



Equality Impact Assessment

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	<p><u>Implementation of Local Council Tax Support</u></p> <p>This EIA is based on the option put forward for public consultation in the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (21st August 2012), with additional commentary on the Government Transitional Scheme as announced in October 2012. The impact is assessed on the current claimant profile. This document has evolved as more information is gathered and feedback has been received, both internally and through the consultation process.</p>																																																				
Brief Service Profile	<p>Local Council Tax Support (CTS) will replace the national Council Tax Benefit (CTB) from 1st April 2013.</p> <p>Key facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current expenditure on CTB is £18.6 million. • There are 24,000 claimants in Southampton (nationally over 5.8 million people claim CTB, more than any other means-tested benefit). • The majority of recipients also receive housing benefit, only around 4,000 get CTB only. • 38% of CTB claimants are pensioners. • Around 30% of CTB claimants have dependent children. • 14% of CTB claimants are low earners. • On average CTB is worth £773 a year (£14.82 per week). <p>A more detailed breakdown of the current caseload is given in the table below.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Category</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Number</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Value (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Elderly - Non-Passported - Child Under 5</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: right;">£5,771.52</td></tr> <tr><td>Elderly - Non-Passported - Disabled Child Premium</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: right;">£3,927.84</td></tr> <tr><td>Elderly - Non-Passported - Family Premium</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: right;">£15,248.06</td></tr> <tr><td>Elderly - Non-Passported - Other</td><td style="text-align: center;">2674</td><td style="text-align: right;">£1,717,351.63</td></tr> <tr><td>Elderly - Non-Passported - Severe Disability</td><td style="text-align: center;">312</td><td style="text-align: right;">£224,480.09</td></tr> <tr><td>Elderly - Non-Passported - War Pensioners</td><td style="text-align: center;">32</td><td style="text-align: right;">£24,441.78</td></tr> <tr><td>Elderly - Non-Passported - Working</td><td style="text-align: center;">141</td><td style="text-align: right;">£103,756.92</td></tr> <tr><td>Elderly - Passported - Child Under 5</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: right;">£3,206.39</td></tr> <tr><td>Elderly - Passported - Disabled Child Premium</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: right;">£5,479.68</td></tr> <tr><td>Elderly - Passported - Family Premium</td><td style="text-align: center;">64</td><td style="text-align: right;">£67,340.64</td></tr> <tr><td>Elderly - Passported - Other</td><td style="text-align: center;">4603</td><td style="text-align: right;">£3,980,713.83</td></tr> <tr><td>Elderly - Passported - Severe Disability</td><td style="text-align: center;">1094</td><td style="text-align: right;">£890,577.63</td></tr> <tr><td>Elderly - Passported - War Pensioners</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: right;">£721.44</td></tr> <tr><td>Elderly - Passported - Working</td><td style="text-align: center;">38</td><td style="text-align: right;">£33,241.40</td></tr> <tr><td>Working Age - Non-Passported - Child Under 5</td><td style="text-align: center;">818</td><td style="text-align: right;">£618,166.61</td></tr> <tr><td>Working Age - Non-Passported - Disability</td><td style="text-align: center;">607</td><td style="text-align: right;">£444,366.15</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Category	Number	Value (£)	Elderly - Non-Passported - Child Under 5	5	£5,771.52	Elderly - Non-Passported - Disabled Child Premium	4	£3,927.84	Elderly - Non-Passported - Family Premium	17	£15,248.06	Elderly - Non-Passported - Other	2674	£1,717,351.63	Elderly - Non-Passported - Severe Disability	312	£224,480.09	Elderly - Non-Passported - War Pensioners	32	£24,441.78	Elderly - Non-Passported - Working	141	£103,756.92	Elderly - Passported - Child Under 5	3	£3,206.39	Elderly - Passported - Disabled Child Premium	5	£5,479.68	Elderly - Passported - Family Premium	64	£67,340.64	Elderly - Passported - Other	4603	£3,980,713.83	Elderly - Passported - Severe Disability	1094	£890,577.63	Elderly - Passported - War Pensioners	1	£721.44	Elderly - Passported - Working	38	£33,241.40	Working Age - Non-Passported - Child Under 5	818	£618,166.61	Working Age - Non-Passported - Disability	607	£444,366.15
Category	Number	Value (£)																																																			
Elderly - Non-Passported - Child Under 5	5	£5,771.52																																																			
Elderly - Non-Passported - Disabled Child Premium	4	£3,927.84																																																			
Elderly - Non-Passported - Family Premium	17	£15,248.06																																																			
Elderly - Non-Passported - Other	2674	£1,717,351.63																																																			
Elderly - Non-Passported - Severe Disability	312	£224,480.09																																																			
Elderly - Non-Passported - War Pensioners	32	£24,441.78																																																			
Elderly - Non-Passported - Working	141	£103,756.92																																																			
Elderly - Passported - Child Under 5	3	£3,206.39																																																			
Elderly - Passported - Disabled Child Premium	5	£5,479.68																																																			
Elderly - Passported - Family Premium	64	£67,340.64																																																			
Elderly - Passported - Other	4603	£3,980,713.83																																																			
Elderly - Passported - Severe Disability	1094	£890,577.63																																																			
Elderly - Passported - War Pensioners	1	£721.44																																																			
Elderly - Passported - Working	38	£33,241.40																																																			
Working Age - Non-Passported - Child Under 5	818	£618,166.61																																																			
Working Age - Non-Passported - Disability	607	£444,366.15																																																			

[Type text]

[Type text]

Appendix 4

Working Age - Non-Passported - Disabled Child Premium	149	£111,418.11
Working Age - Non-Passported - Family Premium	1643	£994,529.40
Working Age - Non-Passported - Lone Parent Child Under 5	504	£285,490.38
Working Age - Non-Passported - Other	639	£450,774.02
Working Age - Non-Passported - Severe Disability	179	£130,117.13
Working Age - Non-Passported - War Pensioners	5	£3,686.00
Working Age - Non-Passported - Working	724	£377,789.84
Working Age - Passported - Child Under 5	456	£475,503.12
Working Age - Passported - Disability	816	£761,637.16
Working Age - Passported - Disabled Child Premium	288	£266,457.03
Working Age - Passported - Family Premium	1723	£1,522,614.70
Working Age - Passported - Lone Parent Child Under 5	1732	£1,357,562.43
Working Age - Passported - Other	3764	£2,938,794.29
Working Age - Passported - Severe Disability	940	£714,359.19
Working Age - Passported - War Pensioners	1	£961.92
Working Age - Passported - Working	26	£20,962.45
Grand Total	24007	£18,551,448.78

Summary of Impact and Issues

The council is obliged to agree a Local Council Tax Support Scheme by the end of January 2013 for implementation in the following April. The primary legislation to enable this (the Local Government Finance Act) recently received Royal Assent. Detailed regulations are being issued in batches, with the most important having been issued at the end of November 2012 with the balance scheduled to be issued by the end of February 2013

The council will receive at least 10% less from central government to fund the new scheme and there will be additional costs in collecting the tax. Given the council's financial position, a self-funding model is put forward. This will impact on working age, claimant households (in work and out of work) in the city by restricting the amount of discount granted. People of pensionable age are protected from the change by the legislation. This means that only people of working age (and their families) are affected and can expect to receive 25% less towards their council tax (based on the current proposed local scheme)— many having to pay for the first time.

The council has around 27,000 Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit claims. Most of these are joint claims and 24,000 include claims for CTB. Of these 15,000 are working age. This means that approximately 15% of all households in Southampton will be affected. The appendices give a more detailed breakdown on how some groups are affected.

