

Equality Impact Assessment

Project or Service Template

Name of the proposal, project or service
Reconciling Policy Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2018/19:
Proposal reductions to the Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme (DESSS)

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Part 1 – The Public Sector Equality Duty and Equality Impact Assessments (EIA)

1.1 The Council must have due regard to its Public Sector Equality Duty when making all decisions at member and officer level. An EIA is the best method by which the Council can determine the impact of a proposal on equalities, particularly for major decisions. However, the level of analysis should be proportionate to the relevance of the duty to the service or decision.

1.2 This is one of two forms that the County Council uses for Equality Impact Assessments, both of which are available on the intranet. This form is designed for any proposal, project or service. The other form looks at services or projects.

1.3 The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)

The public sector duty is set out at Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have “due regard” to the need to

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. (see below for “protected characteristics”

These are sometimes called equality aims.

1.4 A “protected characteristic” is defined in the Act as:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race (including ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality)
- religion or belief;
- sex;
- sexual orientation.

Marriage and civil partnership are also a protected characteristic for the purposes of the duty to eliminate discrimination.

The previous public sector equalities duties only covered race, disability and gender.

1.5 East Sussex County Council also considers the following additional groups/factors when carry out analysis:

- Carers – A carer spends a significant proportion of their life providing unpaid support to family or potentially friends. This could be caring for a relative, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or substance misuse problems. [Carers at the Heart of 21st Century Families and Communities, 2008]
- Literacy/Numeracy Skills
- Part time workers
- Rurality

1.6 Advancing equality (the second of the equality aims) involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristic
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people including steps to take account of disabled people's disabilities
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low

NB Please note that, for disabled persons, the Council must have regard to the possible need for steps that amount to positive discrimination, to "level the playing field" with non-disabled persons, e.g. in accessing services through dedicated car parking spaces.

1.6 Guidance on Compliance with The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) for officers and decision makers:

1.6.1 To comply with the duty, the Council must have "due regard" to the three equality aims set out above. This means the PSED must be considered as a factor to consider alongside other relevant factors such as budgetary, economic and practical factors.

1.6.2 What regard is "due" in any given case will depend on the circumstances. A proposal which, if implemented, would have particularly negative or widespread effects on (say) women, or the elderly, or people of a particular ethnic group would require officers and members to give considerable regard to the equalities aims. A proposal which had limited differential or discriminatory effect will probably require less regard.

1.6.3 *Some key points to note :*

- The duty is regarded by the Courts as being very important.
- Officers and members must be aware of the duty and give it conscious consideration: e.g. by considering open-mindedly the EIA and its findings when making a decision. When

members are taking a decision, this duty can't be delegated by the members, e.g. to an officer.

- EIAs must be evidence based.
- There must be an assessment of the practical impact of decisions on equalities, measures to avoid or mitigate negative impact and their effectiveness.
- There must be compliance with the duty when proposals are being formulated by officers and by members in taking decisions: the Council can't rely on an EIA produced after the decision is made.
- The duty is ongoing: EIA's should be developed over time and there should be evidence of monitoring impact after the decision.
- The duty is not, however, to achieve the three equality aims but to consider them – the duty does not stop tough decisions sometimes being made.
- The decision maker may take into account other countervailing (i.e. opposing) factors that may objectively justify taking a decision which has negative impact on equalities (for instance, cost factors)

1.6.4 In addition to the Act, the Council is required to comply with any statutory Code of Practice issued by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. New Codes of Practice under the new Act have yet to be published. However, Codes of Practice issued under the previous legislation remain relevant and the Equality and Human Rights Commission has also published guidance on the new public sector equality duty.

Part 2 – Aims and implementation of the proposal, project or service

2.1 What is being assessed?

a) Proposal:

Reconciling Policy Performance and Resources (RPPR) proposal to reduce the budget allocated to the Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme (DESSS).

b) The County Council is required to make £17m savings in order to deliver a balanced budget in 2018/19. As part of this target within Adult Social Care and Health, savings of £9.6m need to be found. All aspects of the Department's activities have been considered for savings that are deliverable and have the least possible impact on providing services to those most in need, and on providing essential services. Subsequently, the RPPR proposals include a significant reduction in the budget allocated to DESSS.

What is the main purpose or aims of proposal, project or service?

The issuing of the ring-fenced grant sum to the scheme from central government ended in 2015. The aim of the proposal is to reduce the budget for DESSS from £557,000 by £390,000.

DESSS assists East Sussex residents facing temporary financial hardship, where the need cannot be met any other way and there is significant risk to a person's health and safety. The scheme aims to meet the most fundamental needs of hunger and warmth in an emergency or crisis and on a short term basis, or it can provide assistance to people to establish or maintain themselves in the community.

The scheme has operated as a separate entity to the rest of Adult Social Care as there is only minimal overlap in client groups, and the vast majority of the scheme's clients are not supported by Adult Social Care. The main reasons for those who apply to DESSS for support to access food and utilities are related to welfare benefit issues rather than social care issues (over 77%). It is not means tested or governed by Care Act eligibility and is a resource that can be deployed to people who may not meet Care Act eligibility criteria. The support provided tends to be one-off and not ongoing, and a household will usually only be able to receive support from the scheme once in 12 months.

bb) Manager(s) and section or service responsible for completing the assessment

Managers: Steve Hook Head of Service

Alison O'Shea Operations Manager

2.2 Who is affected by the proposal? Who is it intended to benefit and how?

The proposal affects potential clients of the scheme due to the proposed budget reduction.

The DESSS staff team; particularly the management team who have been put at risk as it is proposed that those roles be removed.

The provision of a grant to Districts and Boroughs to provide deposits and rent in advance payments would be affected.

The provision of household furniture and white goods via service contracts with Hastings Furniture Service and Now Charity would be affected.

2.3 How is, or will, the proposal, project or service be put into practice and who is, or will be, responsible for it?

If the proposals go ahead managers will review the scope of the service to ensure that the remaining funds support those who have the most need.

Access to the service will be reviewed and relevant websites, application processes etc. will be updated accordingly.

Staff in HSCC will undergo training to administer the remainder of the scheme.

Managers will liaise with contracted organisations, districts and boroughs impacted by the proposal.

2.4 Are there any partners involved? E.g. NHS Trust, voluntary/community organisations, the private sector? If yes, how are partners involved?

Partners include local housing departments, community voluntary sector organisations such as food banks, furniture reuse organisations, advice agencies and other local services.

