



Section 75 Screening Form

Part 1. Policy scoping

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy under consideration. The purpose of policy scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy, being screened. At this stage, scoping the policy will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy maker work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

Public authorities should remember that the Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the authority), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the authority).

Information about the policy

Supporting People Policy Framework

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

Existing

What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)

Department for Communities (DSD as was) was responsible for publishing and maintaining the *Supporting People Guidance 2012*. Following the DfC review of the SP programme published in 2015, DfC is undertaking a review and consultations process to replace the 2012 Supporting People (SP) guidance, which set out the specifics of housing support services. The aim of the revised Supporting People Policy Framework document when published is to improve understanding, consolidate, sharpen, recommunicate and ultimately replace the 2012 guidance.

The legislative base for the SP programme includes the Housing Support Services Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003. *The Supporting People Guidance 2012* supplemented

these Regulations, by providing detail on the services for which the Housing Executive (NIHE) may make payments out of the Supporting People Grant (SPG) as prescribed in the Schedule to the Regulations.

The DfC review contained, thirteen recommendations to improve the programme. Recommendation 6 stated, "The current policy framework for SP should be consolidated, sharpened and re-communicated, focusing on improving understanding of key terms such as housing support services and independent living".

As set out in Recommendation 6, this policy review is not about a change of policy direction or legislation, they have not changed. The definitions that are included, for example independent living and housing support services, are not set out in legislation or the regulations and that is why the review recommended that they be included in the new document to provide clarity and supplement the regulations. The policy direction and the Housing Support legislation that underpins the current policy framework document remain unchanged.

In order to realise Recommendation 6, DfC will subject the 2012 guidance to a comprehensive inter-departmental review and public consultation process. This will give key stakeholders of the SP programme the opportunity to participate and provide input based on their knowledge and experience to produce an improved revised SP Policy Framework document.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?

N/A

If Yes, explain how.

This is not a change of policy direction or legislative change but is instead a refresh of the Policy Framework document to include relevant definitions, recommunicate with greater clarity the housing support services available through SP and lead to improved understanding of the distinction between services.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Department for Social Development (now DfC)

Who owns and who implements the policy?

Department for Communities owns the policy; delivery partners for implementation are Housing Executive (NIHE) and scheme providers (including Housing Associations).

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

If yes, are they

- financial
- legislative
- other, please specify _____

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

- staff
- service users
- other public sector organisations
- voluntary/community/trade unions
- other, please specify _____

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they and who owns them?

- Supporting People Strategy 2022-2025 sets the direction for the Supporting People Programme over the next three years (HE)
- Homelessness Strategy 2022-2027 (HE)

- (Draft) Programme for Government (2021) (TEO)
- Transforming Your Care Strategy (DoH)
- Delivering Together (DoH)
- Domestic & Sexual Violence Strategy (DoH & DoJ)
- New Decade New Approach – A New Housing Supply Strategy (DfC)

Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for **each** of the Section 75 categories.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	Religion isn't a factor in the provision of services within SP programmes.
Political opinion	Political opinion isn't a factor in the provision of services within SP programmes.
Racial group	<p>SP funded services work to benefit and support all racial groups. There are some SP services which have been developed to improve the social inclusion of people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds.</p> <p>Projects include those such as STEP, Bryson Intercultural Floating Support for Travellers and the Hong Ling Gardens sheltered housing scheme for Chinese Older People. These 3 services currently provide capacity for c.104 service users in these racial groups within the wider Primary Client Groups for Travellers and Older People.</p>
Age	<p>SP services provide support to those of all ages; however, there are dedicated services specifically for young people and older people.</p> <p>Supporting People currently provides funding to c.32 services for young people across a range of accommodation based and floating support services. There is a total of c.785 units; c.221 accommodation based and c.564 floating support.</p> <p>SP fund c.421 services for older people and c.10,798 units. These are comprised of c.9,486 accommodation based and c.1,312 community based (including c.1,290 floating support).</p> <p>Evidence from <i>Housing and Communities Inequalities in Northern Ireland Summary Report</i> states the needs of older and younger</p>