The council needs to give consideration to vulnerable groups in the design of a new system. The government's consultation response appears to be less prescriptive about how this should be done than perhaps originally envisaged. Rather the government draws councils' attention to existing responsibilities including the Child Poverty Act 2010, the Disabled Person Act 1986 and the Housing Act 1996 as well as the public sector equality duty in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

Cabinet has agreed to adopt, as a draft subject to consultation, a scheme closely based on the Default Scheme set out in regulations. Benefit would be calculated in line with this scheme, but then reduced by 25%. This will produce a scheme which is more than self-funding and a discretionary fund will be provided from the excess savings but would retain the elements of protection for vulnerable groups..

In October 2012, the Government announced a transitional grant available to Local Authorities who introduced schemes that complied with a number of criteria. To apply for a grant, billing authorities must adopt schemes which ensure that:

- Those who would be entitled to 100% support under current council tax benefit arrangements pay between zero and no more than 8.5% of their net council tax liability;
- The taper rate does not increase above 25%;
- There is no sharp reduction in support for those entering work.

Overall, this is a more generous scheme than the draft Southampton scheme, however this is not the case for all claimants and around 1,900 households would be better off with the Southampton scheme. The grant funding is one off and, at £378,000, does not cover the funding shortfall created if the scheme were to be introduced in Southampton.

As the Southampton scheme (and the transitional scheme) are closely based on the default scheme they take account of a households circumstances in much the same way as Council Tax Benefit. In particular they have applicable amounts, premiums and disregards that mean the benefit given is closely aligned to individual needs and circumstances. These include:

- Child Benefit & Child Maintenance continue to be disregarded. By disregarding these from income used to determine what Council Tax support should be awarded, this will help to protect against child poverty.
- Maintaining support for families with children and lone parents. Additional allowances and premiums for children and families are granted under the Council Tax Benefit scheme. These will continue under the local scheme.
- Maintaining support for disabled claimants and children. Additional allowances and premiums are granted under the Council Tax Benefit scheme. These will continue under the local scheme.
- Fostering payment income continue to be disregarded. Foster carers and Kinship carers that receive fostering payments (paid by a LA, voluntary organisation or Primary Care Trust) have this income disregarded in full when calculating entitlement to Council Tax Benefit. This continues under the local scheme.
- Maintaining protection for Carers who have Council Tax liability. A carer claiming Council Tax Benefit receives some protection by receipt of Carer's Allowance, should they meet the qualification criteria. This continues under the local scheme.
- Maintaining allowances and premiums given to a care leaver The

	<p>allowances and premiums given to a care leaver under the Council Tax Benefit scheme are the same as for a non-care leaver. This will continue under the local scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Dependant charges will continue. It is assumed that other adults in the claimant's home will contribute towards the council tax bill, which results in a lower amount of support being given. • Incentives to work are maintained, i.e.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tapers are kept at 25% or less. ○ Earned income disregards. ○ The extended payment provision. Where certain qualifying conditions are met 4 weeks additional benefit is paid when a claimant comes off benefit and starts work.
Potential Positive Impacts	The council is able to set a CTS scheme to meet local priorities. However, in the first year at least, this is limited by time and software constraints. The financial impact of the change is also a major constraint.
Responsible Service Manager	Andy Lowe Head of Finance and IT
Version number	3.0
Approved by Senior Manager	
Signature	
Date	

Potential Negative Impacts

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions																		
<p>Age</p>	<p>The breakdown of the caseload is:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="432 344 1023 689"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16 to 17</td> <td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18 to 24</td> <td>2,043</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25 to 34</td> <td>4,718</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35 to 49</td> <td>6,876</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50 to pension age</td> <td>3,726</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pension age to 64</td> <td>1,557</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65 to 79</td> <td>5,074</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over 80</td> <td>2,923</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All claimant age groups below pensionable age will be impacted by the same percentage. Claimants above pensionable age will not be affected.</p> <p>The pensionable age in these tables is calculated as at 1st April 2013.</p> <p>Children and Young People: Families with children under 5 and disabled children will see a reduction in support. Appendix 1 shows how many households this is expected to affect. Appendix 2 gives a clearer indication of the true financial impact on this group. However the impact on families, as a proportion of their income ranges from 1.2% to 1.5% on average which is less than for other groups. Consultation responses have expressed concern for the effect on low income families. For the transitional scheme this impact is reduced to around 0.7% of income.</p> <p>The Southampton and Transitional schemes reflect the circumstances of family households through the applicable amounts and premiums awarded. Child benefit is disregarded in the assessment and additional support is given for childcare costs to support claimants with children into work.</p> <p>Working Age: 15,000 working age households will be affected. The average</p>	Age	Number	16 to 17	31	18 to 24	2,043	25 to 34	4,718	35 to 49	6,876	50 to pension age	3,726	Pension age to 64	1,557	65 to 79	5,074	Over 80	2,923	<p>All claimants affected by the changes have been contacted by letter. Consultation has taken place which allowed identification of <u>all</u> groups to complement data collected on claimants.</p> <p>Organisations working with families with children under 5 and with disabled children (and agencies working with families) have been included in the consultation.</p> <p>A Scrutiny Panel is examining the cumulative effects of welfare reforms.</p> <p>There will be a discretionary fund to ensure that the most vulnerable can access additional support in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>In the current year the council is grant aiding organisations that provide advice and/or assist young people in finding employment including the Princes Trust (Fairbridge), the Wheatsheaf Trust, No Limits and City Reach Youth Project. It also provides services, childcare information, parenting support ,money and employment advice in partnership through the Southampton Children and Young People's Trust which aims to tackle a range of issues and has identified 'achieving economic well-being' as one of its priorities.</p>
Age	Number																			
16 to 17	31																			
18 to 24	2,043																			
25 to 34	4,718																			
35 to 49	6,876																			
50 to pension age	3,726																			
Pension age to 64	1,557																			
65 to 79	5,074																			
Over 80	2,923																			

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions
	<p>weekly loss is estimated to be £3.67. Under 25's receive a lower weekly amount of JSA so will have to find the shortfall from less benefit. Under 35's have been hardest hit by some of the national reforms.</p> <p>Older People: The council is not permitted to reduce Council Tax Support for people of pensionable age – so the impact falls disproportionately on people of working age.</p> <p>Consultation responses have highlighted the impact on people below the age of 25 who generally receive less in benefit.</p>	
Disability	<p>An analysis of the benefit caseload shows that there are 3,469 households that contain a person below pensionable age receiving Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance or Severe Disability Allowance.</p> <p>In addition there are 444 claims where a premium is given in respect of a disabled child (there may be some overlap on these statistics).</p> <p>About 300 households may also be affected by changes to the council's charging policy. (See 'Other Significant Impacts')</p> <p>Analysis of the loss of benefit compared to income shows that disabled claimants will lose approximately 2% of their income. This is in line with the loss for workers and less than half the loss for those in the "other" category. For the transitional scheme this reduces to approximately 0.7%. See appendix 2.</p> <p>For families with a disabled child the loss is 1.1% of income (0.5% for the transitional scheme).</p> <p>The Southampton and Transitional</p>	<p>All claimants affected by the changes have been contacted by letter. Consultation has taken place which allowed identification of <u>all</u> groups to complement data collected on claimants.</p> <p>A Scrutiny Panel is examining the cumulative effects of welfare reforms.</p> <p>Consultation with disabled people and organisations has been undertaken.</p> <p>There will be a discretionary fund to ensure that the most vulnerable can access additional support in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>The council provides support and services directly to disabled people through the Adult Social Care Service including City Limits which supports disabled people into employment.</p>

