

# Equality Impact Assessment Form

## screenip-sectionA

### Document Control

#### 1. Control Details

Title:	<b>Revised Sheltered (Subsidised) Alarm Funding</b>
Author (assigned to Pentana):	Dave Miles
Director:	Christine Oliver (Interim)
Department:	Strategy and Resources
Service Area:	Strategic Commissioning
Contact details:	<a href="mailto:Dave.miles@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">Dave.miles@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> 0115 8764789
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#### 2. Document Amendment Record

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#### 3. Contributors/Reviewers

Name	Position	Date
Clare Gilbert	Adults Commissioning Lead	25/9/18
Clare Gilbert	Adults Commissioning Lead	16/10/18

## Glossary of Terms

Term	Description
Sheltered alarm	Personal safety alarm linked to a monitoring centre for residents living in sheltered / independent living schemes. The alarm can also act as a door entry system depending on the scheme.
Dispersed alarm	Personal safety alarm which is plugged into the residents phone landline.
Hardwired alarm	Personal safety alarm which is wired into the building.

## screeptip-sectionB

### Assessment

#### 1. Brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed

Nottingham City Council has commissioned the current Sheltered (Subsidised) Alarm service through Nottingham City Homes and 7 other providers since 2012. This service is provided by the housing provider, although some providers sub-contract their alarm monitoring to Nottingham on Call. The alarm service enables the citizen to summons help in an emergency. In many schemes the alarm also performs a property function, predominantly acting as a door entry system where to get to the tenants front door access via the scheme front door has to be navigated. There are numerous types of sheltered / independent living schemes and this will shape the way the alarm service operates. Many schemes have a dispersed alarm which is plugged into the phone line and this also enables the linking of additional sensors and detectors. Some schemes have a hardwired alarm system which cannot be removed. Some scheme do not require a door entry alert. This variety of scheme types means it is not straight forwards in having a unified approach, for example using Housing Benefit to cover eligible charges as eligible charges will vary. There is not a standard alarm charge levied by the housing providers. The current weekly subsidy paid to housing providers ranges from £1.18 to £2.29 – an average of £1.74 per week per user. It will need to be established what the standard alarm charge of the housing provider is and for this to be communicated to their tenants.

A commissioning review of sheltered (subsidised) alarm provision is being carried out. Various options are under consideration as a means of revising the funding for sheltered alarm provision. The proposals under consideration are as follows:-

- 1) Stop alarm subsidy. This would mean that the housing provider would need to consider whether they would put the cost of alarm provision as an additional charge (on the rent).
- 2) Retain an alarm subsidy but introduce an eligibility criteria to receive the subsidy. The proposed criteria being “in receipt of a social care service funded by Nottingham City Council, following an assessment of need”. For those citizens who are in receipt of a social care service their alarm service would continue to be subsidised. For citizens who are not in receipt of a social care service the housing provider would need to consider whether to put the cost of alarm provision as an additional charge (on the rent).  
*NB. Long term social care includes services such as home care and attendance at a day centre, and does not mean informal care provided by relatives, or being in receipt of social security benefits.*
- 3) Retain an alarm subsidy but only pay this for citizens in receipt of Housing Benefit and only the portion of the alarm charge which is eligible for Housing Benefit. For residents not on Housing Benefit, and the non-eligible charge for those on Housing Benefit, the housing provider would need to consider whether to put the cost of alarm provision as an additional charge (on the rent).

*A decision was made in July 2018 to exempt Nottingham City Homes independent alarm provision from the commissioning review. This review is therefore confined to the 7 other housing providers with a contract for providing a subsidised sheltered alarm.*

Depending on which proposal is decided upon this will mean the housing provider will not be paid a subsidy for all or some of the citizens living in their sheltered schemes. The housing provider will then need to make a decision, depending on the option chosen, whether to pass on an alarm cost to citizens. Most citizens who reside in sheltered or independent living schemes do not have the option of declining the alarm service as it is a condition of their tenancy in the schemes.

A review of the dispersed (subsidised) alarm service provided through Nottingham on Call was undertaken between October 2017 and March 2018. Following a citizen consultation a new eligibility criteria to have their alarm charge subsidised was introduced – being “in receipt of a long term social care service following an assessment of need”. This saw the number of citizens receiving a subsidised alarm decrease from 2500 to 750.

The commissioning review of sheltered (subsidised) alarm provision aims to:

- Focus the Sheltered (Subsidised) Alarm service on those most in need;
- Establish parity of alarm provision between dispersed and sheltered provision;
- Minimise the cost to citizens where they are not able to receive an alarm subsidy;
- Reduce the overall budget for the provision of subsidised alarms in order to contribute towards social care budget pressures.

There are currently 800 citizens who are supported by the Sheltered (Subsidised) Alarm service across the 7 non-NCH providers. (An additional 1900 of citizens are supported through Nottingham City Homes). Approximately 15% of these citizens were estimated to be in receipt of a long term social care service and approximately 75% of these citizens were estimated to be in receipt of Housing Benefit.

## [screentip-sectionC](#)

### **2. Information used to analyse the effects on equality:**

A full citizen consultation process has been undertaken with the 817 current residents to seek their views on the proposals for revising the funding of alarm provision and the impact it may have on them. A 9.5 week consultation period was undertaken between August and October 2018 with the results being analysed in October 2018. A decision will be made in November 2018 by the Commissioning and Procurement Sub-Committee to take effect from April 2019 with citizens being notified of the decision and the impact on them.