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
	<p>aged people may differ along attributes such as physical access, security or thermal comfort.</p> <p>Evidence from the NI Housing Executive research '<i>Older People, Housing Issues, Aspirations and Needs</i>' explored the needs and aspirations of older people in relation to housing options. One of the overarching findings was that older people wish to remain in their own home and that future models should focus on enabling this. It was also noted that choice is a critical element in the decision making of older people in relation to their housing arrangements.</p>
Marital status	<p>Marital status isn't a factor in the provision of services within SP programmes.</p> <p>However, organisations such as Women's Aid temporary accommodation provides support and accommodation for single women or women with families/ children. There are c.24 facilities accommodating a service capacity c.1159 for Women at Risk of Domestic Violence.</p> <p>There are also c.42 facilities accommodating a service capacity c. 1478 for Single Homeless with Support Needs/Single Homeless Crisis Accommodation.</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>SP service users may include those who need support due to an issue related to their sexual orientation e.g. experienced domestic abuse or intimidation.</p>
Men and women generally	<p>Many accommodation services can accommodate both men and women. Others provide accommodation specifically for men, or women or men and/or women with families/ children.</p> <p>For example, Women's Aid temporary accommodation provides support and accommodation for single women or women with families/ children.</p> <p>There are hostels which are strictly for women only and hostels which are for men only. There is female only crash accommodation and crash accommodation for male only service users. Some floating support services are gender specific e.g. Women's Aid Floating Support. For instance, there are c.24 facilities accommodating a service capacity c.1159 for Women at Risk of Domestic Violence.</p>

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
Disability	<p>SP projects support service users with disabilities across the themes of homelessness, young people, older people, disability and mental health.</p> <p>Evidence from the Bamford Review and the <i>Housing and Communities Inequalities in Northern Ireland Summary Report</i> indicates a persistent inequality exists for those with a learning disability not experienced by non-disabled people in their ability to live independently.</p> <p>The services provided by the Disability and Mental Health SP thematic are a mix of long-term and short-term accommodation and support. Supporting People fund c.289 services, comprising of c.3,549 units. These units include c.2,633 accommodation based and c.916 community based (including c.732 floating support).</p>
Dependants	<p>SP projects provide support for service users including support for dependents. These include services for people with caring responsibilities for an older person, young people, or people with a disability. The following groups can assist dependents within overall service user capacities noted below:</p> <p>Homeless Families with Support Needs c.968 units</p> <p>Women at Risk of Domestic Violence c.1,159 units, these include facilities for dependants of the women at risk.</p> <p>People with a Physical or Sensory Disability c.430 units</p> <p>People with Learning Disabilities c.1,520 units</p> <p>People with Mental Health Problems equating to c.1,519 units.</p>

Note to reader - If you are aware of and would like the Department to take into account any further evidence or information relevant to this policy, please send this to:

Supporting People & Oversight
Level 3
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG
supportingpeoplegovernance@communities-ni.gov.uk

The Supporting People Programme in Northern Ireland provides funding for housing related support services and the programme continues to be a very diverse portfolio of approximately 850 services across 15 primary client groups; delivered by c.86 provider organisations; across four thematic groups. The current funding split for each of the thematic groups is Disability & Mental Health 43%, Homelessness 37%, Older People 12% and Young People 8%. The total SP budget is c.£76 million.

The Supporting People programme has been designed to promote equality and provide support to all communities and service user groups throughout Northern Ireland. In refining this guidance document, SP have undertaken analysis of the 2012 SP Guidance, reviewed the data that NIHE hold on current services and took on board stakeholders views to update the guidance. Stakeholder engagement has been central to the approach for developing the review of this guidance. The objective is to enhance and refine the 2012 SP Guidance document to maintain its relevance and improve clarity for key stakeholders, including SP and jointly funded schemes.

SP as part of DfC (Department for Communities) have promoted engagement at all stages with key stakeholders, DoH (Department of Health), DoJ (Department of Justice) and NIHE (Northern Ireland Housing Executive) during the review process. Meetings and discussions with partners have guided the development of the Policy Framework document. In addition, stakeholders have contributed by providing revisions and updates; reaching agreement with SP on amendments to be integrated into the revised Policy Framework Guidance document. SP will, where possible, continue to take stakeholder feedback into account to develop and further refine this living document.

