

Equality Impact Assessments Screening Proforma

Section One: About the Policy / Function

Service Group: Development & Neighbourhood Services	Service: Regeneration & Economic Development	Section:	Lead officer for EIA: Roland Todd
Support officers: Jane Prior		Date EIA completed: 23 September 2008	
General information			
(1) Name of Policy / Function:	Communities Fund Allocation		
(2) Is this new or existing?	<p>This is a new area of work. The Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) was created by Government to simplify and refocus local level funding to tackle worklessness and low levels of skills and enterprise within some of the most disadvantaged communities. This new fund, part of the non ringfenced Area Based Grant (ABG) replaces Communities and Local Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and concentrates the focus of neighbourhood renewal on these core areas of regeneration.</p> <p>In Stockton, Cabinet has agreed to refer to the Working Neighbourhoods Fund as the Communities Fund.</p>		
(3) What is the overall aim(s) of the policy / function?	<p>The aim of the Communities Fund is three-fold, firstly to tackle the levels of worklessness in the Borough. Secondly, to improve the skill levels of local people and thirdly to increase the levels of enterprise in Stockton.</p>		

<p>(4) What are the objectives of the policy / function?</p>	<p>The Communities Fund will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage innovation through a flexible approach to commissioning; Devolve responsibility by enabling and empowerment; Reduce the number of people reliant on benefits; Increase the number of people in sustainable employment; Increase Financial inclusion; Improve multi agency partnership approach; Provide quality tailored pre employment and in work support. <p>The Communities Fund links directly to the Economic Regeneration & Transport Partnership of Renaissance. The Partnership aims to bring more people into employment, strengthen our knowledge base, promote a more entrepreneurial culture and strengthen key industrial clusters.</p> <p>The key ambition at the heart of this vision is ‘a strong local economy with better jobs and improved employability’.</p> <p>However, it will be expected that the Communities Fund will touch a number of other areas of the Sustainable Community Strategy as it is recognised that a co-ordinated multi-agency approach is required to achieve the long term objectives of moving more people in to work, improving the skill levels of local people and increasing the level of entrepreneurial activity across the Borough.</p>
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<p>(5) Who are the main customer groups of this policy / function?</p>	<p>The Communities Fund will support any individual who wishes to aspire to fulfil their potential, in particular, those individuals who are regarded as being from one or more disadvantaged groups from the disadvantaged areas. These groups are identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people aged 12-24; • People with low skill levels below NVQ Level 2, including key skills such as literacy, numeracy and ICT; • Homeless people; • People from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities (including refugees); • Lone parents (in particular teenage parents); • Drug and alcohol abusers; • People with long term health conditions; • People with learning and physical disabilities, mental health conditions and people needing sensory support; • Offenders and Ex-offenders; • Families and individuals suffering financial exclusion; • People leaving care, especially young people; • Carers; • Unemployed people not claiming benefits but still in disadvantage; • Family groups suffering generational unemployment; • Older People aged over 50. 																	
<p>(6) What are the potential and actual numbers of customers in each group?</p>	<p>A number of people may have multiple barriers and are therefore included in more than one of the above groups. As the fund is intended to reduce the numbers of people in receipt of key Government benefits the following table illustrates the actual number of working age people in receipt of those benefits in both Stockton and the worst performing neighbourhoods.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="779 1082 2007 1485"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="779 1082 972 1485"> Working-age client group – key benefit claimants (Nov. 07) Source: DWP Information Directorate Nov 2007 </th> <th data-bbox="972 1082 1133 1485"> Stockton on Tees (numbers on benefits) </th> <th data-bbox="1133 1082 1294 1485"> Stockton on Tees As % of total claimants </th> <th data-bbox="1294 1082 1559 1485"> Worst performing Neighbourhoods (numbers) </th> <th data-bbox="1559 1082 1823 1485"> Worst Performing Neighbourhoods As % of total claimants </th> <th data-bbox="1823 1082 2007 1485"> Worst performing as % of same client group </th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Working-age client group – key benefit claimants (Nov. 07) Source: DWP Information Directorate Nov 2007	Stockton on Tees (numbers on benefits)	Stockton on Tees As % of total claimants	Worst performing Neighbourhoods (numbers)	Worst Performing Neighbourhoods As % of total claimants	Worst performing as % of same client group						
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	Total claimants	19,580	100	7,970	40.7	40.7
	Job seekers	3,380	17.3	1,555	7.9	46.0
	Incapacity benefits	9,760	49.8	3,840	19.6	39.3
	Lone parents	2,710	13.8	1,450	7.4	53.5
	Carers	1,600	8.2	525	2.6	32.8
	Others (income related benefits)	560	2.9	245	1.2	43.8
	Disabled	1,190	6.0	320	1.6	26.9
	Older People (50 and over)	6,785	34.6	2,265	11.6	33.4
	Young People (16 – 24)	3,070	15.7	1,450	7.4	47.2
(7) Who implements this policy / function within Stockton-on-Tees and how?	The Communities Fund is being developed and implemented by officers from the Regeneration and Economic Development Service. Consultation has taken place with the Stockton Employability Consortium to develop the criteria for the Fund. The delivery of the service will be procured through statutory procurement regulations.					
(8) Are any partner agencies involved in the delivery of this policy / function? If so, whom?	A number of key stakeholders have been involved from the outset and include Jobcentre Plus, Learning Skills Council, North East Employer Coalition, PCT, CESC (STEPS & Drugs Action Team), Housing, Tristar Homes, Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder and representatives from the Voluntary and Community Sector and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Economic Development.. The actual delivery of the service will be with up to five lead providers, which may be from the public, private or voluntary and community sectors.					
(9) Are other services affected by this policy / function?	The Communities Fund is intended to provide a holistic approach tailored to meet an individuals needs. Consequently, it is likely to affect all of the Service Groups at some point.					
(10) If yes, please state which policies or functions are affected and whether this is a positive or negative impact?	The Communities Fund should add value to other service provision and therefore will have a positive impact in terms of equality of opportunity.					

