



This tool will identify the equalities relevance of a proposal, and establish whether a full Equality Impact Assessment will be required. Please read the guidance prior to completing this relevance check.

What is the proposal?	
Name of proposal	Prompt funding from the Home Office will be sought, to be made available for families with No Recourse to Public Funds, thereby reducing costs to the Council.
Please outline the proposal.	<p>82 families are currently being supported through the No Recourse to Public Funds team (NRPF). The budget available to the team is £1.172m. Support to families is given in cash or forms of practical support.</p> <p>The NRPF team support families financially until the funding comes through from the Home Office or they are able to secure support from the benefit agency where a family achieves a change in status.</p> <p>Typically it takes 10-12 weeks for benefits to be triggered by the Benefits Agency.</p> <p>The funding available to families who achieve a change in status from the Home Office is not always promptly delivered to them. In these circumstances, the NRPF team maintains support to the families in cash and practical support. The NRPF do not recover any funding that is paid to the families in this interim period or indeed at any time.</p> <p>We propose that by improving our knowledge and activity we can provide a more effective challenge to the Home Office / Benefit Agency on behalf of the families, payments as of right will be delivered promptly to families, reducing the amount of funding that the Council is required to pay to them.</p> <p>The current budget of £1m, available for families with no recourse to public funds, will be reduced by £50k as the team become successful in</p>

	<p>achieving release of funds or benefits to families. The impact on families will be neutral as the Council maintains support to families ensuring that necessary cash or in-kind support continues until they receive funding from the Home Office as is their right.</p> <p>We intend to broker the secondment of a Border Agency Officer to support the NRPF team to more effectively challenge the Home Office. The aim will be to challenge the Home Office to promptly fund families where their designation has changed but Home Office funding has not followed as is the family's right. Such support may include assistance on developing standard letters with specific language; or guidance on approaches to challenge.</p> <p>The Border Agency officer will have no contact with the families concerned.</p> <p>The saving will be obtained by supporting families to gain their benefit rights, rather than the funding being paid by the Council. The Council will continue to fund families until the Home Office funding comes in. Vulnerable families who are typically supported will not be disadvantaged by the activities.</p>
What savings will this proposal achieve?	£50,000
Name of Lead Officer	Jacqui Jensen

<p>Could your proposal impact citizens with protected characteristics? (This includes service users and the wider community)</p>
<p>Please outline where there may be significant opportunities or positive impacts, and for whom.</p>
<p>The NRPF currently supports 82 people with this status. Because of the nature of their identified need, the main protected characteristic that affects them is race. In the current cohort there are people of the following origin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 European 35 African 4 East Asia (China, Vietnam) 31 Caribbean (Cuba, Jamaica)

2 Middle East (Iran, Iraq)

3 South Asia (Pakistan)

Therefore the significant majority are of Black and Minority Ethnic origin.

People who are entitled to receive support due to their immigration status resulting in NRPF will continue to have support from the team and from local voluntary organisations. The NRPF team will get specialist advice from Home Office staff that will enhance service provision and further reduce demand on Council resources.

Please outline where there may be significant negative impacts, and for whom.

There may be some families with protected characteristics, where leave to remain has not been granted, all appeals against Home Office decisions have been exhausted and although their intention is not to return to their country of origin they may eventually have to leave the UK to be lawful and to ensure their family's well-being. This is a legislative fact and has no bearing on the work outlined in this savings proposal. These families will continue to be assisted to gain support through charitable means and there will be continued support and advice to facilitate a return to their country of origin. Based on recent demand there will be no reduction in access to support from the service.

Could your proposal impact staff with protected characteristics?

(i.e. reduction in posts, changes to working hours or locations, changes in pay)

Please outline where there may be significant opportunities or positive impacts, and for whom.

There is no impact on any staff. The current staff group will be maintained with no change.

Please outline where there may be negative impacts, and for whom.

Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?

Does the proposal have the potential to impact on people with protected characteristics in the following ways:

- access to or participation in a service,
- levels of representation in our workforce, or
- reducing quality of life (i.e. health, education, standard of living) ?

Please indicate yes or no. If the answer is yes then a full impact assessment must be carried out. If the answer is no, please provide a justification.

No. The comments given provide sufficient evidence to make an impact assessment unnecessary.

Service Director sign-off and date:



10th January 2018

Equalities Officer sign-off and date:

Cherene Whitfield 10 January 2018.

