

# Short Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Template for COVID-19 Recovery Plans - 2020

<b>Title of EIA<sup>1</sup></b>	DEFRA Food grant	<b>ID No.<sup>2</sup></b>	DFG01
<b>Recovery Cell<sup>3</sup></b>	Food		
<b>Focus of EIA<sup>4</sup></b>	To ensure that the opportunities presented by the DEFRA food and essential supplies grant are effective in mitigating residents' barriers to accessing food or food related support based on their protected characteristics.		

<b>Identified or potential issues/barriers/inequalities (consider all protected characteristics)</b>	<b>Possible mitigating actions (list all possible actions)</b>
<p>1. <b>Age</b>  Vulnerable older people may lack access to support networks (could be exacerbated in the event of local lockdowns or having to shield). Also, may not be aware of help available.</p> <p>Nutritional needs may not be met</p> <p>Ability to shop and access to shops may be limited</p> <p>Food price inflation – may only be able to access more expensive local shops depending on travel limitations.</p> <p>Less choice in what food is available if there are supply issues either at supermarkets or local shops.</p> <p>Social isolation could increase and impact mental health, which in turn could impact nutrition and food needs.</p> <p>Some older people may choose to self-isolate, even if advice is that they are able to go out.</p> <p>Younger people – 18-24 year old group has seen a sharp increase in Universal Credit claims, with knock-on impact on economic health of that group – possible impact on food poverty. Also, increase of parental evictions exacerbated by the pressure of the pandemic.</p>	<p>1. <b>Age</b></p> <p>Ageing Well will continue to be funded to March 2021 from DEFRA grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support for people who can afford food but can't get out</li> <li>- Supports with social isolation</li> <li>- Supports people to access shopping digitally</li> </ul> <p>BHFP funding to continue – which will enable mobilisation of emergency food if further lockdowns</p>

**2. Disability –**

Specific dietary needs and medical / essential needs e.g. prescription collection, toiletries. Essential needs may not be met in terms of bulk buying and providing food in the case of a further emergency response

Support network may be compromised if further local lockdown. Additional pressure on carers in terms of time and finances.

Access to shops may be limited, increased cost of relying on local shops rather than supermarkets

Mental health – those with existing mental health conditions face additional barriers in being able to request help and may be isolated. More people now affected by poor mental health as a result of the pandemic.

Some disabled people may choose to self-isolate, even if advice is that they are able to go out.

**3. Gender reassignment**

Access to medical support, essential supplies, support networks and community support may be compromised.

**4. Marriage and civil partnership**

No specific impacts

**5. Pregnancy / maternity**

Access to baby food and formula may be limited, along with

**2. Disability**

Ageing Well also cover 18+ so can support needs in this category

Referral routes are in place to ensure that income and benefits are maximised (either to organisations in the CVS such as Possability People, or to Welfare Rights team) and this supports the DEFRA grant's aim of assisting people towards independence

Local Discretionary Social Fund is a route in for people to request help and can be signposted appropriately.

BHFP can provide focused support to food projects supporting specific equality groups, and can do further work to see what impacts there may be specifically for this protected characteristic

**3. Gender reassignment**

Routes in for assistance and signposting are the same as for age and disability, in particular requests for help from the LDSF are always triaged for onward referral and appropriate help.

As above, BHFP can provide focussed support to food projects supporting specific groups and may be able to discover what further needs there are for trans people.

**4. Marriage and Civil Partnership**

No actions required

**5. Pregnancy and Maternity**

essential items such as nappies, sanitary items and pregnancy tests.

Economic impact is typically more severe for women and single parents in terms of requests for emergency help from the Local Discretionary Social Fund and other welfare assistance.

Large families are also impacted by limited access to food and supplies, and are at higher risk of food poverty, because the benefit system does not necessarily support larger families in proportion to their needs.