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions
	<p>schemes reflect the circumstances of households that have a disabled family member through the applicable amounts and premiums awarded. Some incomes, for example attendance allowance, are disregarded. Additional support is also given for carers.</p> <p>Consultation responses have highlighted that disabled people have difficulty working and often have to face additional expense.</p>	
Gender Reassignment	<p>No data are kept on the benefits system that allows us to identify people who have reassigned their gender. National data shows higher levels of disadvantage and financial exclusion; however there is nothing in the proposed scheme that is likely to adversely affect this group in particular.</p> <p>The consultation has not identified any specific impacts based on gender reassignment.</p>	<p>All claimants affected by the changes have been contacted by letter. Consultation has taken place which allowed identification of <u>all</u> groups to complement data collected on claimants.</p> <p>There will be a discretionary fund to ensure that the most vulnerable can access additional support in exceptional circumstances.</p>
Marriage and Civil Partnership	<p>No data are kept on the benefits system that allows us to identify claimants' marriage or civil partnership status. We do however know that 21% of claims are from couples (including same sex couples).</p> <p>The consultation has not identified any specific impacts based on marriage or civil partnerships and there is nothing in the proposed scheme that is likely to adversely affect this group in particular.</p> <p>The scheme proposed does not distinguish between couples who are married or in a civil partnership and those who are simply living together.</p>	<p>All claimants affected by the changes have been contacted by letter. Consultation has taken place which allowed identification of <u>all</u> groups to complement data collected on claimants.</p> <p>There will be a discretionary fund to ensure that the most vulnerable can access additional support in exceptional circumstances.</p>
Pregnancy and Maternity	<p>An analysis of the benefit caseload shows that there are 121 households</p>	<p>All claimants affected by the changes have been contacted</p>

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions
	<p>where statutory maternity pay or maternity allowance is received. There is nothing in the proposed scheme that is likely to adversely affect this group in particular.</p> <p>The consultation has not identified any specific impacts based on pregnancy or maternity.</p>	<p>by letter. Consultation has taken place which allowed identification of <u>all</u> groups to complement data collected on claimants.</p> <p>There will be a discretionary fund to ensure that the most vulnerable can access additional support in exceptional circumstances.</p>
Race	<p>No data are kept on the benefits system that allows us to identify a claimant's race.</p> <p>Employment and earnings levels differ amongst ethnic groups. National data identifies the highest risk if living on low income for people from Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities.</p> <p>In Southampton, 18.2% of residents (43,000 people) have an ethnic origin other than White-British in 2009. According to NOMIS Annual Population Date (2010), in Southampton, 26.5 % of white people aged 16-64 are economically inactive in Southampton this compares to 22.5% nationally. The figure is significantly higher for BME communities in the city at 36.2% compared to 32.2% nationally.</p> <p>The consultation has not identified any specific impacts based on race and there is nothing in the proposed scheme that is likely to adversely affect particular racial groups.</p>	<p>All claimants affected by the changes have been contacted by letter. Consultation has taken place which allowed identification of <u>all</u> groups to complement data collected on claimants.</p> <p>There will be a discretionary fund to ensure that the most vulnerable can access additional support in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>This year, the council has grant aided organisations that support excluded communities with learning programmes and assistance into work, including the Workers Educational Association and the Wheatsheaf Trust.</p>
Religion or Belief	<p>No data are kept on the benefits system that allows us to identify a claimant's religion or belief.</p> <p>As with ethnicity, there is evidence that some religious groups experience higher levels of poverty and disadvantage.</p> <p>The consultation has not identified any</p>	<p>All claimants affected by the changes have been contacted by letter. Consultation has taken place which allowed identification of <u>all</u> groups to complement data collected on claimants.</p>

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions
	<p>specific impacts based on religion or belief and there is nothing in the proposed scheme that is likely to adversely affect particular religious groups.</p>	<p>There will be a discretionary fund to ensure that the most vulnerable can access additional support in exceptional circumstances.</p>
Sex	<p>Of the households below working age approximately 70% contain an adult female and 48% contain an adult male.</p> <p>The consultation has not identified any specific impacts based on sex and there is nothing in the design of the proposed scheme that we would disproportionately affect either sex.</p> <p>Lone parents:</p> <p>Nationally, around 8% of lone parents are fathers.</p> <p>Over 70% of children living in poverty in the city are in lone parent households.</p> <p>There are approximately 2,200 lone parent households who have a child under the age of 5. Their income, on average is £234.62. On average their benefit will reduce by £3.53 which is 1.5% of their average income. For the transitional scheme this would reduce to 0.6%.</p>	<p>All claimants affected by the changes have been contacted by letter. Consultation has taken place which allowed identification of <u>all</u> groups to complement data collected on claimants.</p> <p>A Scrutiny Panel is examining the cumulative effects of welfare reforms.</p> <p>There will be a discretionary fund to ensure that the most vulnerable can access additional support in exceptional circumstances.</p>
Sexual Orientation	<p>No specific impact.</p> <p>No data are kept on the benefits system that allow us to identify a claimant's sexual orientation and there is nothing in the proposed scheme that is likely to adversely affect people of differing sexual orientation</p> <p>.</p>	<p>All claimants affected by the changes have been contacted by letter. Consultation has taken place which allowed identification of <u>all</u> groups to complement data collected on claimants.</p> <p>There will be a discretionary fund to ensure that the most vulnerable can access additional support in exceptional circumstances.</p>
Community Safety	No specific impact identified.	

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions
<p>Poverty</p>	<p>9,335 of the 15,018 of the households affected are passported onto CTB. This means their income is at Income Support level – the minimum they are considered to need to live on.</p> <p>The proportion of children living in poverty (2010) is higher in Southampton at 26.1% than the national average of 20.6%.</p> <p>There are 8 areas in the city which are in the 10% most deprived in England.</p> <p>Issues such as caring responsibilities, substance misuse, domestic violence, being ex-armed forces, or an ex-offender can also have a significant impact on income and other aspects of financial exclusion. However, we have no data locally on these issues for CTB claimants.</p> <p>Appendix 2 shows that the group which will lose most benefit as a proportion of their income are those classified as “other” who will lose an average of 4.3% of their income. These are often single people on particularly low incomes (the average is £87). 86% are on passported benefits.</p> <p>For the transitional scheme this effect is reduced substantially to 1.5% of average income, with this group being affected less than earners.</p>	<p>All claimants affected by the changes have been contacted by letter. Consultation has taken place which allowed identification of all groups to complement data collected on claimants.</p> <p>A Scrutiny Panel is examining the cumulative effects of welfare reforms.</p> <p>There will be a discretionary fund to ensure that the most vulnerable can access additional support in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>The council provides services directly and supports external organisations that provide help and advice for people in poverty. These include the Welfare Rights and Money Advice which provides independent, confidential and free advice to Southampton City residents on all aspects of money, debt and welfare benefits. External organisations that received a grant in this year include Southampton Advice and Representation Centre, Southampton Citizens Advice Bureau, and No Limits.</p> <p>The council also supports SCRATCH which provides a range of support to people experiencing hardship (furniture, administration of Basic’s Bank food and clothing vouchers).</p>

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions
		<p>The council has also awarded grants to organisations which help unemployed people into work, including the Prince's Trust (Fairbridge) and the Wheatsheaf Trust.</p> <p>The council work with a range of partners to support employment and skills development.</p> <p>The Council receives an annual budget of £394,000 from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to deliver the Community Learning programme.</p> <p>Employment and Skills Plans (ESPs) are a requirement for all major developments in the city through obligations within Section 106 Planning Agreements and/or Sustainable Procurement policy. The aim of ESPs is to maximise social and economic outcomes linked to major developments in the city. In particular, ESPs create local labour initiatives for new Apprenticeships and jobs to reduce unemployment, provide employer-led opportunities for local people to raise skills levels, and provide curriculum support/placement activities for schools/colleges.</p> <p>The Solent Skills Development Zone (SSDZ) continues to provide a focus and delivery mechanism for employment and skills related economic and social regeneration activity within the City.</p>