DESSS provides a grant to the Districts and Boroughs to provide deposits and rent in advance payments. For 2017/2018 this was allocated as follows:

Eastbourne: £39,000

Hastings: £62,500

Lewes: £17,000

Rother: £14,500

Wealden: £17,000

Help to get household furniture and white goods is provided by allocating part of the grant (in service contracts) to Hastings Furniture Service and Now Charity.

2.5 Is this proposal, project or service affected by legislation, legislative change, service review or strategic planning activity?

The proposal is affected by service reviews as part of the RPPR process to aid business and financial planning in order to deliver a balanced budget for 2018/19.

2.6 How do people access or how are people referred to your proposal, project or service? Please explain fully.

East Sussex residents who are aged 16 years or over and either have a low income or are in receipt of a relevant benefit, can apply for assistance from the scheme.

The majority of clients apply using the online form on the East Sussex County Council website. Applications can also be made over the phone.

2.7 If there is a referral method how are people assessed to use the proposal, project or service? Please explain fully.

The scheme does not require a referral and is available to East Sussex residents who are 16 years old and over who have a low income, or are in receipt of certain benefits.

There are a small number of circumstances in which the application must be made by the client's social worker, such as where they have no recourse to public funds.

In order to obtain help with food and utilities the applicant will need to provide evidence that one of the following circumstances apply:

- They have had to pay a one-off payment unexpectedly which has left them without enough money to pay for food and utilities, and there is a risk to the household's health and safety.
- They have had money stolen and there is a risk to the household's health and safety.
- Their benefit payments have been temporarily stopped and this was not caused by their own actions.
- Their benefits have stopped because they have started work but there is a delay in receiving their first wage.
- They have made a claim for benefit but do not have enough for food and utilities until they receive their first payment.

- They have no recourse to public funds and do not have the means to obtain food and utilities, but have been assessed by Adult Social Care as being eligible for council support. (This application must be made by their social worker).
- They have been discharged from hospital and cannot access their money immediately. (This application must be made by their social worker).

In order to obtain help with household items evidence and/or explanation may be required and one of the following circumstances must apply:

- They have moved into a new property after a period of homelessness, after a time in rehabilitation, prison or supported accommodation, or after a family breakdown.
- They have moved into a new property with minimal notice and do not already have the items they have requested.
- Certain essential items break down and are needed immediately.
- They have suffered a fire, flood or similar disaster.
- They need a microwave because of a change in their home meals provider. (This application must be made by their social worker).
- They have no recourse to public funds and they do not have the means to obtain essential items but have been assessed by Adult Social Care as being eligible for council support. (This application must be made by their social worker).

The scheme does not provide cash or loans. It is not means tested and there is no requirement to pay back the support provided.

2.8 How, when and where is your proposal, project or service provided? Please explain fully.

DESSS is administered from the third floor of St Mary's House, 52 St Leonards Road, Eastbourne, BN21 3UU.

It is staffed from Monday to Friday from 9am until 5pm. The scheme can also be administered remotely through agile working.

Part 3 – Methodology, consultation, data and research used to determine impact on protected characteristics.

3.1 List all examples of quantitative and qualitative data or any consultation information available that will enable the impact assessment to be undertaken.

Types of evidence identified as relevant have X marked against them			
	Employee Monitoring Data		Staff Surveys
X	Service User Data		Contract/Supplier Monitoring Data
X	Recent Local Consultations		Data from other agencies, e.g. Police, Health, Fire and Rescue Services, third sector
X	Complaints		Risk Assessments
X	Service User Surveys		Research Findings
X	Census Data	X	East Sussex Demographics
X	Previous Equality Impact Assessments		National Reports
	Other organisations Equality Impact Assessments		Any other evidence?

3.2 Evidence of complaints against the proposal, project or service on grounds of discrimination.

No complaints of this nature have been received.

3.3 If you carried out any consultation or research on the proposal, project or service explain what consultation has been carried out.

A formal public consultation process has commenced:

- 19th March launch of the overall RPPR consultation process.
- 29th March launch of the DESSS team consultation process.
- 15th May DMT meet to consider proposals.
- 26th June Cabinet decision.

3.4 What does the consultation, research and/or data indicate about the positive or negative impact of the proposal, project or service?

Key themes from the consultation

- Organisations disagree with, or are concerned about, the proposal to cut funding.
- They said that the most vulnerable people in society use the scheme at a time of crisis and there aren't any real alternatives to it.
- Any cuts would increase demand on the voluntary and charity sector, which is already struggling to cope and wouldn't have the capacity to fill the gaps.
- Reducing the funding and the support the scheme can offer could put people at risk and affect their health and wellbeing.
- People would be left to sleep on the floor if the scheme stops supplying furniture.
- People said they wouldn't have been able to afford furniture without it and would have had to do without the basics such as cookers and fridges.
- People and organisations said that for people fleeing domestic violence or who have been homeless the service provides invaluable support when they have nothing.
- People said that beds and appliances are essential and that money vouchers should be cut instead.
- It's important that the underspend from last year is spent on the scheme.
- Districts and Boroughs say that there is already increasing need for their rent in demand schemes and this funding should be maintained.
- Organisations suggested tapering the cuts, working with the charity sector to grow its infrastructure and asking people to pay back some of the funding they receive.

Sample quotes

"You will in effect be leaving many vulnerable people to fend for themselves, because service providers such as ourselves can't take on all the fall-out from the cuts you are proposing."

"If there is a requirement to reduce the scheme, we would suggest doing this on a tapered basis, while putting in place money / posts to grow infrastructures to replace it in time."

"A large number of those who become homeless do not have the savings required to meet the demands for rent in advance and deposits and are completely reliant on the loan schemes supported by the DESSS."

Inclusion Advisory Group – March 2018

- If DESS is to remain it should become more accessible so that support can be given in a timely manner for people who need it.
- [Name] observed that it's not much utilised by people for whom it should benefit as eligibility criteria (and proof) is very difficult to meet. Potential applicants are more likely to apply to voluntary sector groups where support is more accessible but funds are less. This is another example (as with foodbanks) of the voluntary sector/ community groups backfilling gaps left by the local authorities.
- It was noted that the safety net for people in need of support has gone, and subsequently many people feel abandoned. There are huge concerns for people who have 'exhausted' their options and care pathways; they're left on their own to cope.
- A rise in demand for foodbanks was acknowledged. [Name] outlined the drive for food banks to provide other essentials such as clothing and blankets, and a promoted linking in with charity shops and local amenities to meet this need.
- Although there are additional pressures for urban areas, the rural population has its own challenges. Where there is an increase in need for Universal Credit but no easily accessible Jobcentre this is doubly difficult, and compounded by a loss of libraries where people can access computers and online information – it should not be assumed that everyone can afford and use a smart phone! These factors can be accumulative resulting in great hardship.

