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| Equalities Impact Assessments Screening Tool Guidance | | | | |
| 1 | Summary: Community Alarms and Emergency Response Service review 2016/17 | | | |
| 2 | Lead Officer contact details: Paulette Blake | | | |
| 3 | Date: 28/01/2016 | | | |
|  | Response to Screening Questions | Yes | No | Please explain your answer. If answering Yes but after consideration a full EqIA is not necessary please provide a detailed explanation for NOT undertaking a full EqIA |
| 4 | Could the proposed policy/project/function/staff restructuring/major development/ planning application or the way it is carried out have an adverse impact on any of the key equalities protected characteristics age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation? Or relationships between any equalities groups? | ✓ |  | It is proposed that a 1% fee increase is applied to Community Alarm Service (CAS) charges in 2016-17, in line with Council policy to increase all fees and charges by 1% in 2016-17.  The proposed 1% increase in charges for the Community Alarm Service will only impact on service users who are currently making a contribution to this service. Service users who are in receipt of Housing Benefit are exempt from any service charges and other service users are subject to a financial assessment of their ability to pay for this service.  There are currently 589 service users contributing towards their Community Alarm Service, of which 315 are paying monitoring-only charges at £3.61 per week, which will increase to £3.65 weekly after the 1% increment is applied.  274 service users are paying the monitoring and response charge of £6.14 weekly and this will increase to £6.20 per week after the 1% increment is applied.  It is likely that older people will be affected by this proposal since the Community Alarm Service is generally provided to older people. The increase in fees will affect those on a low income although the service already considers people’s ability to afford this service through exempting certain categories of service users (described above) and financially assessing clients.  **Conclusion**  The level of charge increase is a relatively small amount, ranging from 4p per week to 6p per week. As fees will only be increased for those service users who have agreed or have been assessed as being able to afford the full cost of the Community Alarm Service, the increase in fees is being applied equitably based on individuals’ financial situations. |
| 5 | Is there any indication or evidence (including from consultation with relevant groups) that different groups have or will have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to the particular policy/project/function/major development/planning application? Or do you need more information? |  | ✓ | See above. |
| 6 | If there is or will be an adverse impact, could it be reduced by taking particular measures? |  | ✓ | Since the financial assessment for Community Alarm Services is applied equitably to all service users based on their financial situation, it is not possible to introduce measures to mitigate the impact on those individuals affected by the fee increase. |
| 7 | By taking particular measures could a positive impact results? |  | ✓ | See above. |
| 8 | As a result of this screening is a full EqIA necessary? |  | ✓ | No. |