

Equality Analysis

Birmingham City Council Analysis Report

EA Name	Other Adults - Carers Grant Non Statutory
Directorate	People
Service Area	Adults - Assessment & Support Planning
Type	New/Proposed Policy
EA Summary	<p>Since 1999 the Directorate has provided grants to carers who support a person aged 18 years or older. Each grant is worth £250 and is paid directly to the carer to be used towards the cost of a holiday, or something else that will help sustain them in their caring role. Carers have been able to re-apply for a grant every 2 years, with allocation usually on a first come, first served basis.</p> <p>The Council's approved budget proposals included reductions to the Carers' Grant and there is a need to commence consultation</p>
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Introduction

The report records the information that has been submitted for this equality analysis in the following format.

Initial Assessment

This section identifies the purpose of the Policy and which types of individual it affects. It also identifies which equality strands are affected by either a positive or negative differential impact.

Relevant Protected Characteristics

For each of the identified relevant protected characteristics there are three sections which will have been completed.

- Impact
- Consultation
- Additional Work

If the assessment has raised any issues to be addressed there will also be an action planning section.

The following pages record the answers to the assessment questions with optional comments included by the assessor to clarify or explain any of the answers given or relevant issues.

1 Activity Type

The activity has been identified as a New/Proposed Policy.

2 Initial Assessment

2.1 Purpose and Link to Strategic Themes

What is the purpose of this Policy and expected outcomes?

A carer is someone of any age who provides unpaid support to family or friends who could not manage without this help. This could be caring for a relative, partner or friend, who is ill, frail, disabled, or has mental health or substance misuse problems.

The purpose of this EA is to support the permission to consult carers and stakeholders on proposals for the carers' grants scheme. The Council's approved budget proposals included reductions to the Carers' Grant of £222,000 in 17/18 and £440,000 in 18/19.

For each strategy, please decide whether it is going to be significantly aided by the Function.

Children: A Safe And Secure City In Which To Learn And Grow	No
Health: Helping People Become More Physically Active And Well	Yes

Comment:

In their report "Valuing Carers 2015", Carers UK estimate that the estimated 113,000 informal carers in Birmingham contribute £2.4bn to the care and health economy. The vast majority of informal carers do not benefit from an adult social care, carers assessment and will be supporting individuals undergoing medical treatment; those who do not meet the adult social care eligibility criteria, self funders, or those who are unaware of the support that may be available.

Housing : To Meet The Needs Of All Current And Future Citizens	No
Jobs And Skills: For An Enterprising, Innovative And Green City	No

2.2 Individuals affected by the policy

Will the policy have an impact on service users/stakeholders?	Yes
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Comment:

A review of the scheme was completed in June 2013 and identified that over 12,000 carers had received a single grant, out of an approximate population of 110,000 carers; with over 8,000 carers having received two or more grants.

Will the policy have an impact on employees?	No
Will the policy have an impact on wider community?	Yes

2.3 Relevance Test

Protected Characteristics	Relevant	Full Assessment Required
Age	Relevant	No
Disability	Relevant	No
Gender	Relevant	No
Gender Reassignment	Not Relevant	No
Marriage Civil Partnership	Not Relevant	No
Pregnancy And Maternity	Not Relevant	No

Race	Relevant	No
Religion or Belief	Relevant	No
Sexual Orientation	Relevant	No

2.4 Analysis on Initial Assessment

We know from the review of the carers grants scheme of June 2013 that over 12,000 carers had received a single grant, out of an approximate population of 110,000 carers; with over 8,000 carers having received two or more grants.

What we do not know is how effective that grant has been in enabling a carer to keep caring and whether those receiving it were having the heaviest caring burden.

The purpose of this consultation is to consider:

- . the potential to introduce a direct link between the assessments carried out by the Carers' Hub and the offer of any grant, so that specific outcomes for the carer could be achieved;
- . introducing bandings instead of a flat £250 grant;
- . the use of pre-loaded cards for carers to spend at locations of their choice; and
- . whether partners wish to contribute to a fund for carers' grants.

Another proposal could be that the carers' grant scheme in Birmingham is discontinued if a method of ensuring value for money cannot be agreed upon.

3 Full Assessment

The assessment questions below are completed for all characteristics identified for full assessment in the initial assessment phase.

3.1 Age - Assessment Questions

3.1.1 Age - Relevance

Age	Relevant
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Comment:

Of those Birmingham residents who reported that they provided informal, unpaid care, as part of the 2011 Census, almost 60% of them were aged 35-64 years.

Almost 60% of those who reported that they provided informal, unpaid care, as part of the 2011 Census, provided 19 hours or less care per week (all ages).

However almost 45% of the people who reported that they provided informal, unpaid care for more than 50 hours per week, as part of the 2011 Census, were aged over 65 years.

3.1 Disability - Assessment Questions

3.1.1 Disability - Relevance

Disability	Relevant
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Comment:

Of those Birmingham residents who reported that they provided informal, unpaid care, as part of the 2011 Census (107,000), over 70% did not have their day-to-day activities limited a lot by a long-term health problem or disability.

Of those who reported that they provided informal, unpaid care, as part of the 2011 Census and who also reported that they had a long-term health problem or disability, 11% had their day-to-day activities limited a lot (11,600) and almost half of this group, provided more than 50 hours of unpaid care per week (5,600).

3.1 Gender - Assessment Questions

3.1.1 Gender - Relevance

Gender	Relevant
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Comment:

Of those Birmingham residents who reported that they provided informal, unpaid care, as part of the 2011 Census, 42% were male.

The majority of those males undertaking informal, unpaid care were aged 25-49 years.

The majority of males undertaking informal, unpaid care were providing less than 20 hours care a week.

A similar distribution of ages and hours of care can be seen for female carers who reported that they provided informal, unpaid care, as part of the 2011 Census.

Almost as many males as females reported providing over 50 hours of care over the age of 65

years in the 2011 Census.

3.1 Race - Assessment Questions

3.1.1 Race - Relevance

Race	Relevant
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Comment:

Of those Birmingham residents who reported that they provided informal, unpaid care, as part of the 2011 Census, the majority were from two ethnic groups, white (65%) and Asian/Asian British (24%).

3.1 Concluding Statement on Full Assessment

Only once we have considered the detailed consultation findings will we have a view of whether some individuals will be adversely affected.

If the scheme is re-focussed, then we might need to consider how improving opportunities to access the grant for some is considered in the light of removing access for others.

At this moment in time, the scheme is suspended which will impact upon individuals who had assumed their ability to access the grant - the scale or impact of this loss is not known.

The Council's approved budget proposals included reductions to the Carers' Grant of £222,000 in 17/18 and £440,000 in 18/19. This would equate to a loss of almost 900, £250 grants in this financial year.

This EA is to be refreshed for the outcome of consultation in September 2017.

4 Review Date

27/08/17

5 Action Plan

There are no relevant issues, so no action plans are currently required.