

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## SCREENING DOCUMENT

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Social Care, Housing &amp; Health</b>	<b>Division</b>	Policy & Support	<b>Person Responsible for Assessment</b>	Hazel Coen Davinder Gill
<b>Name of the Policy/Strategy</b>	Direct Payments	<b>Date of Assessment</b>	25.4.08	<b>Is this a New or Existing Policy?</b>	Existing
<b>1</b>	What are the aims and objectives of the Policy / Strategy?	To provide service users and carers with greater choice, control and flexibility on how they receive support which they have been assessed as needing.			
<b>2</b>	What outcomes are wanted from the Policy / Strategy?	Greater empowerment of service users and carers regarding the delivery of their assessed support needs.			
<b>3</b>	Who is intended to benefit from the Policy / Strategy, and how?	As above.			
<b>4</b>	Who are the main stakeholders in the Policy / Strategy?	Service users, carers, local voluntary organisations, Halton Borough Council.			
<b>5</b>	Who implements the Policy / Strategy and has responsibility for it?	Hazel Coen - Divisional Manager (Finance & Support) Audrey Fearn - Principal Manager (Client Finance)			

<b>6</b>	Are there any associated Policies / Strategies or objectives?	Direct Payments for Equipment; Care Management; Vulnerable Adults Procedures; Adult Carer Assessments		
<b>7</b>	Could the Policy / Strategy have a differential impact (positive or negative) :			
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
<b>a</b>	On Racial Groups	<b>X</b>		Positive impact. Direct Payments are available for all service users of all ages including parents of disabled children and carers, irrespective of their race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion. The exception being those people whose ability to arrange their support is restricted by certain mental health conditions as outlined in the DOH Community Care (Direct Payments) Act 1996.
<b>b</b>	Due to Gender	<b>X</b>		As above.
<b>c</b>	Due to Disability	<b>X</b>		As above.
<b>d</b>	Due to Sexual Orientation	<b>X</b>		As above.
<b>e</b>	Due to Age	<b>X</b>		As above.
<b>f</b>	Due to Religion	<b>X</b>		As above.
<b>g</b>	Carers	<b>X</b>		

<b>8</b>	Available statistical/qualitative information relevant to the Policy / Strategy and equality issues	Detailed on the Direct Payments database. Ethnicity data is also recorded and monitored annually
<b>9</b>	Could the Policy / Strategy affect relations between different groups in the Borough?	Fair Access to Care determines care package. User selects Direct Payment option, therefore no impact.
<b>10</b>	Could the Policy / Strategy damage relations between groups in the Borough and the Authority?	As above.

## DECISION

<b>Does the Policy / Strategy:</b>	<b>Eliminate unlawful discrimination</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>No</b>	
	<b>Promote equality of opportunity</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>No</b>	
	<b>Promote good relations between different groups in the community</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>No</b>	
<b>Impact Assessment: High</b>					
<b>Agreed By</b>		<b>SMT</b>	<b>Date</b>		<b>14.5.2008</b>
<b>Actions to Be Taken:</b>					
			<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
<b>1</b>	Collect more evidence			X	
<b>2</b>	Conduct formal consultations		X		
<b>3</b>	Reconsider Policy / Strategy			X	
<b>4</b>	Resubmit Policy / Strategy		X		
<b>5</b>	Adopt Policy / Strategy		X		
<b>6</b>	Make monitoring arrangements		X		
<b>7</b>	Publish assessment results		X		

### Additional Comments:

Policy revised April 2008 to incorporate new rates and eligibility criteria.