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions
Other Significant Impacts		
<p>SCC Charging Policy Adult Social Care</p>	<p>The council is currently consulting on proposed changes to its charging policy - towards the costs of Adult Non-Residential Care services in Southampton (such as home care and day care).</p> <p>The proposal would potentially increase contributions towards the cost of social care services for those who are assessed as being able to contribute more.</p> <p>An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken on this proposal.</p> <p>This identified the majority of social care users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are over 65 • female • have critical or substantial needs generally associated with their disability. <p>There is a potential cumulative impact on some residents if the proposed scheme for Adult Social Care Charging and LCTS scheme are implemented.</p> <p>Benefits Services and Adult Social Care have worked together to identify individuals who will be affected by both changes. Around 300 residents have been identified based on the current proposals.</p>	<p>SCC can only do this as long as these charges are in line with the Government's "Fair Access to Care Service" national guidance.</p> <p>Individuals will contribute based on the individual assessment of their means.</p> <p>No one will be left with an income of less than DWP minimum income guarantee plus 25%</p> <p>Anyone who feels they have to refuse care because of the impact of the additional cost will be assessed and support provided to meet eligible need.</p> <p>Adult Social Care are working with SCC Advice Services to develop support for individuals.</p>
<p>Social Fund: (Abolition of Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants)</p>	<p>The Welfare Reform Act (2012) abolishes the discretionary elements of the Social Fund from April 2013 (Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants).</p> <p>Crisis Loans are for immediate short-term need in an emergency or as a consequence of a disaster.</p> <p>In Southampton in 2011/12, there were 480 applications for Crisis Loan Items and 250 awards (total expenditure</p>	<p>The Government will be referring people who need emergency financial assistance to local authorities, from April 2013.</p> <p>Funding will be made available to the SCC for 2013/14 and 2014/15 to support transition.</p> <p>There is concern that the cumulative impact of the welfare reforms will result in increased</p>

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions
	<p>£32,100).</p> <p>There were 5,600 applications and 4430 awards for Crisis Loan Expenses (total expenditure £227,500). Of these the majority of applicants were single males under 35 (60+%).</p> <p>Community Care Grants are for a range of expenses. Nationally, around a third of all awards are made to disabled people, 26% to lone parents, 17% to unemployed, 10% to pensioners and 15% to others.</p> <p>The most common items awarded for are; Beds & bedding (38%), clothing (14%), kitchen/dining utensils (13%), cookers (8%), carpet/curtains (8%), seating (5%), removal expenses (1%), other (8%).</p> <p>In Southampton in 2011/12, there were 1820 applications and 820 awards (total expenditure £333,800). Of these, 24% were lone parents.</p> <p>The abolition of the discretionary elements of the Social Fund will leave some residents (and the services that support them with reduced or no access to emergency support.</p>	<p>demand for emergency support.</p> <p>A working group has been set up and is developing a tiered approach to support the most vulnerable in crisis.</p> <p>The local response will take into consideration the work of the Scrutiny Inquiry on Welfare Reforms and assessment of agencies on the impact of Welfare Reforms locally.</p> <p>Information about how to get support locally will be available to the public and frontline workers in advance of April 2013.</p>
<p>SCC Budget proposals - Cumulative Impacts</p>	<p>The council is facing a budget gap of over £20 million pounds for 2013/14.</p> <p>Consultation with the residents and other stakeholders is currently underway.</p> <p>Some groups who will be affected most by the proposals may also be those most affected by the national welfare reforms and the proposed Local Council Tax Scheme, Social Fund (transition) and Social Care Charging Policy.</p>	<p>Equality and Safety Impact Assessments have been undertaken on the budget proposals. A cumulative impact assessment has been produced which identify the impacts, future cost implications to public services, mitigation and other factors to consider – covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • older people • children and young people • disabled people • race, religion or belief • Gender • Sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage and civil

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions
		partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety • Poverty.
Impact of the National Reforms on Southampton Residents	<p>There are a range of additional national welfare reforms that are due to be implemented from April 2013.</p> <p>Some groups who will be affected most by the proposals may also be those most affected by the national welfare reforms and the proposed Local Council Tax Scheme, Social Fund (transition) and Social Care Charging Policy.</p> <p>Ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition (disabled people) from Incapacity Benefit to ESA (11,970 (claimant count November 2011)). <p>April 2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,068 individuals and families face hardship as a result of under occupancy reductions • 15,000 also potentially impacted by the changes to a local Council Tax Support Scheme • 5,500 impacted by changes to Social Fund (based on 2011/12 applications). <p>From October 2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Disability living Allowance to Personal Independence Payment: (10, 010 (claimant count February 2012)). • 214 families face hardship as a result of benefit cap reductions. 	<p>Partnership work with Southampton Connect Priority Project : Gateway to a Better Future “to communicate the impact of welfare benefit changes in relation to vulnerable residents so that informed choices can be made about their lives”.</p> <p>A Scrutiny Panel is examining the cumulative effects of welfare reforms.</p> <p>A range of communication is underway to contact those affected directly and offer support were possible.</p> <p>There will be a discretionary funding (Discretionary Housing Payments and a discretionary fund for Local Council Tax Support) to ensure that the most vulnerable can access additional support in exceptional circumstances.</p>

Additional Documents and Links

Adult Social Care Charging Policy:

Consultation:

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/council-partners/consult/current/chargingpolicy.aspx>

Equality Impact Assessments:

http://www.southampton.gov.uk/Images/AHoS12-640%20EIA%20AS10%2011%20-%20Increase%20in%20income%20due%20to%20increase%20in%20benefits%20FINAL_tcm46-333818.pdf

Southampton City Council Budget Proposals 2013/14:

Consultation:

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/news-events/latest-news/budget2013.aspx>

Cumulative Equality Impact Assessment:

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/modernGov/documents/s14621/Budget%20EIA%20-%20Part%201.pdf>

Social Fund Data:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/social-fund-reform/localisation-data/>

Government Transitional Scheme

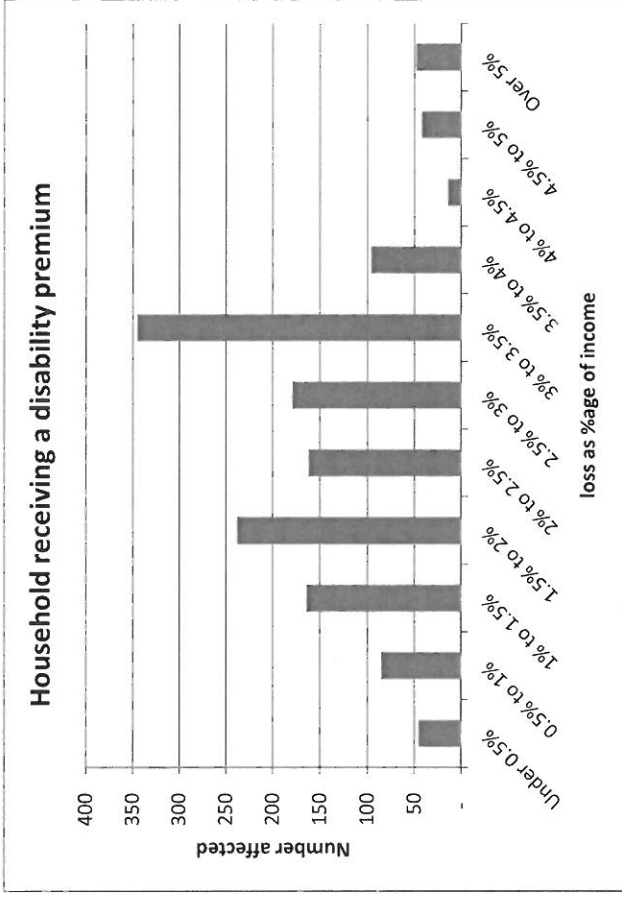
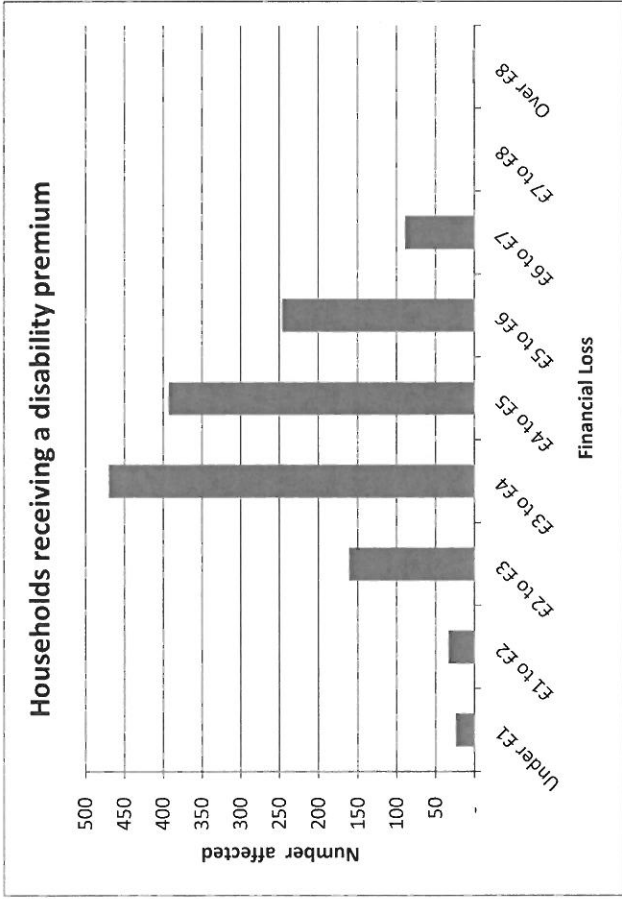
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/14665/trans_grant_scheme.pdf

