

Housing Executive: Policy Screening

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 writer work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

Name of the policy

Supporting People (SP) Provider Investment Fund (PIF) and Covid19 Recovery Fund (C19RF)

Information about the policy (General Context Statement)

(No information has been provided)

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

(Please mark an 'X' where appropriate)

Existing	Revised	New
		X

What is it trying to achieve? (Intended Aims/Outcomes)

The Provider Innovation Fund (PIF) and Covid 19 Recovery Fund (C19RF) are competitive funds that aim to support improvements to the delivery of Supporting People Programme (SPP). Existing SPP providers are able to bid for support to help them improve their delivery of the SPP Programme.

The principal objective of the SP PIF is the improvement of efficiency and effectiveness across delivery of SP in the context of a more challenging environment of stagnant funding for provider organisations.

The principal objective of the Covid-19 Recovery Fund C19RF) to make financial support available to SP Providers to help them recover from the Covid-19 pandemic which has affected every organisation.

PIF and C19RF applications are open to all SP accredited providers who are in receipt of SP funding at the time of the award. To ensure no one provider or group is favoured over another the panel assessing the applications reviews the applications recommended for funding to ensure that all Thematic Groups are included in the awards (where applicable).

The funds cannot be used for:

- Market or service exit funding
- Market or service entry funding
- Redundancy costs
- Directly funding current service provision

- Large capital costs
- Projects relating to the provision of SNMA services
- Projects which are required by law or to meet legal requirement
- Projects which do not support existing service provision under SP

Benefits to service users may be indirect with organisations identifying efficiencies within the organisation which will enable more resource to be directed to front line services.

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

If so, explain how.

The PIF and C19RF do not intend to impact on the funding envelope for any one theme or section 75 categories to the detriment of another. PIF and C19RF funding is available to all SP accredited providers.

Primarily the benefit is to the provider organisation, some benefit will occur to customers in an indirect way. SP customers include a range of equality groups including older people, disabled people, minority and ethnic groups, homeless singles and families and younger people.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The initiation of the PIF was set out by Department for Communities (DfC) in 2018, with the outline business case being drafted by Business Continuity Services (BCS) on behalf of DfC with input from both DfC and SP in order to begin implementation towards the commencement of the fund in 2019/20.

The initiation of the C19RF was borne from the need to assist SP services to begin recovery following the 2 year Covid-19 pandemic, the business case was drafted by SP in order to begin implementation of the fund in late 21/22.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

NIHE, Director of Regional Services, own the PIF and C19RF and they have been endorsed by the DfC. NIHE through SP ensure the operational delivery of the administration of the PIF and C19RF, adhering to the relevant legislation, departmental guidance or policy.

The budget is provided by DfC who are responsible for legislation and basic policy.

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?	
If yes, are they:	
(Please mark an 'X' where appropriate)	
X	Financial Funding for the PIF is subject easement in the SP budget, if this funding is either not made available the PIF will not be able to award funding to any of the applications made. If reduced funding is made available then this will restrict the number of applications that can be awarded funding.

	Funding for the C19RF is subject to a budget bid to DfC, if the funding is not made available the C19RF will be reliant on SP easement which will restrict the number of applications that can be awarded funding.
	Legislative
	Other (Please Specify) :

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?	
(Please mark an 'X' where appropriate and detail as necessary)	
X	Staff
X	Service Users, Customers
X	Other Public Sector Organisations
X	Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions
	Other (Please Specify) :

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they?

N/A

Who owns them?

N/A

Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Policy Writers 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 that evidence is required for.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	As the Supporting People programme has been designed to promote equality and provide support to all communities and clients types throughout Northern Ireland the evidence base which was used to inform the PIF and C19RF reflects this equal approach.
Political opinion	
Racial group	
Age	
Marital status	
Sexual orientation	
Men and women	
Disability	
Dependants	

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 that are affected.