Part 4 – Assessment of impact

4.1 Age: Testing of disproportionate, negative, neutral or positive impact.

a) How is this protected characteristic reflected in the County/District/Borough?

The overall population of East Sussex is 527,209 (2011 Census data) and projected to continue increasing over the next few years.

The population by age breakdown for East Sussex is:

Age	Population
15-29	83,791
30-44	90,220
45-64	147,613
65+	120,722

ESIF Dataset: Census Population in 2011 – Districts:

Age groups	All people	0-14	15-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Geography						
England & Wales	56,075,900	9,891,200	11,183,200	11,515,200	14,263,400	9,223,000
South East	8,634,800	1,535,300	1,604,100	1,761,300	2,252,300	1,482,000
East Sussex	526,700	85,000	83,700	90,800	147,500	119,800
Eastbourne	99,400	15,600	18,400	18,200	24,800	22,300
Hastings	90,300	15,700	17,200	17,600	24,400	15,300
Lewes	97,500	15,800	14,900	16,900	27,800	22,200
Rother	90,600	13,200	12,000	13,000	26,500	25,700
Wealden	148,900	24,600	21,300	24,900	43,900	34,000

People are living longer and by 2020, it is estimated that around 38% of the UK population will be aged 50 plus and in East Sussex the figure is likely to be as high as 50%. We know that East Sussex has a higher than average older population with around 23% of people aged over 65, compared to the national average of 16%.

There are 228,881 people aged 50+ (43.4%) in East Sussex, and 20,022 (3.8%) of these are aged over 85 – East Sussex has one of the highest populations of people aged 85+ in the UK. (2011 mid-year estimates based on 2011 Census data).

b) How is this protected characteristic reflected in the population of those impacted by the proposal, project or service?

Equalities data gathered between April 2017– March 2018 on clients who had made a successful application to DESSS indicates that:

30% are aged 21-30
23% are aged 31-40
20% are aged 41-50
12% are aged 51-60

This suggests that people between the ages of 21 and 60 are more likely to receive assistance from the scheme.

The data also suggests that the county's older population are underrepresented.

Age	Total	Percentage
Under 20	55	6%
21-30	276	30%
31-40	204	23%
41-50	184	20%
51-60	111	12%
61-70	48	5%
71-80	21	2%
81-90	5	1%
91-100	1	0.10%
Grand Total	905	

Source: DESSS equalities data for successful applications April 2017-March 2018

c) Will people with the protected characteristic be more affected by the proposal, project or service than those in the general population who do not share that protected characteristic?

No. The scheme is available to anyone over the age of 16 who is on a low income or in receipt of a qualifying benefit, whilst those under 16 are classed as being part of a household. It is not clear why older people appear less likely to apply to the scheme.

d) What is the proposal, project or service's impact on different ages/age groups?

Based on current successful applications, it is possible that that working age people would be more affected if the proposals were to go ahead.

e) What actions are to/or will be taken to avoid any negative impact or to better advance equality?

A reduction to the budget will affect the scope of the scheme. A review of the scheme will need to be undertaken if the proposals go ahead, to ensure that remaining funds are used to support people with the most need.

Eligibility criteria will continue to encompass different age groups, so as not to negatively impact any particular cohort.

Please see appendix A for details of information provisions.

f) Provide details of the mitigation.

If the proposals go ahead, a review of the scheme and its eligibility criteria will be undertaken. In addition to this we would

- Update and publish scheme information and criteria on the East Sussex County Council website.
- Inform partners of any changes to the scheme.
- Scope and signpost to alternative services.

Incorporating DESSS into Health and Social Care Connect (HSCC) may make it more accessible and positively impact people in crisis, as it would be open 7 days a week with extended opening hours. It would also remain in its current location (St Mary's House, Eastbourne).

g) How will any mitigation measures be monitored?

Should the proposals be agreed, we will continue to capture and monitor equality data for each application.

Monitoring of applications to ensure scheme information and criteria is accessible with staff being trained to correctly apply eligibility criteria.

Monitoring would be undertaken by HSCC.

4.2 Disability: Testing of disproportionate, negative, neutral or positive impact.

a) How is this protected characteristic reflected in the County/District/Borough?

Residents (working age only with limiting long-term illness in 2011 by districts (%))

Geography	All people	People with long-term health problem or disability	Day-to-day activities limited a little	Day-to-day activities limited a lot	People without long-term health problem or disability
England & Wales	100	17.9	9.4	8.5	82.1
South East	100	15.7	8.8	6.9	84.3
East Sussex	100	20.3	11.2	9.2	79.7
Eastbourne	100	21	11.3	9.7	79
Hastings	100	22.1	11.5	10.6	77.9
Lewes	100	19.5	10.9	8.7	80.5
Rother	100	23.4	12.8	10.7	76.6
Wealden	100	17.5	10.2	7.3	82.5

Source: Department for Work and Pensions, Longitudinal Study, NOMIS

Projected limiting long-term illness by age group, 2010-2026

Measure		Number				Percent of total population			
Age group		All people	0-17	18-64	65+	All people	0-17	18-64	65+
Geography	Year								
East Sussex	2010	105,047	4,755	43,646	56,647	20.4	4.6	15.0	46.8
	2026	124,992	4,352	42,392	78,248	23.9	4.7	15.9	47.6

Source: ESCC projections, November 2011

Projected disability by age group, 2010-2026

Measure		Number				Percent of total population			
Age group		All people	10-17	18-64	65+	All people	10-17	18-64	65+
Geography	Year								
East Sussex	2010	85,428	1,952	34,041	49,435	16.6	3.9	11.7	40.9
	2026	103,415	1,826	33,202	68,386	19.7	3.9	12.5	41.6

Source: ESCC projections, November 2011 Employment and Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefit claimants in February 2012

b) How is this protected characteristic reflected in the population of those impacted by the proposal, project or service?

Equalities data gathered between April 2017– March 2018 on clients who had made a successful application to DESSS, indicates that 70% of the households who benefited from the scheme did not have a member with a disability.

Disability of at least one household member		
	No disability	Disability
Eastbourne	147	72
Hastings	235	81
Lewes	71	36
Rother	83	39
Wealden	96	45
Total	632	273
Percentage	70%	30%

Source: DESSS equalities data for successful applications April 2017-March 2018

- c) Will people with the protected characteristic be more affected by the proposal, project or service than those in the general population who do not share that protected characteristic?**

A disproportionate impact is not anticipated for this group.