Primary Client Group:

Frail Elderly (Service capacity c.431)
Homeless Families with Support Needs (Service capacity c.968)
Offenders or People at Risk of Offending (Service capacity c.297)
Older People with Mental Health Problems / Dementia (Service capacity c.596)
Older People with Support Needs (Service capacity c.9,690)
People with a Physical or Sensory Disability (Service capacity c.430)
People with Alcohol and/or Drug Problems (Service capacity c.330)
People with Learning Disabilities (Service capacity c.1,520)
People with Mental Health Problems (Service capacity c.1,519)
Single Homeless with Support Needs (Service capacity c.1,447)
Travellers (Service capacity c.31)
Women at Risk of Domestic Violence (Service capacity c.1,159)
Young People (Service capacity c.807)
Sheltered Housing for Older People (Service capacity c.338)
Single Homeless Crisis (Service capacity c.31)

Figures supplied are indicative of a point in time as service capacity fluctuates continuously. This is due to the nature of the services provided, therefore figures supplied are noted as circa (c.).

Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision?

Specify details for **each** of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	SP services are provided based on need. There is no evidence of any specific needs, experiences and priorities for this Section 75 category.
Political opinion	SP services are provided based on need. There is no evidence of any specific needs, experiences and priorities for this Section 75 category.
Racial group	<p>SP services are provided based on need.</p> <p>The NIHE constantly analyse and review its evidence and look at comparative data to ensure it fully understands the equality-based needs of its customers and staff, for each of its programmes. There are specific schemes for refugees and travellers which can assist with day-to-day challenges that their users experience such as language or reading barriers particularly in relation to securing safe housing.</p>
Age	<p>SP services are provided based on need. Experiences and priority are not affected by the review of this guidance.</p> <p>The aim of the review is to produce SP Policy Framework which will better communicate guidance around funding eligibility for housing support services. The objective of SP eligible funding in this category is to meet the requirements of the frail and elderly to help them to continue to live independently by enabling them to remain in their own homes with support; and to assist eligible young people living in supported accommodation.</p>
Marital status	SP services are provided based on need. SP service users include Women at Risk of Domestic abuse. Needs such as accommodation and general counselling/basic financial advice

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
	vary and are dependent on the nature of the service users circumstances. Factors taken into consideration would include domestic abuse, intimidation, and/or any dependants for which the service user is responsible.
Sexual orientation	SP services are provided based on need. The SP Programme does not provide support based on sexual orientation or by specific categories such as LGBT. There is no evidence of any specific needs, experiences and priorities for this Section 75 category.
Men and women generally	SP services are provided based on need. Separate services for men and women are offered by specific SP funded schemes under certain conditions where appropriate.
Disability	<p>SP services are provided based on need.</p> <p>The SP services provide bespoke housing support for adults with a learning disability; mental ill health and/or physical disability, including brain injury.</p> <p>The Bamford Report stated that people with disabilities will require an environment that enables their mobility or senses and supports their independence, which may involve physical adaptations to the home and/or the provision of relevant personal support. That young disabled people have difficulty securing independent accommodation and making the normal transition from the family home. Support needs to be tailored to the young person's needs.</p>
Dependants	<p>SP services are provided based on need. People with caring responsibilities for a child, older person, or person with a disability may be eligible for support from SP services.</p> <p>The nature of the support will be dependent on need. There are a wide diversity of needs for dependants such as, providing shelter for a woman experiencing domestic violence and her children; or assistance for older people to stay in their own home with other dependant family members with mental/physical disabilities.</p> <p>In addition, the extension of the policy to include those receiving the housing element of UC will continue funding for shelter of the service user and their dependants. This continuity of service when</p>

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
	service users transition from Housing Benefit, benefits the service user and their family by preventing a loss of entitlement to funding.

Part 2. Screening questions

Introduction

In making a decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment, the public authority should consider its answers to the questions 1-4 which are given on pages 66-68 of this Guide.

If the public authority's conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then the public authority may decide to screen the policy out. If a policy is 'screened out' as having no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations, a public authority should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.

If the public authority's conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to the equality impact assessment procedure.