Support networks and community support may be compromised

Children with disabilities are adversely impacted

#### **6. Race**

BAMER community faces additional barriers in terms of

- Access to services
- Access to support networks and community support
- Language barriers
- Specialist food needs not always catered for in a bulk emergency response
- More adversely affected by COVID-19 itself
- More likely to be experiencing poverty / economic impact

#### **7. Religion and/or belief**

During lockdown, limited or no access to places of worship and support networks

Dietary needs may not easily be met in a bulk emergency response, e.g. halal / kosher food

#### **8. Sex**

Women tend to be more adversely affected in terms of welfare support and benefits. Also, the pandemic has

Funding has been allocated to Children's Services so that they can continue to support families with mental and physical wellbeing, alongside supporting with specific essential items such as baby formula, nappies etc

Referral routes are established, but could be strengthened in order to make sure that families have access to advice about maximising their income, or coping with debt, childcare and social isolation.

School meals vouchers provide additional support

#### **6. Race**

Extra funding being given to the BMECP

BHFP also work in conjunction with BMECP and will be developing their response

#### **7. Religion and/or belief**

Partially addressed by 6, above. Also, BHFP is aware of links to the community where faith groups and places of worship are impacted, or where they are focal points for assistance.

#### **8. Sex**

Referral routes for support already exist, including links to Housing services, Adult Social Care and Children's services.

created conditions where there has been an increase of domestic abuse. This can lead to women being street homeless unable to access food and essential supplies, including sanitary products.

### 9. Sexual Orientation

No specific food needs, but access to support networks and community support may be limited.

Support provided through LDSF for emergency food and supplies. Links exist for onward referral for welfare support and appropriate assistance from the voluntary sector. Additional welfare support can be provided sometimes in the form of Discretionary Housing Payments.

### 9. Sexual orientation

No specific needs, but in the event of further lockdowns, we need to make sure that referral routes and signposting is clear for community support

Overall notes:

The Food core group continues to meet and will be a co-ordinating point for monitoring impact on protected characteristics, also ensuring:

- Their EIA is monitored regularly
- There is an escalation route for issues experienced by those with protected characteristics around COVID related emergency food needs
- Data monitoring to be improved and expanded
- All partners and groups undertaking food projects to review data on residents accessing support and assess demographic and geographical input.

Recipients of funds from the DEFRA food grant will also be required to keep data for monitoring purposes that we can use in ongoing EIA's.

There is a comms presence in the Food group and the Welfare Support and Financial Assistance workstream, to ensure that messages about support reach those in most need – both on geographical basis and linked to characteristics above. CVS partners are linked in with both groups and with the Vulnerability cell.

### Prioritised actions<sup>5</sup>

1. Food grant funding to be distributed, alongside appropriate grant agreement and monitoring protocols

**Assessment of impacts and any further recommendations or engagement needed<sup>6</sup>**

Ensure that this EIA is linked strategically with EIA's from the vulnerability cell, Welfare Support and Financial Assistance cell and the Food Core group.

## Guidance end-notes

---

<sup>1</sup> **Title of EIA:** This should either be the title of the workstream or the area of recovery being assessed.

<sup>2</sup> **ID no:** The unique reference for this EIA: Anna / Sarah will add this.

<sup>3</sup> **Recovery Group:** Title of the group.

<sup>4</sup> **Focus of EIA:** Use the aims of the Recovery Group from your terms of reference and any specific work focus areas.

This section should explain what you are assessing:

- What or who is affected by these areas of work
- What the anticipated timeframe is for this work
- What outcomes you want to achieve

<sup>5</sup> **Prioritised actions:** The Equality Duty is an ongoing duty and the recovery process will not necessarily be linear: actions must be kept under review, continuing to give 'due regard' to the duty. Regular reviews of the EIA at Recovery Group meetings are recommended.

<sup>6</sup> **Assessment of impacts and further engagement or recommendations needed**

- Make a frank and realistic assessment of the overall extent to which the negative impacts can be reduced or avoided by the mitigating measures. Explain what positive impacts will result from the actions and how you can make the most of these.
- Constraints or limitations: what will or may limit the group's ability to implement these actions?
- Are there any further recommendations (for other recovery groups, council teams or other partners)? Is further engagement needed? Is more research or monitoring needed?