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	
Political opinion	
Racial group	
Age	
Marital status	
Sexual orientation	
Men and women	
Disability	
Dependants	

Part 2 - Screening questions

Please see guidance below for further information

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
	SP are conscious of the need to ensure fairness in assignment of applications in the context of ensuring the award of funding is split across all SP Thematic Groups.	
Religious belief	The PIF and C19RF is open to all SP accredited providers; there is no significant or relevant impact for religion or political opinion.	None
Political opinion		None
Racial group	The PIF and C19RF is open to all SP accredited providers; there is no significant or relevant impact for any racial group. We note a number of floating support schemes include minority and ethnic minorities.	None
Age	The PIF and C19RF is open to all SP accredited providers; there is no significant or relevant impact for any age group. We note that a number of SP schemes are aimed at Older People and Younger People.	None
Marital status	N/A	None
Sexual orientation	The PIF and C19RF is open to all SP accredited providers; there is no significant or relevant impact for sexual orientation.	None
Men and women	Many of the accommodation based services are for all genders but significantly the Women's Aid projects provide hostel accommodation and support for women and families. On this basis the budget impact for women will be more than for men.	Minor
Disability	The PIF and C19RF would have no impact on the SP current ability to the support of disability. We note that a range of services in the SPP are targeted at physical and learning disabilities.	None
Dependants	The PIF and C19RF will have no significant impact for people with dependants compared to those who have no dependants in relation to the accommodation schemes. Family size and caring responsibilities will not be significantly impacted.	None

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	Considering the above points the Housing Executive concludes that there is no opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity in these circumstances within the PIF and C19RF.	
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women		
Disability		
Dependants		

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 PIF and C19RF has limited impact on good relations.	
Political opinion		
Racial group		

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	There is no opportunity to better promote good relations.	
Political opinion		
Racial group		

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).

Many aspects of the Supporting People programme impact on specific issues associated with different people. The SP Programme includes addressing people with drug, alcohol or other problems often complicated by disability and/or culture or nationality. We recognise the impacts of this budgetary issue but note again that the proposed approach of the PIF and C19RF will have the minimal of impact across all section 75 categories and the multiple identities associated with them.

Disability Duties:

1. Does this policy affect (or have the potential to affect) disabled people? (Please mark an 'X' where appropriate)

Yes	No
X	

2. If yes, how does this policy pay due regard to the promotion of positive attitudes towards disabled people?

Not directly relevant.

3. If yes, does this policy provide any opportunity for the engagement of, or participation of any stakeholder representatives? e.g. Housing Community network. (Please mark an 'X' where appropriate)

Yes	No
	X

4. If yes, what efforts have been made to encourage the participation of disabled people?

No.

Human Rights:

The Screening Team must consider the Human Rights “Convention Checklist” set out below. The Screening Team must be satisfied that the policy does not interfere (unless justified by a legitimate, necessary and/or proportionate aim) with any of the rights listed. On occasion, the Screening Team may require legal advice to assure the Board/CXBC of adequate consideration of Human Rights.

Given the scope of this screening there are no Human Rights impacts.

Additional Human Rights Conventions:

There are many international instruments that the UK Government have made commitments to progressively realise. Some of these impact on housing policy and it is important that when we make policy that we can assure the Board that cognisance of these instruments has been observed. This is particularly important where policies affect or have the potential to affect children and young people and disabled people. The Screening Team may wish to seek additional legal advice or views of representative groups.

Monitoring:

How will this policy be monitored for equality impacts in accordance with the Housing Executive’s Equality Scheme?*

(No information provided)

*Guidance available from the Equality Monitoring Officer, Equality Unit.

Part 3 - Screening Team decision

Does this policy require an equality impact assessment? (Please mark an ‘X’ where appropriate)

Yes	No

Reasons for the decision:

The policy has been determined to have no potential to impact differentially on any Section 75 group.

Part 4 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by: (Please insert name below)	Position/Job Title	Date
Tony Steed	Equality Unit Manager	
Approved by:		
Alistair Mawhinney	Assistant Director (Acting) Supporting People	

