



## Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance

### INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

<b>Title of proposal:</b> Refresh of the Gateshead Home Adaptations Policy 2020	Age	Race	Sex	Gender reassignment	Disability	Religion or Belief	Pregnancy and Maternity	Sexual Orientation	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Description of potential mitigation
<p><b>Equality impact:</b> (✓ all that apply. The assessment should also consider impact on council employees and carers where applicable)</p> <p>Description of impact:</p>	✓				✓					<p>This policy will have a positive impact for any disabled person, regardless of any wider protected characteristics. It covers all residents and age groups.</p> <p>The adaptations that it delivers also have a positive impact on carers and other family members, as it facilitates those people with disabilities to be supported in their own home, be they a child or a vulnerable older person.</p> <p>This policy updates and brings the Gateshead Adaptations Policy in-line with National guidance around the delivery of the Disabled Facilities grant (DFG).</p> <p>The existing policy was drafted 8 years ago and there have been legislative and guidance changes since that time.</p> <p>The policy aims to ensure Gateshead residents are able to access appropriate</p>



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										<p>adaptations. There are some eligibility criteria relating to the disabled facilities grant which are nationally defined.</p> <p>New policy items which will improve the delivery of adaptations for Gateshead include -</p> <p>Increased thresholds for major adaptations which reflect increased materials and delivery costs.</p> <p>A proposal to make refurbished stairlifts available to any person who is deemed as in need of this adaptation by an Occupational Therapist. This will improve the timeliness of delivery for all residents and reduce falls risks.</p> <p>A proposal to help with re-Housing to more suitable accommodation if the cost of adaptations to a property is above £30k.</p>
<p><b>Health impact: (eg physical, mental health, wellbeing, substance misuse)</b></p> <p>Poor quality housing can have an adverse effect on the health and well-being of occupants. This policy explains how adaptations support is provided in Gateshead. Disabled Facilities Grants are offered to applicants who meet the eligibility criteria. This policy also defines the approach to minor works delivered by Gateshead Council.</p>										<p>For any disabled person the provision of timely adaptations to their home will improve their quality of life and wellbeing. There is a strong health and wellbeing evidence base which supports home</p>



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	adaptations.
<p><b>Socio Economic impact: (eg neighbourhood, ward, area of deprivation, household group, income, wealth)</b></p> <p>Home Adaptations are not targeted geographically in Gateshead, they are a universal offer. Any disabled person is eligible for support. As poor health can be concentrated in disadvantaged areas, it may be the case that more disadvantaged households will benefit from this offer.</p> <p>The DFG targets residents in owner occupied and private rented properties and is means tested. So those residents with a reduced income will receive a greater level of support.</p> <p>Residents of Gateshead Housing Company properties requiring adaptations are funded through the Housing Revenue account. All tenures receive an equal offer of adaptations support.</p> <p>Persons who are in receipt of long term benefits (as defined in the national guidance and policy) can be passported and are not subjected to means testing for the DFG.</p>	
<p><b>Environmental impact: (does the proposal impact on climate change and the Council's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030?)</b></p> <p>All adaptations work is carried out to current standards and guidance covering building regulations, health and safety etc. These policies govern the adaptations work and require that waste materials etc are managed as required by current legislation.</p>	



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<p><b>Cumulative impact: (consider impact based on successive budgetary decisions relating to the proposal or is the proposal part of wider budgetary considerations that may collectively have an impact on service users, and is potentially at odds with the Thrive agenda)</b></p> <p>This policy review is not linked to any budgetary decisions. The funding for the DFG is allocated to Gateshead Council from national government and is ringfenced for that purpose. The policy has been informed by national DFG policy guidance.</p>	<p>This policy compliments the Thrive agenda offering support to disabled persons across the borough. There are positive impacts delivered by adaptations for disabled persons, their families and carers.</p> <p>This policy and the delivery of timely adaptations support in Gateshead underpins the Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Policy objectives of preventing ill health associated with poor housing, reducing falls risks, improved wellbeing, enabling people to remain in their communities.</p>
<p><b>Summary of consultation/data/research undertaken to inform the assessment: (eg feedback and engagement with service users, trade unions, employees, partners, public, benchmarking, case studies)</b></p> <p>The refresh of the Gateshead Adaptations Policy has been informed by the review of Gateshead Councils adaptations services that was led by Public Health in 2019.</p> <p>The policy has been widely consulted on among officers and members who are working in the housing and adaptations field and also reviewed by the Better Care Fund lead, Service Directors and legal.</p> <p>A part of the review included benchmarking of our services and processes against other local authority areas and we have also had consultant support from Foundations. Foundations is appointed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities &amp; Local Government to oversee a national network of nearly 200 home improvement agencies (HIAs) and handyperson providers across England.</p> <p>As a part of the service review public health researched how current adaptations are delivered and their impact on individuals. A number of older</p>	



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people, who had access services were randomly recruited to take part in research into falls in Gateshead. Those persons were interviewed, and permission gained to map their health and social care histories to help us to understand how they had been supported as they moved across the adaptations system. Learning from those case studies is informing service redesign.

The refreshed Adaptations policy underpins the improvement work that is happening to speed up delivery of adaptations and reduce waiting times for vulnerable people in Gateshead.

**Signed: (completing officer) Natalie Goodman**

**Date: 11.2.2020**

**Service Director: (approved) Gerald Tompkins**

**Date: 11.2.2020**