Proposed Council Tax Support Scheme for Southampton:- Impact on claimant groups compared to existing Council Tax Benefit Scheme (CTB)

Group Description	Households affected	Total reduction in support granted	Average loss per household (annual)	Average loss per household (weekly)
Non-Passported - Child Under 5	818	£154,540.92	£188.93	£3.62
Non-Passported - Disability	607	£110,900.83	£182.70	£3.50
Non-Passported - Disabled Child Premium	149	£27,854.41	£186.94	£3.59
Non-Passported - Family Premium	1643	£247,613.46	£150.71	£2.89
Non-Passported - Lone Parent Child Under 5	504	£71,350.94	£141.57	£2.72
Non-Passported - Other	639	£110,687.52	£173.22	£3.32
Non-Passported - Severe Disability	179	£32,529.23	£181.73	£3.49
Non-Passported - War Pensioners	5	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Non-Passported - Working	724	£92,449.24	£127.69	£2.45
Passported - Child Under 5	456	£118,875.59	£260.69	£5.00
Passported - Disability	816	£190,409.18	£233.34	£4.48
Passported - Disabled Child Premium	288	£66,614.18	£231.30	£4.44
Passported - Family Premium	1723	£380,653.28	£220.92	£4.24
Passported - Lone Parent Child Under 5	1732	£339,390.02	£195.95	£3.76
Passported - Other	3764	£734,643.71	£195.18	£3.74
Passported - Severe Disability	940	£178,589.70	£189.99	£3.64
Passported - War Pensioners	1	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Passported - Working	26	£5,240.61	£201.56	£3.87
Grand Total	15014	£2,862,342.82	£190.64	£3.66

NB. Individuals only appear in one group. For example, there will be more than 693 people who are Non-Passported – Working, but they may appear in earlier rows and are not distinguished.

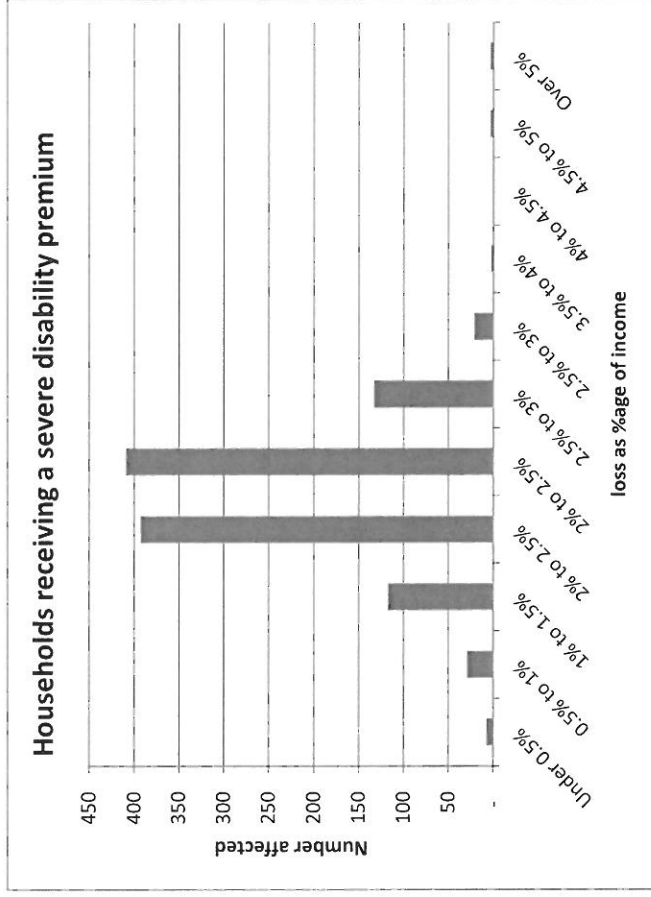
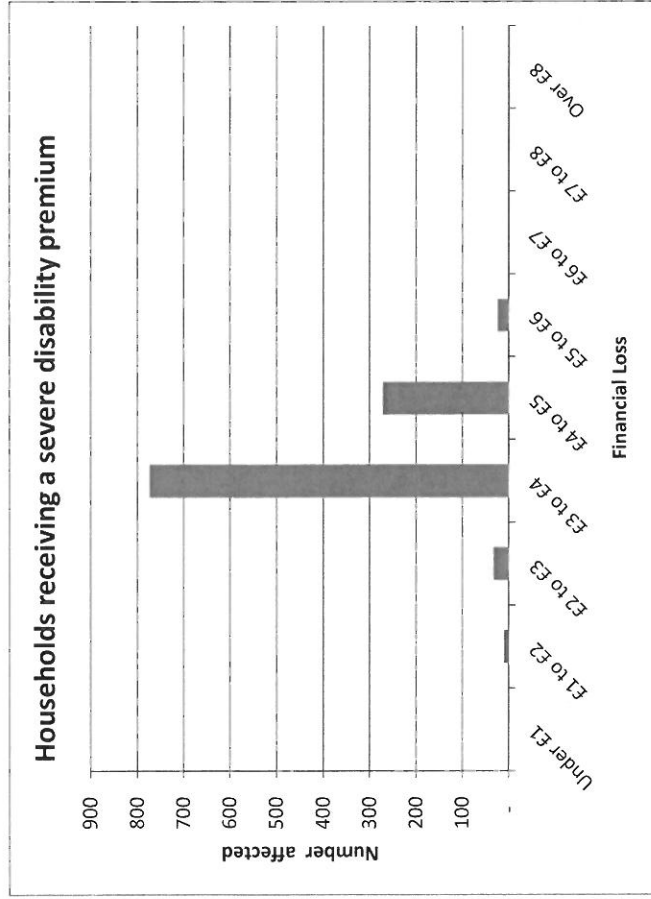
Disability Premium



There are approximately 1423 people receiving a disability premium. Their income, on average, is £208.28. On average their benefit will be reduced by £4.08 which is 1.96% of their average income.

There are 83 households in this group that may also be affected by changes to the Charging Policy.