If the public authority's conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality categories and/or good relations categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an equality impact assessment, or to:

- measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or
- the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

In favour of a 'major' impact

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are

complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;

- c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

In favour of 'minor' impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

In favour of none

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Taking into account the evidence presented above, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations for those affected by this policy, in any way, for each of the equality and good relations categories, by applying the screening questions given overleaf and indicate the level of impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.

Screening questions

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Religious belief	The review of the current policy framework guidance document will have no impact on this group.	None
Political opinion	The review of the current policy framework guidance document will have no impact on this group.	None
Racial group	SP funded services work to benefit and support all racial groups. There are some SP services which have been developed to improve the social inclusion of people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds. These services work towards benefiting service users by removing barriers to integration and encouraging participation in society. Projects include those such as STEP, Bryson Intercultural Floating Support for Travellers and the Hong Ling Gardens sheltered housing scheme for Chinese Older People.	Minor positive
Age	SP services provide support to those of all ages; however, there are dedicated services specifically for young people and older people.	Minor positive
Marital status	SP services provide support to service users regardless of marital status, however there are dedicated services specifically for families to ensure equality of opportunity. For example, SP funded services work to benefit and support women experiencing	Minor positive

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
	domestic violence, providing support and accommodation, removing vulnerable women and their dependants from an unsafe home environment regardless of marital status.	
Sexual orientation	SP service users may include those who need support due to an issue related to their sexual orientation e.g. experienced domestic abuse or intimidation.	Minor positive
Men and women generally	<p>The review of the current policy framework guidance document promotes equality of opportunity for men and women generally.</p> <p>Many accommodation services can accommodate both men and women. Others provide accommodation specifically for men, or women or men and/or women with families/ children. For example, Women's Aid temporary accommodation provides support and accommodation for single women or women with families/ children.</p> <p>There are hostels which are strictly for women only and hostels which are for men only. There is female only crash accommodation and crash accommodation for male only service users. Some floating support services are gender specific e.g. Women's Aid Floating Support. SP will always consider any potential impacts on this section 75 category.</p>	Minor positive
Disability	<p>The review of the current policy framework guidance document promotes equality of opportunity for people with disabilities.</p> <p>SP projects support service users with disabilities across the themes of homelessness, young people, older people, disability and mental health. Any changes to the reviewed guidance will be</p>	Minor positive

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
	<p>positive and experienced equally regardless of disability.</p> <p>The services provided by the Disability and Mental Health SP thematic are a mix of long-term and short-term accommodation and support. Supporting People fund c.289 services, comprising of c.3,549 units. These units include c.2,633 accommodation based and c.916 community based (including c.732 floating support). SP will always consider any potential impacts on this section 75 category.</p>	
Dependants	<p>The review of the current policy framework guidance document promotes equality of opportunity for dependants.</p> <p>The Policy Framework has been updated to include service users who are eligible for their housing costs to be fully or partially met through UC, a modification to the current means test policy has been put in place with the means test amended to include the housing element of UC. This is an extension of the current criteria regarding ability to pay, previously covered for individuals receiving housing benefit. This is to ensure that new service users/service users previously entitled to Housing Benefit are not negatively impacted by the introduction of UC.</p>	Minor positive

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief		<p>The review of the policy relates exclusively to including relevant definitions and clarifying any ambiguity in previous 2012 guidance. There is no scope for the policy itself to be used to promote equality of opportunity for persons within this Section 75 group.</p>
Political opinion		<p>The review of the policy relates exclusively to including relevant definitions and clarifying any ambiguity in previous 2012 guidance. There is no scope for the policy itself to be used to promote equality of opportunity for persons within this Section 75 group.</p>
Racial group		<p>A definition for Independent Living has been added to the framework. The definition clarifies the term and promotes Independent Living for vulnerable groups such as refugees, asylum seekers and people experiencing homelessness containing individuals from a variety of racial groups. Independent Living can mean living in an independent form of housing tenure for example as a tenant, a homeowner occupier, hostel, refuge, sheltered housing or supported accommodation. This includes 3 sub definitions of independent living for older people, younger people and</p>