(11) Would it be better to combine assessment of this policy /function with others closely related into one impact assessment?	No, not appropriate at this time.

Section One: Data Review and Analysis

Data Source	When and how collected	Significant findings Age	Significant findings Disability	Significant findings Faith	Significant findings Gender	Significant findings Race	Significant findings Sexual Orientation
Nationally Collected Data eg: Census Performance Indicators		<p>Census</p> <p>The Borough has a diverse social and economic make-up, with areas of disadvantage situated adjacent to areas of affluence. Eleven wards are in the top 10% most deprived in the country with four wards in the top 20% most affluent.</p> <p>The 2001 Census shows Stockton's population is predominantly of white origin (97%) and Christian (81.6%). There are two distinct areas of black and minority ethnic community occupancy, namely Victoria in Thornaby and Parkfield in Stockton.</p> <p>Government estimates put the gay, lesbian and bisexual population at between 5% and 7% of the population in England and Wales (DTI, Final Regulatory Impact Assessment: Civil Partnership, 2004). In a report by the National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders (NACRO, Without Prejudice, April, 2002) estimates vary from 5% of the population in rural areas, to 25% in parts of London and Brighton.</p>					
Locally Collected data eg: Viewpoint panel, Mori Survey		<p>Using these estimates, it can be assumed that there are between 9,000 and 13,000 people in Stockton who are gay, lesbian or bisexual.</p> <p>There are 25.8 million females and 24.9 million males in England; 50.9% of the population are female and 49.1% are male. There are 187,100 people in Stockton on Tees in 2006, of those 92,800 are male and 94,300 are female¹. 50.4% of the population are female and 49.6% are male.</p>					

¹ Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit, mid 2006 estimate.