- d) What is the proposal, project or service’s impact on people who have a disability?**

Whilst wider welfare reform has the potential to impact negatively on those with a disability, the impact of the proposed budget reduction to DESSS is neutral as the scheme is administered per household.

- e) What actions are to/ or will be taken to avoid any negative impact or to better advance equality?**

A reduction to the budget will affect the scope of the scheme. A review of the scheme will be undertaken if the proposals go ahead to ensure that remaining funds are used to support people with the most need.

Eligibility criteria will continue to include being in receipt of relevant benefits so as not to have a negative impact on people with a disability.

Applications to DESSS will continue to be taken in ways which fulfil accessibility needs for people with a disability.

Please see appendix A for details of information provisions.

- f) Provide details of any mitigation.**

If the proposals go ahead, a review of the scheme and its eligibility criteria will be undertaken. In addition to this we would

- Update and publish scheme information and criteria on the East Sussex County Council website.

- Inform partners of any changes to the scheme.
- Scope and signpost to alternative services.

Incorporating DESSS into Health and Social Care Connect (HSCC) may make it more accessible and positively impact people in crisis, as it would be open 7 days a week with extended opening hours. It would also remain in its current location (St Mary’s House, Eastbourne).

g) How will any mitigation measures be monitored?

Should the proposals be agreed, we will continue to capture and monitor equality data for each application.

Monitoring of applications to ensure scheme information and criteria is accessible, with staff being trained to correctly apply eligibility criteria.

Monitoring would be undertaken by HSCC.

4.3 Ethnicity: Testing of disproportionate, negative, neutral or positive impact.

a) How is this protected characteristic reflected in the County /District/Borough?

The overall population of East Sussex is 527,209 (2011 Census data) and is projected to continue increasing over the next few years. Census figures below demonstrate ethnic diversity in the area as 8.3% overall.

Increases are particularly in the ‘White other’ and ‘mixed’ categories reflecting East European and other white groups’ migration and other societal changes. Largest overall minority populations are ‘White other’ and ‘Asian and Asian British’.

Ethnic group in 2011 by districts (%)

Ethnicity	All people	British & Northern Irish	Irish	Gypsy or Irish Traveller	Other White	All Mixed	All Asian or Asian British	All Black or Black British	Other ethnic group
Geography									
England & Wales	100	80.5	0.9	0.1	4.4	2.2	7.5	3.3	1
South East	100	85.2	0.9	0.2	4.4	1.9	5.2	1.6	0.6
East Sussex	100	91.7	0.8	0.2	3.4	1.4	1.7	0.6	0.3
Eastbourne	100	87.4	1	0.1	5.6	1.8	2.8	0.8	0.5
Hastings	100	89.3	0.8	0.2	3.5	2.2	2.4	1.2	0.5
Lewes	100	92.5	0.8	0.1	3.2	1.3	1.4	0.4	0.3
Rother	100	94.1	0.7	0.1	2.1	1.1	1.2	0.3	0.2
Wealden	100	93.8	0.6	0.2	2.8	1	1.2	0.2	0.2

b) How is this protected characteristic reflected in the population of those impacted by the proposal, project or service?

Equalities data gathered between April 2017– March 2018 on clients who had made a successful application to DESSS indicates that 79% of applicants identified as being British.

It is worth noting that 13% did not provide ethnicity information. Available data suggests that ethnic diversity of successful applicants to the scheme is 8% overall which is consistent with the census data for East Sussex.

Ethnic background	Total	Percentage
African	7	0.80%
Any other Asian background	1	0.10%
Any other ethnic group	11	1.20%
Any other mixed background or dual heritage	2	0.20%
Any other white background	11	1.20%
Bangladeshi	3	0.30%
British	712	79%
Caribbean	1	0.10%
Chinese	1	0.10%
Gypsy/Traveller	6	0.70%
Indian	1	0.10%
Irish	6	0.70%
Not answered	119	13%
Other	10	1%
White and Asian	2	0.20%
White and Black African	7	0.80%
White and black Caribbean	5	0.50%
Grand Total	905	

Source: DESSS equalities data for successful applications April 2017-March 2018

c) Will people with the protected characteristic be more affected by the proposal, project or service than those in the general population who do not share that protected characteristic?

A disproportionate impact is not anticipated for this group.

d) What is the proposal, project or service’s impact on those who are from different ethnic backgrounds?

There may be language or other cultural barriers which prevent people from accessing schemes such as DESSS, however the application process is supported to respond to need around language currently applications reflect population ethnicity data, suggesting this would not have a significant impact if the proposals were to go ahead.

The impact of the proposed budget reduction to DESSS is neutral.

e) What actions are to/ or will be taken to avoid any negative impact or to better advance equality?

N/A

f) Provide details of any mitigation.

N/A

g) How will any mitigation measures be monitored?

N/A

4.4 Gender/Transgender: Testing of disproportionate, negative, neutral or positive impact

a) How is this protected characteristic target group reflected in the County/District/Borough?

Data from the 2011 Census shows the population of East Sussex to be **527,209**, broken down into the following gender and age groupings:

East Sussex	Total	18+	18-64	65+	18-64 %	65+ %
Female	273,142	222,604	154,510	68,094	69.4	30.6
Male	254,067	200,320	147,692	52,628	73.7	26.3
All people	527,209	422,924	302,202	120,722	71.5	28.5

Source: ONS Mid Year Population Estimates 2011 (based on Census) released 25/9/11 by ONS

There is limited data on the number of transgender people in East Sussex is available.

A gender/transgender question is included in Adult Social Care’s satisfaction survey to better understand the needs of this group and to ensure an appropriate service response. Data from 241 “About You” forms were analysed as part of the “Listening To You” satisfaction questionnaires from the summer of 2017.

The questionnaires were sent to a random sample of clients and carers who had had relevant assessments or reviews. The responses received showed:

- 2% of respondents stated they were transgender
- 2% of respondents said they preferred not to say,
- 96% of respondents stated they were not transgender.

Source: ASC Listening To You Results, October 2017

b) How is this protected characteristic reflected in the population of those impacted by the proposal, project or service?

Equalities data gathered between April 2017– March 2018 on clients who had made a successful application to DESSS indicates that 63% of applicants identified as female and 37% male. No data is available for transgender applicants.