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
		<p>people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>The definition of A Persons Own Home has been refined to improve understanding in the context of SP services noting, "a unifying principle of housing support is that it is provided in relation to a housing support need. It therefore must be provided in a housing context. To receive a SP grant funded service, the user must have a housing support need that would be likely to lead to the user becoming or remaining homeless if the support is not provided." This promotes understanding of eligibility for SP funding for racial groups such as refugees or asylum seekers to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>Additional guidance provided regarding Associated Supported/Overhead Costs to assist providers to determine eligible set up costs. This will have a positive impact on funding for refugees, asylum seekers and various racial groups.</p>
Age		<p>Enhanced Housing Support Services definition to highlight assistance which can be provided to enable an individual to occupy their own home, as defined by legislation. Support with housing related tasks helps</p>

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
		<p>individuals to develop and maintain the skills and confidence necessary to live independently or facilitates those in the process of moving onto independent living. This promotes better opportunity for older people using SP services.</p> <p>A definition for Independent Living has been added to the framework. The definition clarifies the term Independent Living and highlights the importance for the older people and young people categories. Independent Living can mean living in an independent form of housing tenure for example as a tenant, a homeowner occupier, hostel, refuge, sheltered housing or supported accommodation. This includes 3 sub definitions of independent living for older people, younger people and people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>The definition of A Persons Own Home has been refined to improve understanding in the context of SP services noting, "a unifying principle of housing support is that it is provided in relation to a housing support need. It therefore must be provided in a housing context. To receive a SP grant funded service, the user must have a housing support need that would be</p>

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
		<p>likely to lead to the user becoming or remaining homeless if the support is not provided.” This promotes understanding of eligibility for SP funding for younger people such as care leavers to help prevent homelessness.</p> <p>The Policy Framework has been updated to include service users who are eligible for their housing costs to be fully or partially met through UC, a modification to the current means test policy has been put in place with the means test amended to include the housing element of UC. This is an extension of the current criteria regarding ability to pay previously covered for individuals receiving housing benefit. This is to ensure that new service users/service users previously entitled to Housing Benefit are not negatively impacted by the introduction of UC. Housing Benefit/housing element of UC may be impacted by age, affected groups include older people.</p> <p>Update to “Assistance with the security of the dwelling required because of the needs of the service user”.</p> <p>Clarification regarding Controlling access to individual resident’s rooms,</p>

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
		<p>“This includes guidance on establishing personal safety and security of the service user, and also where staff control visitor access” examples include people with disability and or dementia, this relates significantly but not exclusively to the older people group.</p> <p>An additional paragraph was added to clarify eligibility to SP in relation to “Other members of the household”. It explains that SPG is designed to help the family by ensuring that in such situations the individual can maintain occupancy of the dwelling. Prescribed SP services which include the need of children in the family may therefore be eligible.</p> <p>The Policy Framework has been updated to promote opportunity by identifying that providers may also be eligible to receive funding via other funding streams whilst receiving funding from the Supporting People Program i.e. Housing Benefit, Housing Management and the Department of Health. This promotes support for younger people and older people.</p> <p>Additional guidance provided regarding Associated Supported/Overhead Costs to assist providers to determine eligible set up costs. This will</p>

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
		have a positive impact for vulnerable groups for young people and old people.
Marital status		<p>The Policy Framework has been updated to include service users who are eligible for their housing costs to be fully or partially met through UC, a modification to the current means test policy has been put in place with the means test amended to include the housing element of UC. This is an extension of the current criteria regarding ability to pay previously covered for individuals receiving housing benefit. This is to ensure that new service users/service users previously entitled to Housing Benefit are not negatively impacted by the introduction of UC. Housing Benefit/housing element of UC may be impacted by changes to family status e.g. changes to the family unit/marital status.</p>
Sexual orientation		The review of the policy relates exclusively to including relevant definitions and clarifying any ambiguity in previous 2012 guidance.
Men and women generally		Enhanced Housing Support Services definition to highlight assistance which can be provided to enable an individual to occupy their own home, as defined by

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
		<p>legislation. Support with housing related tasks helps individuals to develop and maintain the skills and confidence necessary to live independently or facilitates those in the process of moving onto independent living. This promotes better opportunity for men and women using gender specific SP services.</p> <p>Clarification regarding Controlling access to individual resident's rooms, "This includes guidance on establishing personal safety and security of the service user, and also where staff control visitor access" examples include domestic violence refuges; SP provides specific services for women experiencing domestic violence.</p> <p>Additional guidance provided regarding Associated Supported/Overhead Costs to assist providers to determine eligible set up costs. This will have a positive impact on funding for providers catering exclusively for men or women, such as services for women experiencing domestic violence.</p>
Disability		The Policy Framework has been updated to include service users who are eligible for their housing costs to be fully or partially met through

