

Disability Equality Impact Assessment Questionnaire

Policy/Service/Change being assessed: Cease rent support to DAD	Department: Place
Person Responsible for Assessment: Sue Dobson supported by Mary Hall	Date of assessment: 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2012

**Brief description of service and to whom provided/available:**

The Council agreed last year to move all voluntary sector organisations to a commercial rent basis. A number of third sector organisations are based in Council property and the rents they pay had been set historically. Some organisations paid full commercial rent, but DAD had a rent subsidy linked into the shop mobility contract. Whilst phasing out this subsidy over time will provide savings, the key reason for doing so is that it will put in place a fairer system to all of the sector, not just those in our buildings, but across the sector as a whole. **Removing rent subsidy will be at a phased rate of 10% in year 1, further 15% in year 2, a further 25% in year 3 and complete removal in year 4. This will remove £28k rent subsidy from DAD by 2015/2016 commencing with £2,800 in 2012/13, £6,500 in year two £12,000 in year 3 and total removal in year 4. This is phased at the same rate that other voluntary sector rents were phased following agreement of last years cabinet paper.**

Mitigation will be through robust implementation of 'full cost recovery' for contracts in the future which is a Compact principle. It is proposed to remove rent subsidy over a period of four years to allow for full cost recovery to be implemented on a contract-by-contract basis. It will also allow time for the

## **Introduction**

This template should be used with the Disability Equality Scheme 2006-2009. Completing this template without following the rest of the disability equality impact assessment process outlined in the Scheme does not comprise a disability equality impact assessment.

If, after reading the guidance, you require further information on how to implement the assessment, please contact David Plews, Policy Advisor (Social Inclusion) on 01325 388023.

**Q.1 Is your service/policy/change accessible to all disabled people? Bear in mind any economic, social, environmental, physical, intellectual, cultural, linguistic, technological or other barriers.**

Issue	Yes	No	If yes, what evidence do you have to demonstrate this?	If no, what do you plan to do to remove barriers to access?
Physical or mobility impairment	X		<p>DAD supports disabled people in Darlington and has just over 3000 members The impact of withdrawing this service would be that DAD may need to review whether they can stay in their current town centre premises. DAD do rent other premises but these are not in the town centre although they are in accessible buildings. It may be however that some people would need transport to access them</p> <p>As the changes are phased it allows DAD time to review their internal business plan and also allows for full cost recovery to be built into any future contracts.</p> <p>A meeting was held with DAD last year to discuss the possible changes to rent as the shopmobility contract was at that stage under review. A further meeting has been held this year and the potential issues have been explored but further discussions will take place during the year as the changes to rent are implemented.</p>	
Sensory impairment			See above	
Learning disability or mental impairment			See above	

Other disabilities and health conditions covered by the DDA 2005 (eg. diabetes, HIV, multiple sclerosis, depression and cancer)			See above	
Any other disability issue (e.g. frail/vulnerable people, people with mild impairments who do not perceive themselves as disabled, people with multiple impairment)			See above	

**Q.2 (a) For whatever reason, does your service treat any group of disabled people differently from its other service users?**

Yes

x

No

This proposed change to rent subsidy was delayed by a year to allow shopmobility contract to be reviewed.

**If you have answered 'yes', please specify those individuals or groups affected and whether the impact has the potential to be adverse.**

All consultation activity aims to be accessible to all groups.

**(b) What needs to be done to prevent any potentially adverse impact?**

**Continued dialogue to monitor impacts during the coming three years.**

Work on developing services for older people and disabled people needs to ensure that they consult with older people and disabled people and build in principles to ensure consultation takes place through a range of forum and engagement methods.

**Q.3 (a) Do you promote disability equality within your service? (e.g. through departmental equalities group, innovative marketing or community engagement techniques)**

Yes  
No


**If you have answered 'yes', please give examples of how equality is promoted.**

Yes

.Work is ongoing to include DEIA in the impact assessment process to comply with the legal duty of the Council as a public body

**(b) Do you promote positive attitudes towards disabled people? (e.g. through customer care training, cultural issues awareness training, the use of images of disabled people in your publicity material)**

Yes  
No

x

**If you have answered 'yes', please give examples.**

See above

**Q.4 Are there any plans in place within your Service to promote disability equality more effectively?**

Yes


No

**If yes, please outline what you intend to do (including details, if known, of timescales and areas to be covered, etc.)**

Service planning will support the use of equality impact assessments when service planning and as part of any future consultation and service review.

Issues raised through impact assessment include the risk of not being able to access services if DAD re-locate. Work will continue to look at full-cost recovery for activity and ongoing discussion with DAD will take place in year to reduce risk.