Gender of applicant			
	Female	Male	Total
Eastbourne	127	92	219
Hastings	211	105	316
Lewes	62	45	107
Rother	78	44	122
Wealden	91	50	141
Grand Total	569	336	905
Percentage	63%	37%	

Source: DESSS equalities data for successful applications April 2017-March 2018

- c) Will people with the protected characteristic be more affected by the proposal, project or service than those in the general population who do not share that protected characteristic?**

Based on data for current applicants, it is possible that more women would be affected than men.

- d) What is the proposal, project or service’s impact on gender?**

As there were more female applicants than male it’s possible that future applicants who are women will be impacted more overall. Women who have fled domestic abuse and are eligible to apply for DESSS may also be impacted.

- e) What actions are to/ or will be taken to avoid any negative impact or to better advance equality?**

A reduction to the budget will affect the scope of the scheme. A review of the scheme will be undertaken if the proposals go ahead to ensure that remaining funds are used to support people with the most need.

Please see appendix A for details of information provisions.

- f) Provide details of any mitigation.**

If the proposals go ahead, a review of the scheme and its eligibility criteria will be undertaken. In addition to this we would

- Update and publish scheme information and criteria on the East Sussex County Council website.
- Inform partners of any changes to the scheme.

- Scope and signpost to alternative services.

Incorporating DESSS into Health and Social Care Connect (HSCC) may make it more accessible and positively impact people in crisis as it would be open 7 days a week with extended opening hours. It would also remain in its current location (St Mary’s House, Eastbourne).

g) How will any mitigation measures be monitored?

Should the proposals be agreed, we will continue to capture and monitor equality data for each application.

Monitoring of applications to ensure scheme information and criteria is accessible, with staff being trained to correctly apply eligibility criteria.

Monitoring would be undertaken by HSCC.

4.5 Marital Status/Civil Partnership: Testing of disproportionate, negative, neutral or positive impact.

a) How is this protected characteristic target group reflected in the County/District/Borough?

Marital status in 2011 – districts (%)

Marital Status	All people aged 16 and over	Single	Married	In a registered same-sex civil partnership	Separated	Divorced	Widowed
Geography							
England & Wales	100	34.6	46.6	0.2	2.6	9	7
South East	100	31.9	49.3	0.2	2.5	9.1	6.9
East Sussex	100	29.1	48.4	0.3	2.7	10.7	8.7
Eastbourne	100	33.3	42.8	0.4	3	11.5	9.1
Hastings	100	36.5	39.2	0.3	3.7	12.8	7.4
Lewes	100	28.7	49.6	0.5	2.5	10.2	8.4
Rother	100	24.7	51.3	0.3	2.6	10.3	10.8
Wealden	100	24.9	55.1	0.2	2.3	9.4	8.2

b) How is this protected characteristic reflected in the population of those impacted by the proposal, project or service?

Marital or partnership status of clients is not recorded during the application process, so we can only assume it broadly mirrors the demographic data above.

Although equalities data for DESSS does not capture marital/civil partnership status, it does however, capture whether the applicant identifies as being single or part of a couple.

Equalities data gathered between April 2017– March 2018 on clients who had made a successful application to DESSS indicates that 86% of applicants reported being single whilst 14% reported being part of a couple.

Single / couple			
	Single	Couple	Total
Eastbourne	194	25	219
Hastings	267	49	316
Lewes	91	16	107
Rother	103	19	122
Wealden	119	22	141
Grand Total	774	131	905
Percentage	86%	14%	

Source: DESSS

equalities data for successful applications April 2017-March 2018

- c) Will people with the protected characteristic be more affected by the proposal, project or service than those in the general population who do not share that protected characteristic?**

Based on application data people who do not identify as in a couple make more applications, so it is possible that they may be more affected than those in a couple. However, this has no legal standing in relation to the Equality Act’s legally recognised protected characteristic.

- d) What is the proposal, project or service’s impact on people who are married or same sex couples who have celebrated a civil partnership?**

A disproportionate impact is not anticipated for this group.

- e) What actions are to/ or will be taken to avoid any negative impact or to better advance equality?**

N/A

- f) Provide details of any mitigation.**

N/A

- g) How will any mitigation measures be monitored?**

N/A

4.6 Pregnancy and maternity: Testing of disproportionate, negative, neutral or positive impact.

a) How is this protected characteristic target group reflected in the County/District/Borough?

Live births by age of mother in 2011

Age of mother	All live births	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over
Geography							
England & Wales	723913	36435	134946	200587	207151	115444	29350
South East	107132	4521	17097	27456	32823	20214	5021
East Sussex	5399	305	1028	1449	1455	915	247
Eastbourne	1185	80	216	346	327	176	40
Hastings	1202	95	309	315	290	150	-
Lewes	945	41	165	251	249	189	50
Rother	753	43	141	211	183	135	40
Wealden	1314	46	197	326	406	265	-

b) How is this protected characteristic reflected in the population of those impacted by the proposal, project or service?

Pregnancy and maternity data is not recorded so we can only assume it broadly mirrors the demographic data above. Equalities data for DESSS does not capture pregnancy and maternity data, it does however capture whether there are any children in the household.

Equalities data gathered between April 2017– March 2018 on clients who had made a successful application to DESSS indicates that 46% of applicants had one or more child whilst 54% of applicants did not have any children.

Number of Children								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	7	Total
Eastbourne	125	44	30	12	5	2	1	219
Hastings	161	84	37	21	12	1	-	316
Lewes	59	27	13	5	3	-	-	107
Rother	65	31	18	5	2	1	-	122
Wealden	79	30	22	6	3	1	-	141
Grand Total	489	216	120	49	25	5	1	905

Percentage	54%	24%	13%	5.40%	3%	0.50%	0.10%	
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Source: DESSS equalities data for successful applications April 2017-March 2018

c) Will people with the protected characteristic be more affected by the proposal, project or service than those in the general population who do not share that protected characteristic?

A disproportionate impact is not anticipated for this group.

d) What is the proposal, project or service’s impact on pregnant women and women within the first 26 weeks of maternity leave?

N/A

e) What actions are to/ or will be taken to avoid any negative impact or to better advance equality?

N/A

f) Provide details of any mitigation.

N/A

g) How will any mitigation measures be monitored?

N/A

4.7 Religion, Belief: Testing of disproportionate, negative, neutral or positive impact.

a) How is this protected characteristic reflected in the County/District/Borough?

