the current scheme. An allocation of £3.95 million was confirmed in October for a period of 6 months and at the end of March 2022 a further £3.95million was announced. The criteria has changed in the two separate allocations, the first scheme had to spend at least 50% of the funding on households with children, and from April 2022, the scheme must spend at least 33% on households with children and a further 33% on households with pensioners (those of state pension age by the 31st September 2022). The scheme is operated through countywide schemes and at a more local level by working with our district councils across the county. This includes free school meal vouchers in some school holidays issued through schools, countywide fuel bill support through a programme of schemes delivered by Act on Energy for the council and many local initiatives delivered directly by the district council or through voluntary sector partners in their local areas such as; Citizen's Advice, Food Banks etc.

This specific DPIA is in relation to pensioner support, which will be via a direct approach to pension credit recipients in the county in order to post a voucher which can be cashed at an post office, to assist with the increase in the cost of living.

Upload Business Case or Support documents

No files uploaded

Project Outputs

Briefly summarise the activities needed to achieve the project outcomes.

To provide a one off (or repeat depending on the criteria of an funding extensions) cash voucher to all pension credit recipients in the county.

Project Outcomes

Briefly summarise what the project will achieve.

The project will provide £75 per household for around 11,500 pensioners that are in receipt of pension credit to support with the increase in the cost of living. Vouchers will be issued by post via the post office and can be cashed at the post office upon the submission of specific ID.

Is the project a new function/service or does it relate to an existing Council function/service?

New

Was consultation carried out on this project?

No

1.2 Responsibility

Directorate/Organisation

People

Service Area

Communities

1.3 Specifics

Project Reference (if known)

Not Recorded

Intended Project Close Date *

April 2023

1.4 Project Part of a Strategic Programme

Is this project part of a strategic programme?

No

2 Organisations Involved

Please identify the organisation(s) involved:

Worcestershire County Council

Details of contributors to this assessment:

Name	Lisa Bedford
Job title	Service Development Manager
Email address	lbedford@worcestershire.gov.uk

3.0 Who will be affected by the development and implementation

Please identify group(s) involved:

Other - Pension credit recipients

3.1 Information and evidence reviewed

What information and evidence have you reviewed to help inform this assessment? *

Pension credit data, review of council tax rebate scheme options,

3.2 Summary of engagement or consultation undertaken

Who and how have you engaged, or why do you believe engagement is not required? *

As this is a form of welfare support, we believe that consultation with the public is not required. Internal and external partners have been engaged in developing the proposals in order to provide a solution to the grant requirement to spend at least a third of the funding on pensioners in the county.

3.3 Summary of relevant findings

Please summarise your relevant findings. *

The Post Office voucher route was agreed following consideration of a number of other options including; online application process, council tax rebate, direct award to the voluntary sector to deliver, use alternative voucher schemes

4 Protected characteristics - Equality

Please consider the potential impact of this activity (during development & implementation) on each of the equality groups outlined below. **Please select one or more impact box(es) below for each equality group and explain your rationale.** Please note

Keep it Green, Keep it on the Screen

it is possible for the potential impact to be both positive and negative for the same equality group and this should be recorded.
Remember to consider the impact on e.g. staff, public, patients, carers etc. who are part of these equality groups.

Age

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This cash voucher scheme is solely for those residents on pension credit and of state pension age by the end of September 2022

Disability

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The scheme will be supporting pensioners on pension credit but this may also include those people within that cohort that have a disability.

Gender reassignment

Potential neutral impact selected

Explanation of your reasoning:

This would not impact on the status of support requests through the household support fund

Marriage and civil partnerships

Potential negative impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The scheme will pay £75 to households irrespective of the number of pensioners within the property.

Pregnancy and maternity

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

There would not be eligible for this scheme

Race including travelling communities

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This would not impact on the status of support requests through the household support fund if there is a fixed address and they are assessed and receiving pension credit.

Religion and belief

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This would not impact on the status of support requests through the household support fund

Sex

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This would not impact on the status of support requests through the household support fund

Sexual orientation

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This would not impact on the status of support requests through the household support fund

5 Characteristics - Public health

Other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The scheme is delivering support to pensioners on pension credit which is already identified as a vulnerable group. This will also include people who are carers and suffering from economic deprivation.

Health inequalities

Potential positive impact selected. Potential negative impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The household support fund is for those vulnerable residents that may be struggling with the cost of living rises, there is a specific need to provide support for those that can not generate additional income (i.e. the third ringfenced funding for pensioners) therefore this scheme is providing one off support to provide a small cash payment.

Social and economic

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This would not impact on the delivery of this Household Support Fund scheme

Physical health

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This would not impact on the delivery of this Household Support Fund scheme

Mental health and wellbeing

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This would not impact on the delivery of this Household Support Fund scheme, although a one off £75 cash payment may have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing.

Access to services

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

This would not impact on the delivery of this Household Support Fund scheme

6 Actions to mitigate potential negative impacts

Risk identified	The scheme does not reach all vulnerable pensioners as there will be many pension credit eligible residents that have not applied for a variety of reasons.
Actions required to reduce/eliminate negative impact	A parallel scheme has been set up with the Worcestershire Advice Network to take referrals for vulnerable pensioners who will be able to access the same one off £75 payment.
Who will lead this action	Wcc As Commissioner And Lead Body For Household Support Fund
Timeframe	Work has started to implement the scheme over the next four months.

How will you monitor these actions?

Monthly MI data from the post office and monthly contract monitoring data and meetings with the Worcestershire Advice Network.

7 When will you review this equality and public health estimate(EPHIA)?

This will be reviewed at the end of the first six months of the 2022/23 Household Support Fund scheme

8 Declaration

The following statement has been read and agreed:

- All public bodies have a statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010 to set out arrangements to assess and consult on how their policies and functions impact on the 9 protected characteristics: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage & Civil Partnership; Pregnancy & Maternity; Race; Religion & Belief; Sex; Sexual Orientation
- Our Organisation will challenge discrimination, promote equality, respect human rights, and aims to design and implement services, policies and measures that meet the diverse needs of our service, and population, ensuring that none are placed at a disadvantage over others
- All staff are expected to deliver and provide services and care in a manner which respects the individuality of service users, patients, carers etc, and as such treat them and members of the workforce respectfully, paying due regard to the 9 protected characteristics

I confirm to the best of my knowledge that the information I have provided is true, complete and accurate

I confirm that I will make sure that Equality and Public Health have been and continue to be considered throughout the project life cycle and that, if circumstances change in the project, a further Equality and Public Health Impact Assessment Screening will be carried out.

8 Application Details

Last Updated Date Time

14/06/2022 10:49:28

Screening Submitted Date Time

31/05/2022 13:16:18

Last Reopened Date Time

No Date Recorded

Full Impact Submitted Date Time

01/06/2022 15:17:56

Approved/Rejected Date Time

14/06/2022 10:49:28

Current User Dashboard Request Status

Complete

9.0 People with access to the original screening

[Lisa Bedford \(LBedford@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:LBedford@worcestershire.gov.uk)

9.1 People with access to this equality and public health assessment

[Lisa Bedford \(LBedford@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:LBedford@worcestershire.gov.uk)

10 Direct Questions

No Questions Asked