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
		<p>UC, a modification to the current means test policy has been put in place with the means test amended to include the housing element of UC. This is an extension of the current criteria regarding ability to pay previously covered for individuals receiving housing benefit. This is to ensure that new service users/service users previously entitled to Housing Benefit are not negatively impacted by the introduction of UC. Housing Benefit/housing element of UC may be impacted by changes to an individual's level of disability.</p> <p>Clarification regarding Controlling access to individual resident's rooms, "This includes guidance on establishing personal safety and security of the service user, and also where staff control visitor access" examples include people with disability and or dementia.</p> <p>An additional paragraph was added to clarify eligibility to SP in relation to "Other members of the household". It explains that the issues which make a person vulnerable and in need of housing support services are likely to impact on other members of their household. Increased vulnerability can occur for example when a person does</p>

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
		<p>not have mental capacity to make decisions about their own safety or has fluctuating mental capacity associated with mental illness and other conditions.</p> <p>The Policy Framework has been updated to promote opportunity by identifying that providers may also be eligible to receive funding via other funding streams whilst receiving funding from the Supporting People Program i.e. Housing Benefit, Housing Management and the Department of Health.</p> <p>Additional guidance provided regarding Associated Supported/Overhead Costs to assist providers to determine eligible set up costs. This will have a positive impact on funding for providers supporting individuals with disabilities.</p>
Dependants		<p>An additional paragraph was added to clarify eligibility to SP in relation to “Other members of the household”. It explains that SPG is designed to help the family by ensuring that in such situations the individual can maintain occupancy of the dwelling. Prescribed SP services which include the need of children in the family may therefore be eligible.</p>

3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? minor/major/none

Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact minor/major/none
Religious belief	The review of the current policy will have no impact on this group.	None
Political opinion	The review of the current policy will have no impact on this group.	None
Racial group	The review of the current policy will have no impact on this group.	None

4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good relations category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief		No - The review of the policy relates exclusively to including relevant definitions and clarifying any ambiguity in previous 2012 guidance. There is no scope for the policy itself to be used to

Good relations category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
		better promote good relations between people of different religious beliefs.
Political opinion		No - The review of the policy relates exclusively to including relevant definitions and clarifying any ambiguity in previous 2012 guidance. There is no scope for the policy itself to be used to better promote good relations between people of different political opinions.
Racial group		No - The review of the policy relates exclusively to including relevant definitions and clarifying any ambiguity in previous 2012 guidance. There is no scope for the policy itself to be used to better promote good relations between people of different racial groups.

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?

(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

N/A

Part 3. Screening decision

In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you feel that the policy should: (please underline one)

- 1. Not be subject to an EQIA**
- 2. Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)**
- 3. Be subject to an EQIA**

If 1 or 2 (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:

A full EQIA is not considered necessary. This screening exercise has not indicated any adverse impacts on any of the Section 75 categories due to there being no policy direction or legislative change. The revised SP Policy Framework, by providing clarity, will only have a positive impact for those stakeholders using it to provide housing support services.

If 3. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:

N/A

Mitigation

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

If so, **give the reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.

N/A

Part 4. Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an EQIA, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

You should consider the guidance contained in the Commission’s Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007).

The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, then you should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

This screening exercise has not indicated any adverse impacts on any of the Section 75 categories due to there being no policy direction or legislative change.

Section 75 monitoring is not required. As stated at the outset, this exercise is for a refresh of the Policy Framework document.

As this is a living document the document will be monitored continuously by SP and its stakeholders. Any issues that arise can be escalated by providers to SP via NIHE for consideration and review. Any major adjustments suggested would need further equality screening.

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Ryan Loughnan	Supporting People Policy & Oversight – Staff Officer	22/03/2023
Approved by:		
Gillian Hynes	Supporting People Policy & Oversight - Grade 7	22/03/2023

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on the public authority's website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.