

Equality Impact Assessment Form

[screentip-sectionA](#)

1. Document Control

Control Details:

Title:	COVID Winter Grant Scheme
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Department:	COVID Response & Recovery
Service Area:	Nottingham Catering
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Strategic Budget EIA: Y/N (Does this EIA have an impact on the budget)	No
Exempt from publication: Y/N (All EIA's are published on Nottingham Insight for public viewing unless specified. Exemption criteria is available on the EIA section on the Intranet)	No

2. Document Amendment Record:

Version	Author	Date	Approved
1.0	Lee Kimberley	02/12/2020	

3. Contributors/Reviewers (Anyone who has contributed to this document will need to be named):

Name	Position	Date
Nasreen Miah	Equality & Employability Consultant	02.12.2020

4. Glossary of Terms

Term	Description
FSM	Free School Meals
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
ESRC	Economic and Social Research Council
FE	Further Education

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5. Summary

(Please provide a brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed)

On 8th November 2020, the government announced a package of extra targeted financial support for those in need over the winter period. The £170 million COVID Winter Grant Scheme, available from December 2020, will see new funding issued to County Councils and Unitary Authorities to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy and water bills and other associated costs. Nottingham City Council's allocation is £1,414,274.00

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will provide funding to County Councils and Unitary Authorities, under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, who will administer the scheme and provide direct assistance to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic. This will include some families who normally have access to Free School Meals during term time. County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England will have the ability to deliver the scheme through vouchers or grants. The Scheme will operate from early December 2020 and covers the period until the end of March 2021.

The Local Authority is able to determine eligibility in their area and target their support within the scope of the conditions set out below:

- at least 80% of the total funding will be ring-fenced to support families with children, with up to 20% of the total funding to other types of households, including individuals.
- at least 80% of the total funding will be ring-fenced to provide support with food, energy and water bills (including sewerage), with up to 20% on other items.

In Nottingham it is proposed that:

1. Approximately £945,260 (66% of the available grant) would be spent on the provision of food to those families where children are in receipt of free school meals or free meals in Further Education settings due to the low income of the household across the Christmas and February half-term breaks.

For the October half term the Council funded 4,700 vouchers as a one-off , through an application process for FSM pupils at a cost of £70,970 which was funded through the DEFRA Emergency Assistance Grant. This was administered through the customer contact centre due to the half term break.

The Christmas and February scheme would be delivered locally to parents by schools providing digital vouchers for local supermarkets, supported through Nottingham Catering in line with the voucher schemes operated since the first lockdown of March 2020.

Schools have been contacted to:

- verify all FSM eligible pupils,
- Identify the key administrative contact to manage the issue of vouchers
- Identify any discretionary vouchers for non-eligible pupils of families who are in need of additional support.

2. Approximately £282,854 (20% of the available grant) would be targeted at other types of households, such as (but not limited to) vulnerable adults with an allocated lead professional such as a Social Worker, Family Service or Children's Centre Service key worker or a professional in an allied service such as domestic violence charities. This would be targeted at households struggling with the provision of food, paying winter energy costs and water bills during the period up until March and based on an assessment of need by the relevant professional.

3. Approximately £135,000 (9.5% of the grant) would be focused on individual households not meeting the above eligibility but who have contacts the council in urgent need. This could include (but not limited to) care leavers, families with children those at risk of homelessness and those with no recourse to public funds. This would be in the form of

financial assistance through a £50 or £100 voucher for food in a similar manner to the FSM vouchers, but administrated through the Customer Hub.

[screentip-sectionC](#)

6. Information used to analyse the effects on equality:

(Please include information about how you have consulted/ have data from the impacted groups)

Under the Equality Act 2010, all public authorities must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty. For the purposes of this grant, the council will consider how any support that helps people facing severe financial hardship impacts those with characteristics protected under the Equality Act.

The DWP has conducted its own Equality impact in respect of this grant itself.

It is therefore anticipated that this decision will provide positive benefits to the people of Nottingham and not adversely affect any specific group. Information that has been used as reference in compiling this EIA is below:

A study by ukri.org is currently underway:

<https://www.ukri.org/our-work/tackling-the-impact-of-covid-19/researching-the-impact-of-coronavirus/covid-19s-impact-on-our-lives/>

ESRC Centre for Society & Mental Health, King's College London has also provided an evidence briefing, the key findings of which are:

- Mental health problems are more common in vulnerable and disadvantaged groups following individual or community-wide periods of social isolation in the context of public health crises.
- The disproportionate impact among vulnerable and disadvantaged groups extends to other interrelated outcomes, such as income, employment, access to food, and discrimination.

