

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment

Reference: ECIA457882168

Submitted: 11 October 2022 12:39 PM

### Executive summary

**Title of policy / decision:** Amendments to Community Challenge Fund (CCF) allocated funds to support the Cost of Living Strategic (COLS) Group

**Policy / decision type:** Cabinet Member Action (CMA)

**Overview of policy / decision:** The approval of amendments to the allocations of the Everyone's Essex Funds to support community led action, across Essex, specifically focusing on action to address the current cost of living pressures.

**What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?:** The proposed amendments will directly contribute to delivering the Cost of Living Strategy as established by the Cost of Living Strategic (COLS) Group. Supporting community led activity across the County this winter.

**Executive Director responsible for policy / decision:** Gavin Jones (Chief Executive)

**Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision:** Louise McKinlay (Deputy Leader and Community, Equality, Partnerships)

**Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?:** Change to an existing policy / decision

**How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?:** The allocation of funding (£250,000) to the Winter Warmth and Welcome Programme falls into three specific areas. Each area will be monitored by the Cost of Living Strategic (COLS) Group with emphasis on understanding the impact of funding allocated in communities through the Winter Warmth and Welcome Grant Scheme, funding allocated directly by the COLS Group in response to immediate and emerging priorities, and funding assigned to internal (ECC) activities and services to support efforts to extend existing theservice offer.

**Will this policy / decision impact on:**

**Service users:** Yes

**Employees:** Yes

**Wider community or groups of people:** Yes

**What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?:** Health, Independence and Wellbeing for All Ages, A good place for Children and Families to Grow

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Health:** Healthy lifestyles, Carers, Levelling up health

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Families:** Education outcomes, Family resilience and stability, Outcomes for vulnerable children, Levelling up outcomes for families

**What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?:** All Essex

## **Digital accessibility**

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: No

## **Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics**

### **Age**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Disability - learning disability**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

### **Disability - mental health issues**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Disability - physical impairment**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Disability - sensory impairment**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

### **Sex**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Gender reassignment**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Marriage / civil partnership**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Pregnancy / maternity**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

### **Race**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Religion / belief**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Sexual orientation**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** The level of inflation on items that drive household bills is currently running at the highest level for decades. This is creating a challenge for all of us. The government is intervening to offset the worst impacts for citizens and businesses but even with this support, many households across Essex will still struggle and for a small number of households the impacts of these cost rises will force them to make difficult choices about economising on necessities.

The cost of living challenge will be experienced by every household in Essex, but some households will be more affected than others because they have a lower level of discretionary income that they can use to offset the increased costs of essentials like food, heating, and transport.

Evidence gathered by ECC suggests there are three broad groups who will be finding things particularly difficult. These are working families on low incomes; single parents – especially women; and single women aged over 65. These groups are shown to have the lowest incomes relative to household costs

The ECC approach to tackling the cost of living challenge is based on three pillars: Response, Resilience and Root Causes.

To enable this approach and respond to the short-term challenges, ECC has adopted a six-point plan to support residents:

- Support with the provision of essentials
- Keeping warm
- Eating well
- Money management
- Information, advice and guidance
- Wellbeing

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:** The negative impacts of this decision relate to the delivery of community based Winter Warmth and Welcome programme as well as the extension of existing ECC services to incorporate Winter Warmth and Welcome programmes.

Those who are most vulnerable to the impact of increasing financial pressures will intersect with other vulnerable groups in the community including, vulnerable children and adults including those with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND), individuals experiencing mental health conditions, and those individuals with Dementia, alcohol or drug dependency.

Such groups are potentially vulnerable to the inappropriate attentions or behaviours of others when included in a programme that is universally focused on a single space or activity.

As such the allocation of funds will be subject to specific conversations and evidence of appropriate planning, logistics and policy relating to the safeguarding of service users.

## **Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts**

**Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

### **Children on Free School Meals**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Working families**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

### **Harlow**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Jaywick and Clacton**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Harwich**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Basildon (Town) housing estates**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Canvey Island**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Rural North of the Braintree District**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

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This is a universal programme without specific focus on Levelling Up priority areas. As such there is a risk that funding is disproportionately allocated to areas of the County where the level of need is lower than is the case in areas of Tendring, Harlow, Rural Braintree, Colchester, Canvey Island and Basildon.

As such the allocation of funds will be scrutinised by the Cost of Living Strategic (COLS) Group to ensure that the distribution of funding overlays the level of need experienced at a community level, based on a range of indicators and aligned to the Levelling Up agenda.

## **Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups**

**Refugees / asylum seekers**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

### **Homeless / rough sleepers**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Offenders / ex-offenders**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Carers**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Looked after children**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

### **Veterans**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

### **People who are unemployed / economically inactive**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **People on low income**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Working families**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

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## **Equalities - Geographical Groups**

### **People living in areas of high deprivation**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **People living in rural or isolated areas**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **People living in coastal areas**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **People living in urban or over-populated areas**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

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## **Families**

**Family formation (e.g. to become or live as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

**Families going through key transitions e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Families before, during and after couple separation**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown**

**Nature of impact:** None

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## Climate

**Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to the built environment / energy?:** No

**Does your decision / policy involve designing service provision and procurement to minimise freight and staff travel and enable use of active and public transport options?:** No

**Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to waste?:** No

## Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

**Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?:** No

## Details of person completing the form

**I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance:** I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

**Date ECIA completed:** 11/10/2022

**Name of person completing the ECIA:** Benjamin Mann

**Email address of person completing the ECIA:** Benjamin.Mann@essex.gov.uk

**Your function:** Chief Executives Office

**Your service area:** Chief Executives Office

**Your team:** Equalities and Partnerships

**Are you submitting this ECIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?:** No

**Email address of Head of Service:** Shammi.jalota@essex.gov.uk