Religion and belief 2011 – districts (%)

Religions	All people	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other religions	No religion	Not stated
Geography										
England & Wales	100	59.3	0.4	1.5	0.5	4.8	0.8	0.4	25.1	7.2

South East	100	59.8	0.5	1.1	0.2	2.3	0.6	0.5	27.7	7.4
East Sussex	100	59.9	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.8	0	0.7	29.6	8.1
Eastbourne	100	59.6	0.5	0.4	0.2	1.5	0.1	0.6	29.2	8
Hastings	100	51.9	0.5	0.5	0.2	1.3	0	0.7	36.6	8.3
Lewes	100	57	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.6	0	0.6	32.5	8.2
Rother	100	64.8	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.5	0	0.6	25.2	8.2
Wealden	100	64	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0	0.8	26.3	7.9

b) How is this protected characteristic reflected in the population of those impacted by the proposal, project or service?

Equalities data gathered between April 2017– March 2018 on clients who had made a successful application to DESSS differs from the demographic data above as 53% of applicants reported having no religion compared with 29.6%.

The next largest group of applicants reported being Christian; 25% and 15% chose not to answer.

Religion	Total	Percentage
Buddhist	8	0.90%
Christian	223	25%
Hindu	1	0.10%
Jewish	1	0.10%
Muslim	19	2%
Not answered	139	15%
None	484	53%
Other	30	3%
Grand Total	905	

Source: DESSS equalities data for successful applications April 2017-March 2018

c) Will people with the protected characteristic be more affected by the proposal, project or service than those in the general population who do not share that protected characteristic?

A disproportionate impact is not anticipated for this group.

d) What is the proposal, project or service’s impact on people with different religions and beliefs?

N/A

e) What actions are to/ or will be taken to avoid any negative impact or to better advance equality?

N/A

f) Provide details of any mitigation.

N/A

e) How will any mitigation measures be monitored?

N/A

4.8 Sexual Orientation - Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Heterosexual: Testing of disproportionate, negative, neutral or positive impact.

a) How is this protected characteristic reflected in the County/District/Borough?

Estimates of the UK LGB population generally vary between 5%-7% of the overall population (www.stonewall.org.uk). The Office of National Statistics (ONS) estimate is lower than this, based on responses to surveys. All estimates are subject to the very significant caveat that many LGB people are reluctant to ‘come out’ to policy makers and researchers, seeing little benefit in doing so and fearing discrimination and harassment. In addition, sources such as the census have not collected sexual orientation or gender identity data to date.

Taking the Stonewall estimate as a guide, this means that in East Sussex, with a population of 527,209 (2011 Census), 26,360 – 36,904 people, including older people, are likely to be LGB. <http://www.eastsussexjsna.org.uk/briefings.aspx>.

Population over 65 (2011) with *estimated* (5% Estimate) numbers of LGB people over 65 by district in East Sussex.

Age	All people	65+	65+ %	65+ male	65+ male%	65+ female	65+ female%
Geography							
England and Wales	56075912	9223073	16.4	4096161	7.3	5126912	9.1
South East	8634750	1482020	17.2	656272	7.6	825748	9.6
East Sussex	526671	119763	22.7	52124	9.9	67639	12.8
Eastbourne	99412	22303	22.4	9363	9.4	12940	13
Hastings	90254	15401	17.1	6803	7.5	8598	9.5
Lewes	97502	22154	22.7	9623	9.9	12531	12.9
Rother	90588	25763	28.4	11174	12.3	14589	16.1

Wealden	148915	34142	22.9	15161	10.2	18981	12.7
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Age	All people	65+	65+ LGB (5%)
Geography			
England and Wales	56075912	9223073	
South East	8634750	1482020	
East Sussex	526671	119763	5988
Eastbourne	99412	22303	1115
Hastings	90254	15401	770
Lewes	97502	22154	1107
Rother	90588	25763	1288
Wealden	148915	34142	1707

Limited data on the sexuality of the residents of East Sussex is available. A sexual orientation question is included in Adult Social Care’s satisfaction survey to and data from 280 “About You” forms were analysed as part of the “Listening To You” satisfaction questionnaires from the summer of 2017. The questionnaires were sent to a random sample of clients and carers who had had relevant assessments or reviews. The responses received showed:

Heterosexual/Straight	91%
Other	0%
Prefer not to say	6%
Gay man	1%
Bi/Bisexual	1%
Gay woman/Lesbian	0%

Source: ASC Listening To You Results, October 2017

b) How is this protected characteristic reflected in the population of those impacted by the proposal, project or service?

Equalities data gathered between April 2017– March 2018 on clients who had made a successful application to DESSS shows 75% of applicants identifying as heterosexual. Those identifying as gay, lesbian or bisexual represented less than 3% of the applicants whilst 20% chose not to answer. This is broadly in line with estimates we have around our population data.

Sexual orientation	Total	Percentage
Bisexual	8	0.90%
Gay man	5	0.50%
Heterosexual	679	75%

Lesbian	7	0.80%
Not answered	181	20%
Prefer not to say	25	2.80%
Grand Total	905	

Source: DESSS equalities data for successful applications April 2017-March 2018

- c) Will people with the protected characteristic be more affected by the proposal, project or service than those in the general population who do not share that protected characteristic?**

A disproportionate impact is not anticipated for this group.

- d) What is the proposal, project or service’s impact on people with differing sexual orientation?**

N/A

- e) What actions are to/ or will be taken to avoid any negative impact or to better advance equality?**

N/A

- f) Provide details of any mitigation.**

N/A

- g) How will any mitigation measures be monitored?**

N/A

4.9 Other: Additional groups/factors that may experience impacts - testing of disproportionate, negative, neutral or positive impact.

4.9.1 Carers

- a) How are these groups/factors reflected in the County/District/ Borough?**

Provision of unpaid care in 2011 – districts (%)

Provision unpaid care	All people	People provides no unpaid care	People provide unpaid care	Provides 1 to 19 hours unpaid care a week	Provides 20 to 49 hours unpaid care a week	Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week
Geography						
England & Wales	100	89.7	10.3	6.5	1.4	2.4
South East	100	90.2	9.8	6.7	1.1	2

East Sussex	100	88.7	11.3	7.5	1.3	2.5
Eastbourne	100	89.4	10.6	6.7	1.3	2.6
Hastings	100	89.5	10.5	6.3	1.5	2.7
Lewes	100	88.2	11.8	8.2	1.2	2.4
Rother	100	87.6	12.4	8	1.4	3
Wealden	100	88.8	11.2	8	1.2	2.1

b) How is this group/factor reflected in the population of those impacted by the proposal, project or service?

Equalities data is not available on the carer status of applicants of the scheme.

c) Will people within these groups or affected by these factors be more affected by the proposal, project or service than those in the general population who are not in those groups or affected by these factors?

A disproportionate impact is not anticipated for this group.

d) What is the proposal, project or service’s impact on the factor or identified group?