JSA claimants by age and duration (August 2008)

	Stockton on Tees (numbers)	Stockton on Tees (%)	North East (%)	Great Britain (%)
By age of claimant				
Aged 18-24	1,410	35.3	34.1	31.6
Aged 25-49	2,025	50.7	50.9	52.8
Aged 50 and over	535	13.3	14.4	14.9
By duration of claim				
Up to 6 months	2,950	73.8	72.5	73.6
Over 6 up to 12 months	670	16.8	16.4	15.6
Over 12 months	375	9.4	11.1	10.8

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Service area data eg: comments and complaints, user surveys or evaluation forms		<p>DWP A new deal for welfare: Empowering people to work DWP Ready to Work, Skilled for Work: Unlocking Britain's Talent; Reducing dependency, increasing opportunity: options for the future of Welfare to Work DWP/DCLG Working Neighbourhoods Fund DIUS/DWP publication Opportunity, Employment and Progression: making skills work DIUS Command Paper – Work Skills Leitch Review of Skills Regional Economic Strategy Regional Employability Framework CLES Rapid Research – The Working Neighbourhoods Fund, neighbourhood renewal & the third sector Stockton Council Select Scrutiny Review of Employability Skills Audit Research 'Shaping Stockton's Future' Cabinet Report 24th April 2008 - The role of Stockton Renaissance post Neighbourhood Renewal Funding and governance arrangements for Working Neighbourhoods Fund</p>					
Other data							

Stage 2 Scoring the Policy

Now that you have all the information available you can move onto scoring the policy for impact:

	Does it reduce discrimination?	Does it or is it likely to promote equality of opportunity?	Does it promote good relations between groups?	Does it encourage participation in public life and access to council services?	Does it promote positive attitudes and images to different groups?	Total Score for strand
Age	3	3	3	3	3	15
Disability	3	3	3	3	3	15
Faith/Belief	2 ND	3	3	3	3	14
Gender	2	3	3	3	3	14
Race	3	3	3	3	3	15
Sexual Orientation	2 ND	3	3	3	3	14
Total Score						87

Scoring System:

- Score 3 if the policy has a positive effect
- Score 2 if the policy has a neutral effect.
- Score 1 if the policy has a negative effect
- If a score has been awarded due to lack of data rather than anticipated effect please indicate by using **ND**

Name of Policy / Function: Communities Fund

Service and Service Group: DNS

Responsible Officer: Roland Todd

Form completed by: Roland Todd

Date: 23/09/08

Stage 1 Collecting information and data to support the assessment

Date completed:23/09/08.....

Stage 2 Scoring the Policy

Impact Assessment Score 87

Action Taken

No action required

Policy to be amended (action plan attached):

Substantiate aims of the policy as originally proposed:

The policy / function has not been amended because:

The Communities Fund is a new function and at the time of this assessment does not need amending. However, the following actions will ensure that the programme provides each and every resident with the equal opportunity to access support.

Stage 3 Publication and Monitoring

Date of Publication

Date Set for Review.....

Action Plan:

This action plan highlights how the policy will be amended to address the issues highlighted in the Equalities Impact Assessment. Longer term issues will be developed into actions within the relevant Service Improvement Plan.

Objective - To ensure the Communities Fund is being delivered so all residents have equal opportunities to benefit from its aims and objectives.		
Key Actions	Who is responsible?	When will it be done?
Implement recommendations of the Select Scrutiny Review of Employability.	A variety of Council officers from R & ED, Human Resources, CESC, Democratic services.	Ongoing to be completed 2008/09.
Ensure Communities Fund is procured in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and Stockton Council's own contract procedure rules to ensure open and fair competition.	Labour Market Coordinator & Employability Coordinator	By February 2009.
Undertake periodic self assessment health-checks with lead providers to ensure that they continue to adhere to the PQQ assessments in conjunction with the Council's Procurement Manager.	Labour Market Coordinator, Employability Coordinator & Procurement Manager	Ongoing over the lifetime of the 3yr programme.

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