

Name of proposal/policy	Minimum Income Guarantee in the Fair Contributions Policy	Budget number (if applicable)	N/A
Service area responsible	Adult Social Care	Cabinet meeting date	N/A
Name of completing officer	Emma Gadsby	Date EqIA created	21 st March 2017
Approved by Director / Assistant Director	Dr Carolyn Kus	Date of approval	27 th March 2017

The Equality Act 2010 places a 'General Duty' on all public bodies to have 'Due regard' to:

- Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advancing equality of opportunity
- Fostering good relations

We do this by undertaking equality impact assessments (EqIAs) to help us understand the implications of policies and decisions on people with protected characteristics – EqIAs are our way of evidencing this.

All assessments must be published on the NCC equalities web pages. All Cabinet papers where an EqIA is relevant **MUST** include a link to the web page where this assessment will be published. If you require assistance in getting your EqIA published, please contact equalities@northamptonshire.gov.uk

PART 1

Description of current provision/policy and main beneficiaries/stakeholders

Under the Care Act, adults who have been assessed as having eligible care and support needs have their financial circumstances assessed to determine how much, if anything, they should pay towards the cost of their care. Charges must not reduce someone's income below a certain amount, which is set by the Department of Health. This is known as the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG). The MIG is reflected in the Council's Fair Contributions Policy, which is how we apply the national charging regulations locally. The policy is applied to all adult social care customers.

Description of proposal under consideration/development

The latest Local Authority Circular from the Department of Health – LAC(DH)(2017)1 dated January 2017 – sets out the Minimum Income Guarantee for adult social care customers receiving care at home. This remains the same as current 2016/17 levels and does not reflect the benefit increases from the Department for Work & Pensions.

NCC will be using the Minimum Income Guarantee model set by the Department of Health for the protected income levels. This means that the figures used by NCC are the same as were used last year. They do not match the DoH figures due to a High Court hearing but assurances can be given that the figures used by NCC are not below the MIG set by the DoH.

Data used in this Equality Impact Assessment (general population data where appropriate but each EqlA should contain information on people who use the service under consideration – if this is not applicable to your proposal then you probably do not need to do an EqlA)

Data Source (include link where published)

Data from the Financial Assessments Team shows the number of customers receiving each protected income allowance

Please summarise what the data tells us – for example “X number of people use this service, X are male, Y are female etc”

Age Group	Benefit Types	Number of Customers
18 - 24	Income Support	123
18 - 24	Income Support + EDP	9
18 - 24	Employment and Support Allowance	13
18 - 24	Employment and Support Allowance + EDP	261
25 - 59	Income Support	770

	25 - 59	Income Support + EDP	114
	25 - 59	Employment and Support Allowance	308
	25 - 59	Employment and Support Allowance + EDP	797
	60 +	Pension Credit	2531

Tick the relevant box for each line	Based on the above information, what impact will this proposal have on the following groups?			
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
Sex			✓	
Gender Reassignment			✓	
Age			✓	
Disability			✓	
Race & Ethnicity			✓	
Sexual Orientation			✓	
Religion or Belief (or No Belief)			✓	
Pregnancy & Maternity			✓	
Human Rights (Please see articles in toolkit)			✓	
Other Groups (rural isolation, socio-economic exclusion etc)			✓	

Initial impact	
Explain your findings above	Actions identified to mitigate, advance equality or fill gaps in information
Applying the Minimum Income Guarantee in line with the Department of Health Local Authority Circular will mean that all adult social care customers have the same protected income during 2017/18 as they do currently and so the impact has been assessed as neutral.	Customers who experience financial difficulties in making the contributions they have been assessed as being able to pay are advised to contact the Council. We can reassess a customer's financial circumstances and discuss the situation to see how it can be resolved.

Do you need to undertake further work (e.g. consultation, further equality analysis) based on the impact and actions identified above? If yes, set this out below and then carry out the work and complete Part 2

As this change to the policy is in line with the Department of Health charging guidelines, no consultation with customers is required. Customers will be contacted when their financial circumstances are reviewed by the Financial Assessment Team and have the opportunity to discuss any changes at that point.