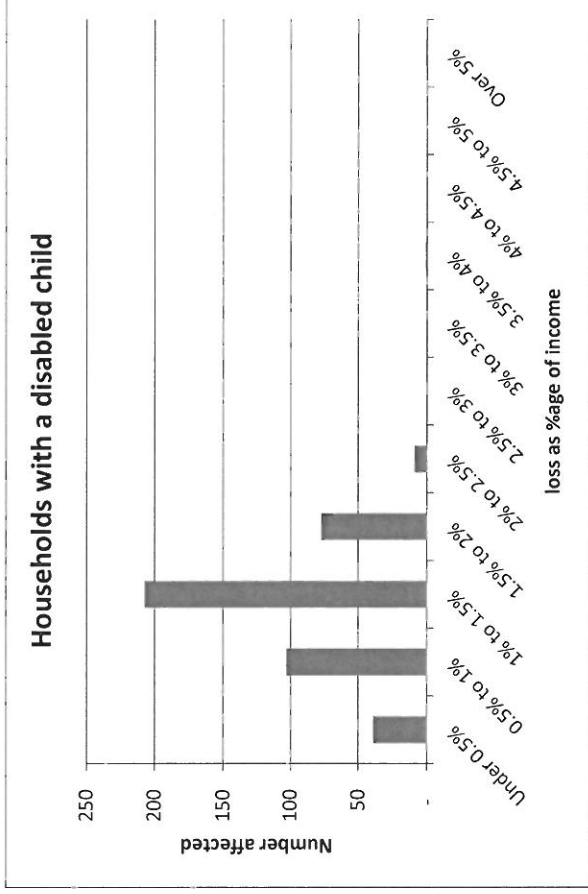
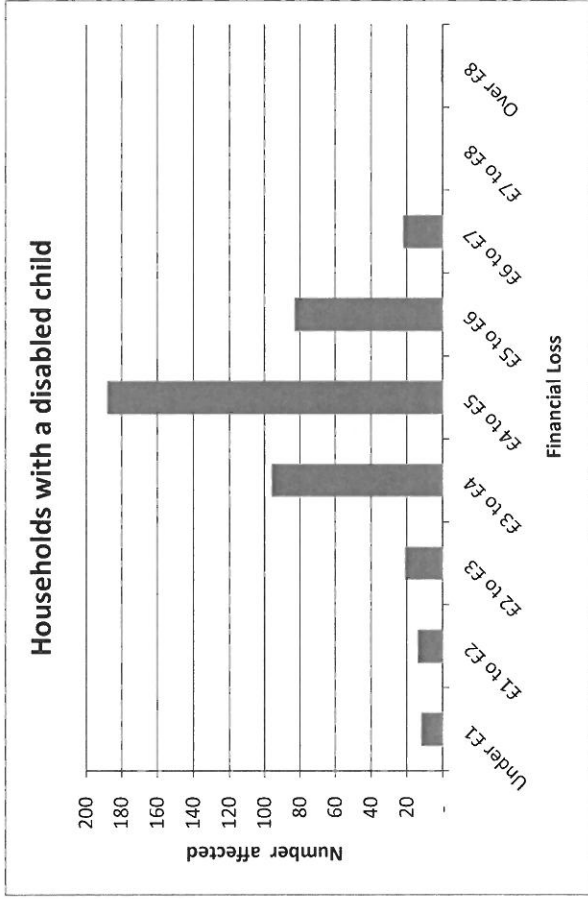
Severe Disability Premium



There are approximately 1119 people receiving a severe disability premium. Their income, on average, is £191.93. On average their benefit will be reduced by £3.62 which is 1.89% of their average income.

There are 189 households in this group that may also be affected by changes to the Charging Policy.

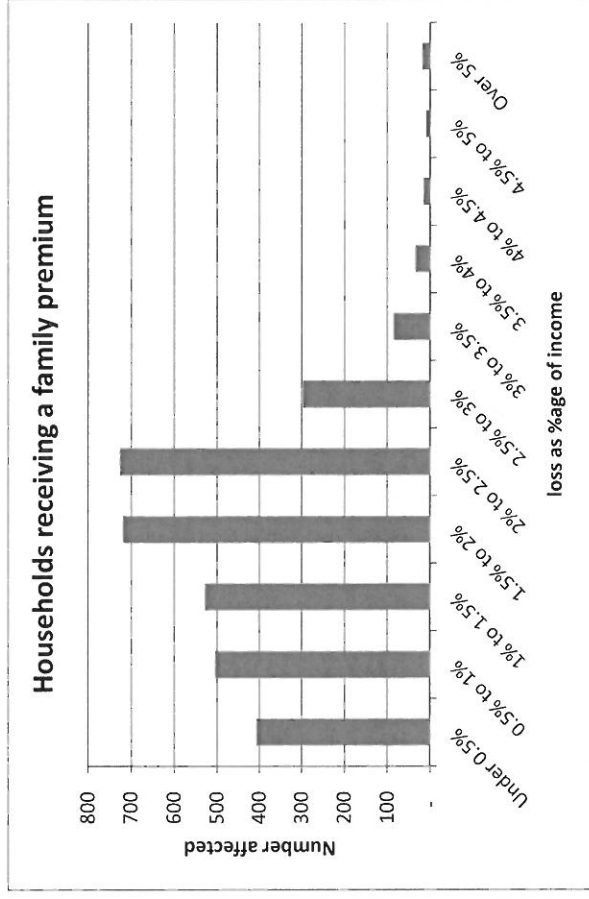
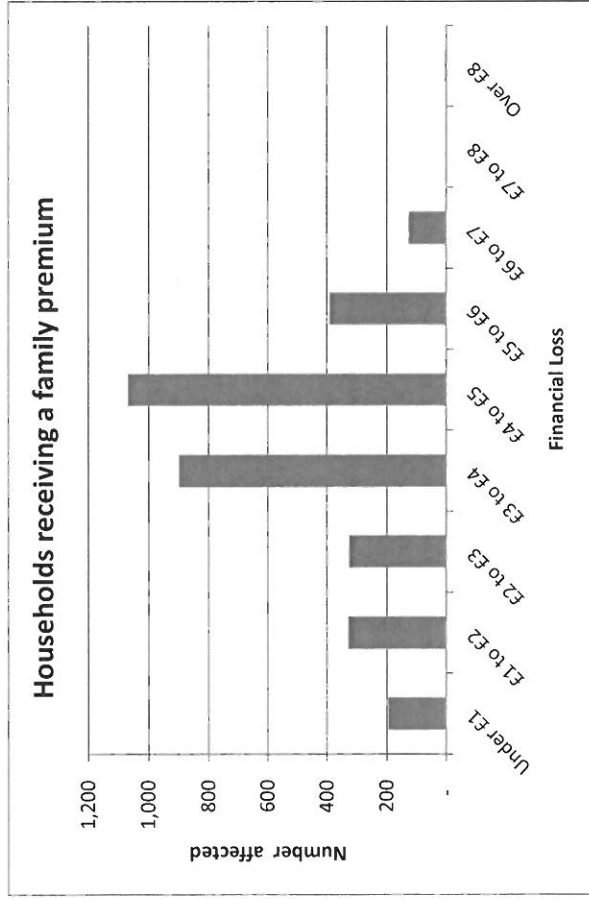
Disabled Children



There are approximately 437 households which have a disabled child. Their income, on average, is £395.25. On average their benefit will be reduced by £4.15 which is 1.05% of their average income.

There are 1 household in this group that may also be affected by changes to the Charging Policy.

