Diversity
impact assessment

TITLE
Name / description of the issue being assessed
Mobility Scooter Policy

DATE
Date the DIA is completed
2nd October 2017

LEAD OFFICER
Name, title and dept of person responsible for carrying out the DIA.
Katherine Bishop – Business Development Officer.

1 Summary description of the proposed change
- What is the change to policy / service / new project that is being proposed?
- How does it compare with the current situation?

The Council understands the benefits that mobility scooters can provide and wishes to support our tenants and residents to retain their independence as far as possible. However, the health and safety of all of our tenants residents, staff and visitors must be our first priority.

The policy seeks to reduce the risk of injury to tenants, Medway Council staff and Medway Council premises, as it has been identified that the storage of scooters in communal walkways and stairwells is a health and safety risk and potential fire hazard in terms of both blocking or reducing the means of escape in the event of a fire, or the scooters themselves being the cause of a fire.

Medway Council will not provide any external or communal mobility scooter storage facilities for residents in general needs or leased properties. There is provision at 7 of the 8 Home for Independent Living Schemes.

The health and safety of our tenants is paramount; as such Housing Services will implement a systemic and robust approach to items stored in the communal areas in response to criticism and recommendations from an independent fire risk assessment.

In order to protect tenants and reduce the risk of fire, we will intend to implement a robust approach towards managing any items that present a fire risk in communal areas, and enforce the items removal within 48 hours following a warning notice being applied. ‘Non-negotiable’ items include mobility scooters.

2 Summary of evidence used to support this assessment
- Eg: Feedback from consultation, performance information, service user records etc.
- Eg; Comparison of service user profile with Medway Community Profile

Due to there being no suitable areas for storage and charging in our general needs or leased properties, any applications to keep mobility scooters, which fall under the legal definition of class 2 or 3 will not be accepted in communal areas.

It is recognised that this may cause disappointment to tenants who wish to keep Mobility Scooters in general needs properties, although the Council has worked with residents to identify a suitable area of storage for scooters in a number of our Homes for Independent Living Schemes, this is both a safe area and accessible to residents at the following schemes; Esmonde House, Brennan House, St Marks House,
Suffolk Court, Woodchurch House, Marlborough House and Longford Court. However, a tenant could be at a disadvantage as there is no space available or provision for mobility scooter storage at the Homes for Independent Living Scheme.

We have the following disability profiling information on our Homes for Independent Living tenants as at 03.08.2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability Type</th>
<th>Count of people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mobility Issues</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unseen Impairment</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Difficulty</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any further applications to keep or replace existing mobility scooters, which fall under the legal definition of class 2 or 3 will not be accepted for storage in communal areas.

3 What is the likely impact of the proposed change?
Is it likely to:
- Adversely impact on one or more of the protected characteristic groups?
- Advance equality of opportunity for one or more of the protected characteristic groups?
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don’t?

(Insert ✔ in one or more boxes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protected characteristic groups</th>
<th>Adverse impact</th>
<th>Advance equality</th>
<th>Foster good relations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender reassignment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage/civil partnership</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy/maternity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion/belief</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual orientation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (e.g. low income groups)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 Summary of the likely impacts
- Who will be affected?
- How will they be affected?

As scooter storage is only provided in sheltered schemes, there is an age restriction for the use of these facilities. This policy would potentially benefit older people more.
Diversity impact assessment

than young people

There is no provision for scooter storage at any of our general needs or leased properties or at Mountevans House. This policy may produce some adverse impact on tenants that are not eligible/do not wish to reside in a sheltered scheme, but do own or wish to purchase a mobility scooter.

Tenants may consider it unfair that the council provides scooter storage at the schemes, but not at general needs properties. There will be greater cost to tenants of general needs or leased properties who may wish to build Mobility Scooter Storage, adversely impacting low income groups.

5 What actions can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impacts, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations?
- Are there alternative providers?
- What alternative ways can the Council provide the service?
- Can demand for services be managed differently?

General Need and Lease tenants may apply for permission from Medway Council Landlord Services in writing to build their own storage facilities for mobility scooters.

Officers should look into options for providing scooter storage at the one remaining scheme (Mountevans) that does not have an external scooter storage facility.

6 Action plan
- Actions to mitigate adverse impact, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations and/or obtain new evidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Deadline or review date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monitor Complaints to identify any negative trends with regards to the Mobility Scooter Policy.</td>
<td>Housing Manager</td>
<td>November 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate options for providing scooter storage at Mountevans house.</td>
<td>Health and safety officer/ HfIL team leader</td>
<td>March 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 Recommendation
The recommendation by the lead officer should be stated below. This may be:
- to proceed with the change, implementing the Action Plan if appropriate
- consider alternatives
- gather further evidence

If the recommendation is to proceed with the change and there are no actions that can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impact, it is important to state why.

The Council should enforce this policy in order to meet legal requirements and ensure the health and safety of all residents. The risk of not implementing the policy would be more detrimental than the adverse impacts of it being implemented. The Council has legal obligations to ensure the safety of its tenants, which can only be undertaken through enforcement of this policy.

It is recommended to continue to implement the Scooter Mobility Policy.
8 Authorisation
The authorising officer is consenting that:
- the recommendation can be implemented
- sufficient evidence has been obtained and appropriate mitigation is planned
- the Action Plan will be incorporated into the relevant Service Plan and monitored

Authorising Officer
Marc Blowers
Head of Housing Management
Date 02/04/18

Contact your Performance and Intelligence hub for advice on completing this assessment
RCC: phone 2443 email: annamarielawrence@medway.gov.uk
C&A: Children's Social Care) contact your normal P&I contact
C&A (all other areas): phone 4013 email: chrismckenzie@medway.gov.uk
BSD: phone 2472/1490 email: corppl@medway.gov.uk
PH: phone 2536 email: david.whitting@medway.gov.uk

Send completed assessment to the Corporate Performance & Intelligence Hub (CPI) for web publication (corppl@medway.gov.uk)