344 responses to the citizen consultation were received – a 42% response rate. The responses have been logged and analysed, with a comparison noted for citizens who reported they have used their alarm in an emergency in the past 12 months. An addition a comparison has been noted from the responses provided by citizens who responded in the dispersed alarm consultation. The demographic responses are as follows:-

Age

	Sheltered – all responses	Sheltered – used in emergency	Dispersed alarm responses
Aged under 65	16%	7%	24%
Aged 65 – 74	21%	17%	20%
Aged 75+	63%	76%	56%
Prefer not to say	0%	0%	1%

#### Ethnicity

	Sheltered – all responses	Sheltered – used in emergency	Dispersed alarm responses
White British	87%	89%	86%
Asian (Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani or Chinese)	1%	1%	3%
Black (African, Caribbean or other black)	2%	2%	5%
Mixed ethnicity	0%	1%	1%
Other ethnicity	6%	4%	4%
Prefer not to say	2%	2%	1%

#### Gender

	Sheltered – all responses	Sheltered – used in emergency	Dispersed alarm responses
Male	38%	30%	32%
Female	61%	70%	68%
Prefer not to say	1%	0%	0%

#### Lesbian, gay or bisexual people

	Sheltered – all responses	Sheltered – used in emergency	Dispersed alarm responses
Lesbian	0%	0%	1%
Gay Man	1%	1%	1%
Bisexual	1%	0%	1%
Heterosexual	89%	88%	91%
Prefer not to say	9%	10%	6%

#### Trans

	Sheltered – all responses	Sheltered – used in emergency	Dispersed alarm responses
Gender as assigned at birth	97%	98%	99%
Gender not as assigned at birth	1%	0%	1%
Prefer not to say	2%	2%	1%

### Disability

	Sheltered – all responses	Sheltered – used in emergency	Dispersed alarm responses
Identify as disabled	42%	58%	86%
Do not identify as disabled	46%	30%	10%
Prefer not to say	12%	12%	4%

### Religion

	Sheltered – all responses	Sheltered – used in emergency	Dispersed alarm responses
Christian	75%	75%	80%
Agnostic	3%	1%	1%
Atheist	2%	0%	2%
Buddhist	1%	0%	0%
Hindu	0%	0%	1%
Muslim	0%	1%	1%
Pagan	0%	0%	1%
None	11%	12%	7%
Sikh	0%	0%	1%
Prefer not to say	7%	9%	7%

## 3. Impacts and Actions:

<a href="#">screentip-sectionD</a>	Could particularly benefit X	May adversely impact X
People from different ethnic groups.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Men	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<p><b>How different groups could be affected</b> (Summary of impacts)</p> <p><a href="#"><u>screentip-sectionE</u></a></p>	<p><b>Details of actions to reduce negative or increase positive impact</b> (or why action isn't possible)</p> <p><a href="#"><u>screentip-sectionF</u></a></p>
<p>Provide details for impacts / benefits on people in different protected groups.</p> <p>Note: the level of detail should be proportionate to the potential impact of the proposal / policy / service. Continue on separate sheet if needed (click and type to delete this note)</p> <p>Residents of sheltered / independent living schemes are largely elderly citizens. The evidence collected in the citizen</p>	<p><b>1 Actions will need to be uploaded on Pentana.</b></p> <p>Continue on separate sheet if needed (click and type to delete this note)</p> <p>The ceasing of funding for housing providers to subsidise alarm provision within their sheltered schemes will mean those housing providers will to consider whether to pass on a charge</p>

consultation showed that 60% of residents are women and that 40% of them described themselves as disabled. Considering those residents who have used their alarm in an emergency a higher proportion are aged over 65, are women and describe themselves as disabled. The current funding arrangements for specified housing providers enables them to provide a subsidised (free) alarm service to their residents. The recommendation of the report going to the Commissioning and Procurement Sub-Committee is that the funding for the 7 housing providers is discontinued. The key question then is whether housing providers would pass on an alarm charge to their residents and if so how much. The response from housing providers indicates that some of them would pass on a charge however it is indicated this will not be greater than the level of current subsidy which is an average of £1.74 per week. Despite the potential that housing providers will pass on an alarm charge to their residents it is considered this will not cause significant financial hardship to residents, therefore will not greatly affect those identified groups.

to their residents and if so how much. To mitigate the loss of funding the Council will:-

- ➔ Liaise with housing providers to ensure they properly consult with their residents on the potential to impose an alarm charge and the level; and
- ➔ Encourage housing providers to utilise the Housing Benefit system for residents in receipt of Housing Benefit to ensure a portion of any alarm charge is reduced to minimise the cost to those in potential hardship; and
- ➔ Continue to liaise with housing providers post April 2019 to establish the impact of any charges which were introduced.

#### 4. 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

#### 5. Arrangements for future monitoring of equality impact of this proposal / policy / service:

Liaise with housing providers post April 2019 to establish the impact of any charges which were introduced.

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

<p><b>Approving Manager:</b> Clare Gilbert, Adults Commissioning Lead  <u><a href="mailto:clare.gilbert@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">clare.gilbert@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a></u> 0115 876 4811</p> <p>The assessment must be approved by the manager responsible for the service/proposal. Include a contact tel &amp; email to allow citizen/stakeholder feedback on proposals.</p>	<p><b>Date sent for scrutiny:</b> 16/10/18  Send document or Link to:  <a href="mailto:equalityanddiversityteam@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">equalityanddiversityteam@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>SRO Approval:</b> 16/10/18</p>	<p><b>Date of final approval:</b></p>