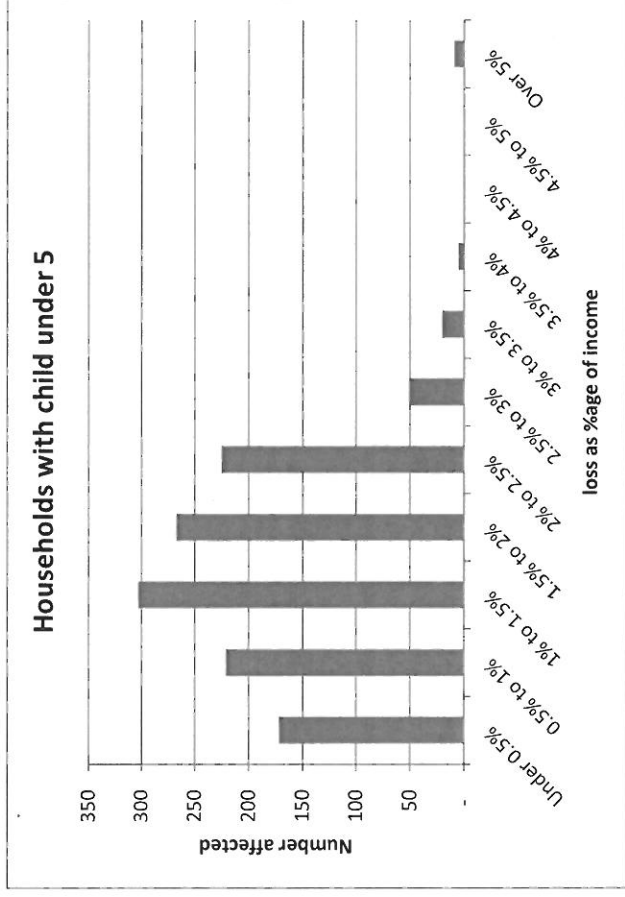
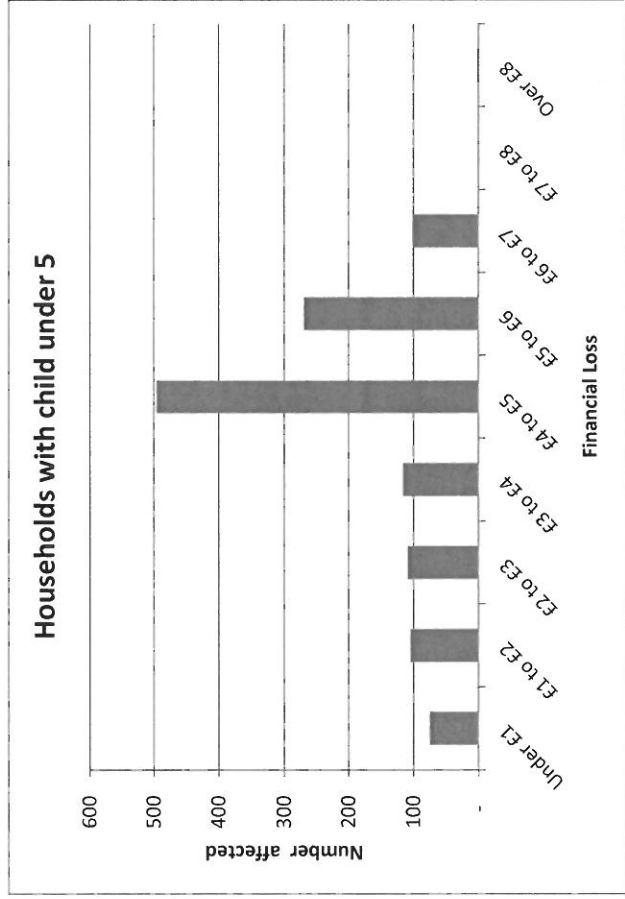
Family Premium



There are approximately 3366 households which receive a family premium. Their income, on average, is £262.58. On average their benefit will be reduced by £3.61 which is 1.37% of their average income.

There are 13 households in this group that may also be affected by changes to the Charging Policy.

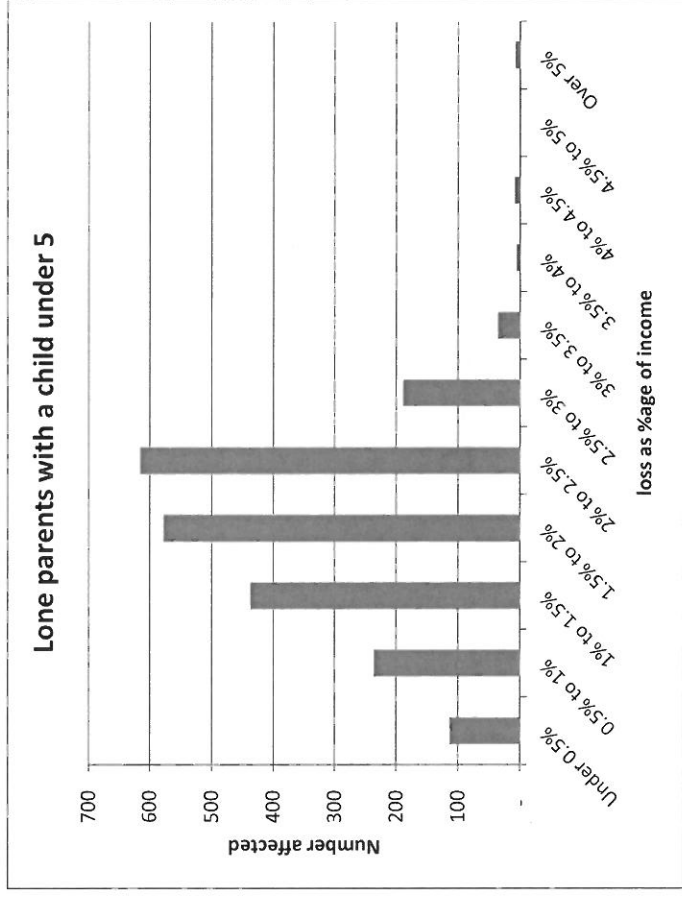
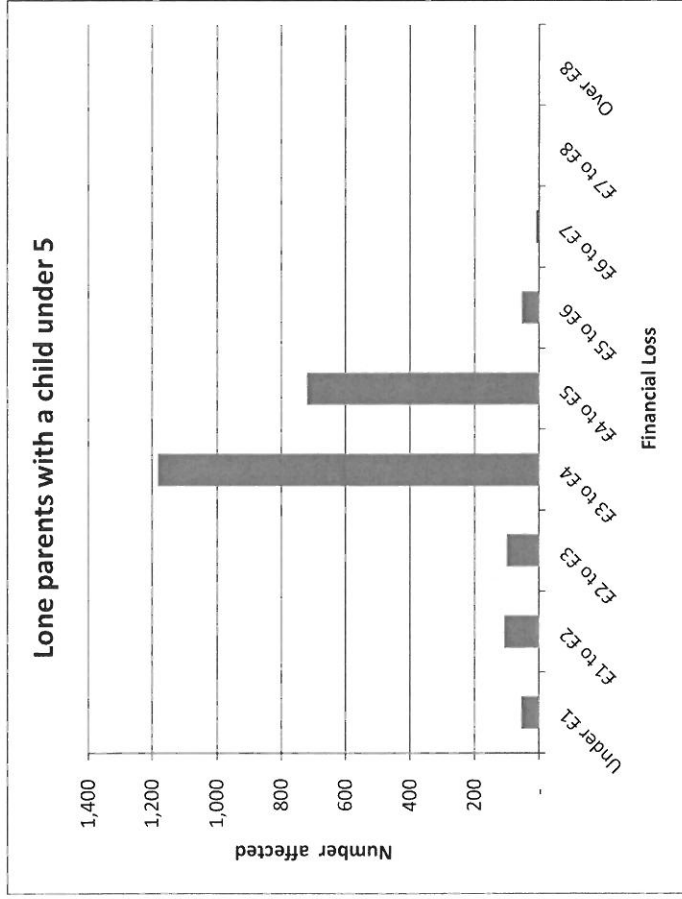
Children under 5 years old



There are approximately 1274 households which have a child under 5. Their income, on average, is £332.69. On average their benefit will be reduced by £4.12 which is 1.24% of their average income.

There are 2 households in this group that may also be affected by changes to the Charging Policy.