Whilst this group would not be more adversely impacted the majority of carers are of working age and on low incomes or in receipt of benefits, as with the majority of successful DESSS applicants.

e) What actions are to/ or will be taken to avoid any negative impact or to better advance equality?

Incorporating DESSS into Health and Social Care Connect (HSCC) may make it more accessible and positively impact people in crisis, as it would be open 7 days a week with extended opening hours. It would also remain in its current location (St Mary’s House, Eastbourne).

Please see appendix A for details around information provisions.

f) Provide details of any mitigation.

N/A

g) How will any mitigation measures be monitored?

N/A

4.9.2 Rural population

a) How are these groups/factors reflected in the County/District/ Borough?

Population by age groups and location in 2011(%)

Age	All people	0-14	15-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Geography						
England and Wales	100	17.6	19.9	20.5	25.4	16.4
South East	100	17.8	18.6	20.4	26.1	17.2
East Sussex	100	16.1	15.9	17.2	28	22.7
Eastbourne	100	15.7	18.5	18.3	25.1	22.4
Hastings	100	17.3	19	19.6	27	17.1
Lewes	100	16.2	15.2	17.3	28.5	22.7
Rother	100	14.6	13.3	14.4	29.3	28.4
Wealden	100	16.5	14.3	16.8	29.5	22.9

b) How is this group/factor reflected in the population of those impacted by the proposal, project or service?

The scheme is available to eligible East Sussex residents regardless of where in the county they live. Equalities data gathered between April 2017– March 2018 on clients who had made a successful application to DESSS shows that a higher proportion of applicants reside in the larger towns of the county, as would be expected based on population data.

Locality of applicant		
	Total	Percentage
Eastbourne	219	24%
Hastings	316	35%
Lewes	107	12%
Rother	122	13%
Wealden	141	16%
Grand Total	905	

Source: DESSS equalities data for successful applications April 2017-March 2018

c) Will people within these groups or affected by these factors be more affected by the proposal, project or service than those in the general population who are not in those groups or affected by these factors?

It would not be expected that the rural location of an applicant would be any more affected by the proposal than any other applicant in the county. The scheme is accessed online or by telephone therefore the geographical location of the applicant should not have an impact.

d) What is the proposal, project or service’s impact on the factor or identified group?

A neutral impact is anticipated as this scheme is predominately accessed via telephone or online and it is not anticipated that this would change with any reduction to the scheme.

e) What actions are to/ or will be taken to avoid any negative impact or to better advance equality?

N/A

f) Provide details of any mitigation.

N/A

g) How will any mitigation measures be monitored?

N/A

4.9.3 People on low incomes

a) How are these groups/factors reflected in the County/District/ Borough?

[Indices of deprivation 2015: Income 2015](#)

Area/locality	Most Deprived 10%	Second Decile	Third Decile	Fourth Decile	Fifth Decile	Sixth Decile	Seventh Decile	Eighth Decile	Ninth Decile
East Sussex	5%	7%	8%	13%	11%	11%	16%	10%	12%
Eastbourne	5%	16%	5%	25%	7%	18%	8%	8%	7%
Hastings	23%	15%	17%	17%	11%	0%	11%	4%	2%
Lewes	0%	3%	13%	11%	11%	13%	19%	13%	13%
Rother	5%	3%	7%	16%	17%	14%	21%	7%	9%
Wealden	0%	2%	3%	4%	9%	9%	18%	16%	21%

[East Sussex in Figures Indices of Deprivation 2015 \(Income deprivation domain is weighted at 22.5%\)](#)

Low incomes reported in the indices of deprivation include those who are out of work and those on low incomes. In East Sussex the most deprived area is Hastings and this correlates with the area in which the majority of successful applicants to DESSS in 2017/18 resided (35% in Hastings).

b) How is this group/factor reflected in the population of those impacted by the proposal, project or service?

In order to be eligible to access DESSS the applicant must be in receipt of a relevant benefit and/or be on a low income. All 905 successful applicants in 2017/18 were in receipt of one or more benefits.

c) Will people within these groups or affected by these factors be more affected by the proposal, project or service than those in the general population who are not in those groups or affected by these factors?

The proposal would affect those on low incomes more than the general population as the scheme is only available to those on low incomes or in receipt of benefits. The proposal may mean that access to household goods, food, utilities via the scheme, and deposits or rent in advance (via district and borough councils) in times of crisis or emergency, are no longer available for those without the necessary funds to pay for essential items.

d) What is the proposal, project or service's impact on the factor or identified group?

The proposal may impact negatively for those on low incomes or in receipt of benefits, as all successful DESSS applicants share this factor.

e) What actions are to/ or will be taken to avoid any negative impact or to better advance equality?

A reduction to the budget will affect the scope of the scheme. A review of the scheme will be undertaken if the proposals go ahead, to ensure that remaining funds are used to support people with the most need.

f) Provide details of any mitigation

If the proposals go ahead, a review of the scheme and its eligibility criteria will be undertaken. In addition to this we would

- Update and publish scheme information and criteria on the East Sussex County Council website.
- Inform partners of any changes to the scheme.
- Scope and signpost to alternative services.

Incorporating DESSS into Health and Social Care Connect (HSCC) may make it more accessible and positively impact people in crisis as it would be open 7 days a week with

extended opening hours. It would also remain in its current location (St Mary's House, Eastbourne).

Please see appendix A for details around information provisions.

g) How will any mitigation measures be monitored?

Should the proposals be agreed, we will continue to capture and monitor equality data for each application.

Monitoring of applications to ensure scheme information and criteria is accessible, with staff being trained to correctly apply eligibility criteria.

Monitoring would be undertaken by HSCC.

4.10 Human rights - Human rights place all public authorities – under an obligation to treat you with fairness, equality, dignity, respect and autonomy. **Please look at the table below to consider if your proposal, project or service may potentially interfere with a human right.**

Articles	
A2	Right to life (e.g. pain relief, suicide prevention)
A3	Prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment (service users unable to consent, dignity of living circumstances)
A4	Prohibition of slavery and forced labour (e.g. safeguarding vulnerable adults)
A5	Right to liberty and security (financial abuse)
A6 &7	Rights to a fair trial; and no punishment without law (e.g. staff tribunals)
A8	Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence (e.g. confidentiality, access to family)
A9	Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (e.g. sacred space, culturally appropriate approaches)
A10	Freedom of expression (whistle-blowing policies)
A11	Freedom of assembly and association (e.g. recognition of trade unions)
A12	Right to marry and found a family (e.g. fertility, pregnancy)
Protocols	
P1.A1	Protection of property (service users property/belongings)
P1.A2	Right to education (e.g. access to learning, accessible information)
P1.A3	Right to free elections (Elected Members)

Part 5 – Conclusions and recommendations for decision makers

5.1 Summarise how this proposal/policy/strategy will show due regard for the three aims of the general duty across all the protected characteristics and ESCC additional groups.