- These disparities are especially pronounced at the intersections of multiple vulnerabilities and disadvantages (e.g. low income, insecure employment, and minority ethnic group status).
- Social restrictions that confine people to their homes for extended periods increase risk of abuse and exploitation, particularly among girls and women.
- Further inequalities are evident in people’s capacity to comply with social distancing measures, with this being most difficult for those on low incomes, in insecure employment, and living in overcrowded homes.

<https://esrc.ukri.org/news-events-and-publications/evidence-briefings/impacts-of-social-isolation-among-disadvantaged-and-vulnerable-groups-during-public-health-crises/>

Publications on Gov.uk including:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/930624/Easy_Read_Sholding_Guidance_October_2020.pdf

7. Impacts and Actions:

screentip-sectionD	Could particularly benefit X	May adversely impact X
People from different ethnic groups.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Men	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled people or carers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pregnancy/ Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People of different faiths/ beliefs and those with none.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lesbian, gay or bisexual people.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Younger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (e.g. marriage/ civil partnership, looked after children, cohesion/ good relations, vulnerable children/ adults).		
Those most affected by the impacts of COVID-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please underline the group(s) /issue more adversely affected or which benefits.</i>		

<p style="text-align: right;"><u>screeintip-sectionE</u></p> <p>How different groups could be affected (Summary of impacts)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>screeintip-sectionF</u></p> <p>Details of actions to mitigate, remove or justify negative impact or increase positive impact (or why action isn't possible)</p>
<p>Provide details for impacts / benefits on people in different protected groups.</p> <p>FSM Qualifying pupils, those in early years or FE settings who qualify will be provided with a voucher to support them during the school holiday period in December and February.</p>	<p>This process is based on the means tested Free School Meals grant administered through the school admissions team, or via</p>

<p>In providing this additional funding to the groups identified by the grant conditions, the council is seeking to meet the criteria of the grant itself by providing positive financial support to those most adversely impacted by the current COVID-19 pandemic or those who are facing hardship over this winter period.</p> <p>The council has been using its Golden Number or through referrals via community organisations and the NDO's (Neighbourhood Development Officers) during and after shielding to identify those that were struggling and need assistance.</p> <p>In line with the guidance, the council will develop a Local Eligibility Framework to ensure that financial assistance is provided in a fair and consistent manner to those most in need and who are covered within the criteria of the grant.</p> <p>The council will use partner organisations to support residents facing fuel poverty through the Warm Homes Hub and Nottingham Energy Partnership who will provide advice and support including financial vouchers to those in most need, through their teams of specialist support officers.</p>	<p>the relevant professional services for early years or FE provision.</p> <p>This seeking assistance from the council will be supported and where applicable be provided with access to food vouchers or other financial support as funded by this scheme.</p> <p>The Local eligibility Framework will be published on the council website as soon as it is available.</p>
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8. Arrangements for future monitoring of equality impact of this proposal / policy / service:

- Formal monitoring will be in place for all grant awards issued and this will be used to assess the performance of each organisation against its original aims and objectives in meeting the grant criteria.
- DWP will undertake monitoring will be in proportion to the grant amount received. Authorities will be asked to participate in monitoring and may also be approached to participate in additional evaluative research through a named contact.

9. Outcome(s) of equality impact assessment:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No major change needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adjust the policy/proposal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adverse impact but continue	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stop and remove the policy/proposal

10. Approved by (manager signature) and Date sent to equality team for publishing:

<p>Approving Manager: The assessment must be approved by the manager responsible for the service/proposal. Include a contact tel & email to allow citizen/stakeholder feedback on proposals.</p>	<p>Date sent for advice: 2/12/2020 Send document or Link to: equalities@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</p>
<p>Approving Manager Signature: Lee Kimberley – Head of Nottingham Catering & MCS food Lead eatculture@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</p>	<p>Date of final approval: 2/12/2020</p>

Tel: 0115 8765432

Before you send your EIA to the Equality and Employability Team for advice, have you:

1. Read the guidance and good practice EIA's
<http://intranet.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/1924/simple-guide-to-eia.doc>
2. Clearly summarised your proposal/ policy/ service to be assessed.
3. Hyperlinked to the appropriate documents.
4. Written in clear user-friendly language, free from all jargon (spelling out acronyms).
5. Included appropriate data.
6. Consulted the relevant groups or citizens or stated clearly, when this is going to happen.
7. Clearly cross-referenced your impacts with SMART actions.

PLEASE NOTE: FINAL VERSION MUST BE SENT TO EQUALITIES OTHERWISE RECORDS WILL REMAIN INCOMPLETE.