

Equality Impact Assessment Form

1. Persons responsible for this assessment:

Name(s): Jon Beckett	Telephone: 01453 766434
Service: Environmental Health	E-Mail: jon.beckett@stroud.gov.uk
	Date of Assessment: 6 December 2010

2. Name of the policy, service, strategy, procedure or function:

Change to Gardening Assistance Scheme due to a reduction in funding. It is proposed to reduce the funding from £43,500 pa to £15,000 pa Final decision to be made at the Council meeting on 10 February 2011

Is this new or an existing one? / **Existing** (please delete as appropriate)

3. Briefly describe its aims and objectives

The scheme has previously operated as a voucher based subsidised gardening scheme to help elderly householders on low incomes with the cost of engaging a contract gardener to maintain their gardens. Proposed changes will maintain the SDC funding for the administration of the scheme by Care and Repair (Stroud) Ltd but the subsidy for the gardening costs will be withdrawn.
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4. Are there external considerations? (Legislation / government directive, etc)

Discretionary service

5. Who is intended to benefit from it and in what way?

Elderly vulnerable householders on low incomes are the main target group

6. What outcomes are expected?

Scheme will enable elderly householders to be put in touch with a vetted contract gardener who can deliver an accredited service to help them maintain their garden.

7. Has any consultation / research been carried out?

Yes

Details of consultation and outcome

Discussion with Executive Board July 2010-December 2011

Consultation with Care and Repair (Stroud) Ltd. July –November 2010

Consultation with Parish Councils December 2010

If NO please outline any planned activities

8. What evidence has been used for this assessment: eg Research, previous consultations, MAIDEN?

Scheme has been running 10 years, with annual report and statistics provided by Care and Repair.

The latest figures for 2010 are set out below and indicate the number of clients assisted and their location in the District

Location of assisted clients.

Town	Number Of Clients
Berkeley	14
Bisley	2
Box	1
Coaley	1
Cranham	4
Dursley (inc Cam)	26
Eastington	8
Epney	1
Frampton On Severn	5
France Lynch	1
Hardwicke	6
Kings Stanley	22
Leonard Stanley	14
Minchinhampton	14
Nailsworth	18
North Nibley	1
Nymphsfield	1
Painswick	7
Sharpness	4
Slimbridge	3
Stonehouse	34
Stroud (all districts)	121
Upton St Leonards	8
Wotton Under Edge	5

9. Could a particular group be affected differently in either a negative or positive way?
 (Negative – it could disadvantage; Positive – it could benefit; Neutral – neither positive nor negative impact Not sure)

	Type of impact, reason and any evidence
Age	Negative - Changes will impact the most on the elderly who are on low income
Disability	As above
Gender	Negative – Anecdotal evidence indicates the largest take up is from elderly females
Race including Gypsy & Traveller	none
Religion or Belief	none
Sexual Orientation	none
Transgender	none
Other groups: eg Rural Isolation, Long term unemployed, Deprivation Health Inequality	none

10. If you have identified a negative impact in question 8, what actions have you undertaken or do you plan to undertake to lessen or negate this impact?
 Please transfer any actions to your Service Action plan on Excelsis.

Action(s):	Lead officer	Resource	Timescale
Parish and Town councils requested to identify funds to help elderly householders in their community who are unable to afford to maintain their gardens	Jon Beckett	Parish and Town Council's	Jan –March 2011
Care and Repair to give advice on maintenance free gardens and identify charitable sources of funding for clients who are unable to afford the cost of a contract gardener themselves, or are unable to access Parish Council funding	Jon Beckett	Care and Repair	April 2011 onwards
SDC to provide funding of £15,000 p.a. to administer the gardening scheme	Jon Beckett	SDC revenue	April 2011

		funding	

Declaration

I/We are satisfied that an Impact Assessment has been carried out on this policy, service, strategy, procedure or function * (delete those which do not apply) and where a negative impact has been identified, actions have been developed to lessen or negate this impact.

We understand that the Equality Impact Assessment is required by the District Council and that we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this assessment

Completed by: Head of Environmental Health Date:6 December 2010

Role: Head of Environmental health

Countersigned by Head of Service / Strategic Head

Date:

Date for Review: 31 July 2011

Please forward an electronic copy to the Policy Team by emailing

equalities@stroud.gov.uk

The original signed hard copy and electronic copy should be kept with your team for audit purposes.

The impact assessment will be published on the Intranet and SDC website.