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- Foster good relations between people from different groups

5.2 Impact assessment outcome Based on the analysis of the impact in part four mark below ('X') with a summary of your recommendation.

X	Outcome of impact assessment	Please explain your answer fully.
	<p>A No major change – Your analysis demonstrates that the policy/strategy is robust and the evidence shows no potential for discrimination and that you have taken all appropriate opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations between groups.</p>	<p>If the proposal is agreed, there is a risk that a reduction to the DESSS budget may mean that people in crisis are not able to access this emergency support when they need it most.</p>
	<p>B Adjust the policy/strategy – This involves taking steps to remove barriers or to better advance equality. It can mean introducing measures to mitigate the potential effect.</p>	<p>The evidence suggests that people on low incomes (including those out of work, in receipt of disability related benefits, on low incomes and/ or escaping domestic violence) are likely to be the most affected by a reduction to the budget.</p>
X	<p>C Continue the policy/strategy - This means adopting your proposals, despite any adverse effect or missed opportunities to advance equality, provided you have satisfied yourself that it does not unlawfully discriminate</p>	<p>Mitigation will be undertaken in the review of a reduced scheme and its eligibility criteria, and the continued focus on staff training, equality monitoring and equality of access to the scheme.</p>
	<p>D Stop and remove the policy/strategy – If there are adverse effects that are not justified and cannot be mitigated, you will want to consider stopping the policy/strategy altogether. If a policy/strategy shows unlawful discrimination it <i>must</i> be removed or changed.</p>	


5.3 What equality monitoring, evaluation, review systems have been set up to carry out regular checks on the effects of the proposal, project or service?

Equality Impact Assessment

Staff will receive appropriate training around the DESSS criteria and how to apply it correctly.

5.4 When will the amended proposal, proposal, project or service be reviewed?

May 2019

Date completed:	June 2018	Signed by (person completing)	Alison O'Shea
		Role of person completing	RPPR Lead
Date:	June 2018	Signed by (Manager)	 Samantha Williams, Assistant Director, Planning, Performance and Engagement Adult Social Care and Health

Part 6 – Equality impact assessment action plan



If this will be filled in at a later date when proposals have been decided please tick here and fill in the summary report.

The table below should be completed using the information from the equality impact assessment to produce an action plan for the implementation of the proposals to:

1. Lower the negative impact, and/or
2. Ensure that the negative impact is legal under anti-discriminatory law, and/or
3. Provide an opportunity to promote equality, equal opportunity and improve relations within equality target groups, i.e. increase the positive impact
4. **If no actions fill in separate summary sheet.**

Please ensure that you update your service/business plan within the equality objectives/targets and actions identified below:

Area for improvement	Changes proposed	Lead Manager	Timescale	Resource implications	Where incorporated/flagged? (e.g. business plan/strategic plan/steering group/DMT)

6.1 Accepted Risk

From your analysis please identify any risks not addressed giving reasons and how this has been highlighted within your Directorate:

Area of Risk	Type of Risk? (Legal, Moral, Financial)	Can this be addressed at a later date? (e.g. next financial year/through a business case)	Where flagged? (e.g. business plan/strategic plan/steering group/DMT)	Lead Manager	Date resolved (if applicable)
Groups assessed as meeting eligibility for DESSS (including people on low incomes, in receipt of disability related benefits and singles/ households escaping DV) may not be able to access the emergency support they need if the budget is reduced.	Moral, financial.	It is unlikely. Access to food would have to be via foodbanks and access to furniture or whitegoods is likely to be via charity or low cost suppliers such as DESSS' current partners.	EIA The fact that fewer people would benefit from the scheme and that the most vulnerable people should be helped by the remainder of the scheme has been included in DMT papers and the staff consultation documents.	Steve Hook / Alison O'Shea.	No specific resolution date can be identified. HSCC Ongoing monitoring

Appendix A

As a local authority, and under the Care Act 2014, East Sussex County Council has a commitment to the provision of information and advice relating to care and support for all people in the county. It meets this in a number of ways including:

- **Health and Social Care Connect (HSCC)**, Adult Social Care and Health's contact centre. There are many different ways to contact them, including phone, email, type-talk and webchat via the Council's website. HSCC's specially trained staff offer free, tailored information and advice regardless of whether or not someone qualifies for social care funding or help. This includes providing up-to-date information about local and community health and care services. Anyone can ask for an assessment of their social care needs, and it's free for them to do that. They are also the first point of contact for enquiries about safeguarding and triaging and processing referrals for health professionals.
- **Public information leaflets**; we publish and widely distribute 5 printed leaflets which cover a range of basic information about adult social care and health for people who might need it. These leaflets – and accompanying factsheets, which can be given to clients in tailored situations – offer clear, plain English information about options and guidance about processes and expectations of adult social care. They also include information in them as standard on how to contact HSCC and find out about local health and care services, complain or give feedback, how to report safeguarding concerns or get alternative formats. The leaflets and factsheets are available to download for free, and also in other languages, audio, large print, easy read and braille on request.
- **Online directories**
There a range of online directories to support people to find the most appropriate care and support. These include **East Sussex 1Space** – a free online directory specialising in listing care, support and wellbeing services, which is maintained by Adult Social Care. It is mainly for adults, and is a sister site to ESCIS (see below). It was designed with the help of volunteers including service users, carers, members of the public and service providers to ensure it is easy to use and understand for both visitors looking for services and service providers registering their services. We also provide **Support with Confidence**, an accreditation scheme for providers of health and social care akin to Buy with Confidence, a Trading Standards scheme. These facilities are searchable via the council's website.
- **East Sussex Community Information Service (ESCIS)**; a computer database of local and community information developed and managed by the Library and Information Services of East Sussex County Council in association with Brighton and Hove Library Service. It is a free resource for everyone. It is free to be listed and free to use. ESCIS

Equality Impact Assessment

is a broad directory, encompassing all community information & events in East Sussex.

In addition to the above, we work with a range of partners such as our NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups, healthcare trusts, Citizens Advice Bureau and other voluntary sector partners to provide up-to-date and tailored information in our own factsheets and online, and we contribute to others' publications (such as a local 'Care Choices' brochure) where they are credible and distribution is wide.