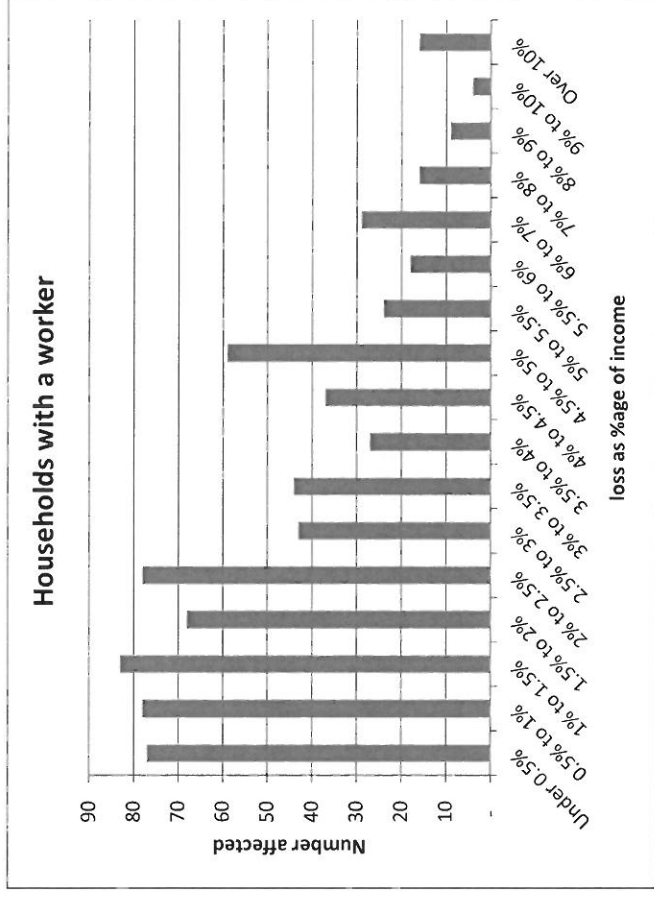
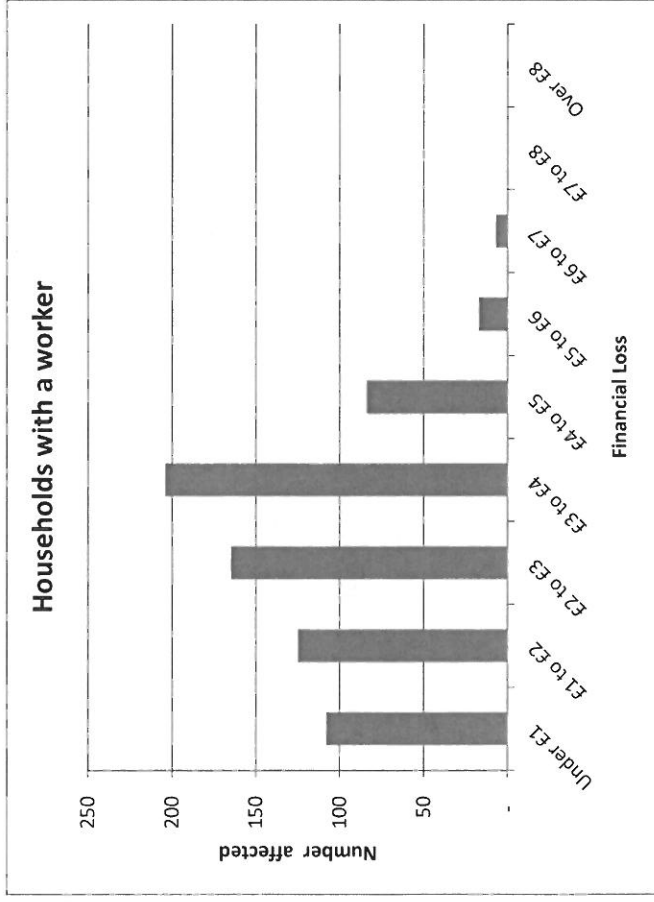
Lone Parents with Children under 5



There are approximately 2236 lone parent households which have a child under 5. Their income, on average, is £234.62. On average their benefit will be reduced by £3.53 which is 1.51% of their average income.

There are 2 households in this group that may also be affected by changes to the Charging Policy.

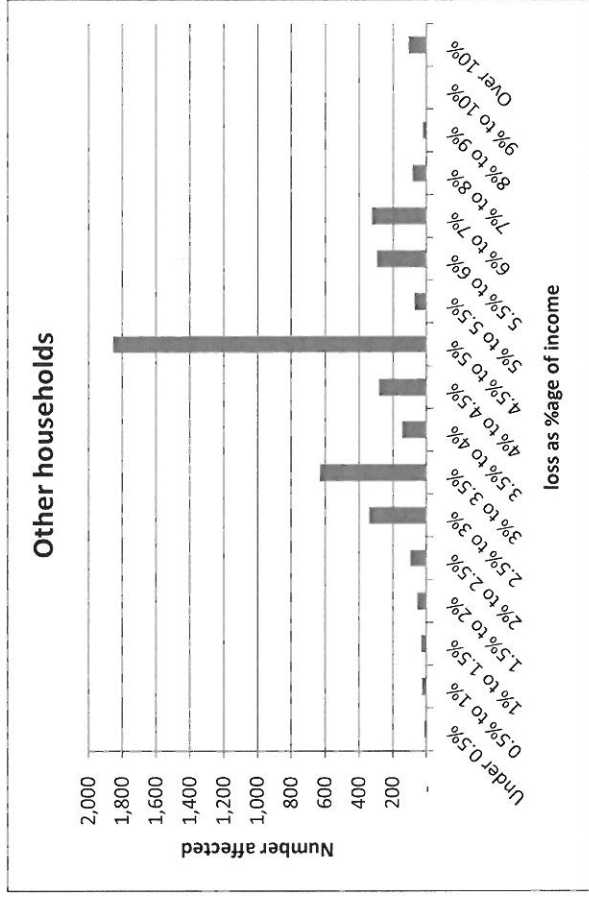
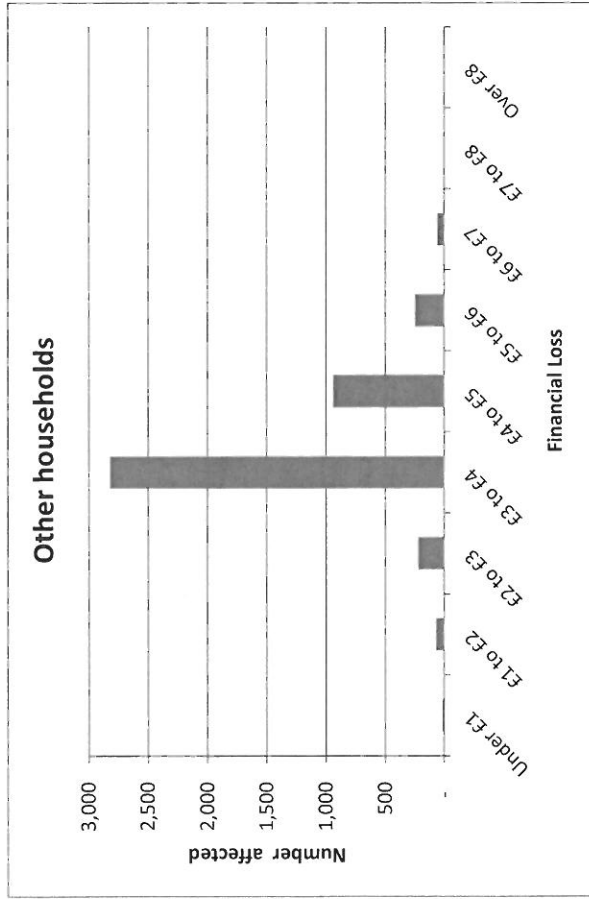
Workers



There are approximately 750 households who are in paid employment. Their income, on average, is £133.82. On average their benefit will be reduced by £2.64 which is 1.97% of their average income.

There are 3 households in this group that may also be affected by changes to the Charging Policy.

Others



There are approximately 4403 households that do not fall into the other categories. Their income, on average, is £86.92. On average their benefit will be reduced by £3.71 which is 4.27% of their average income.

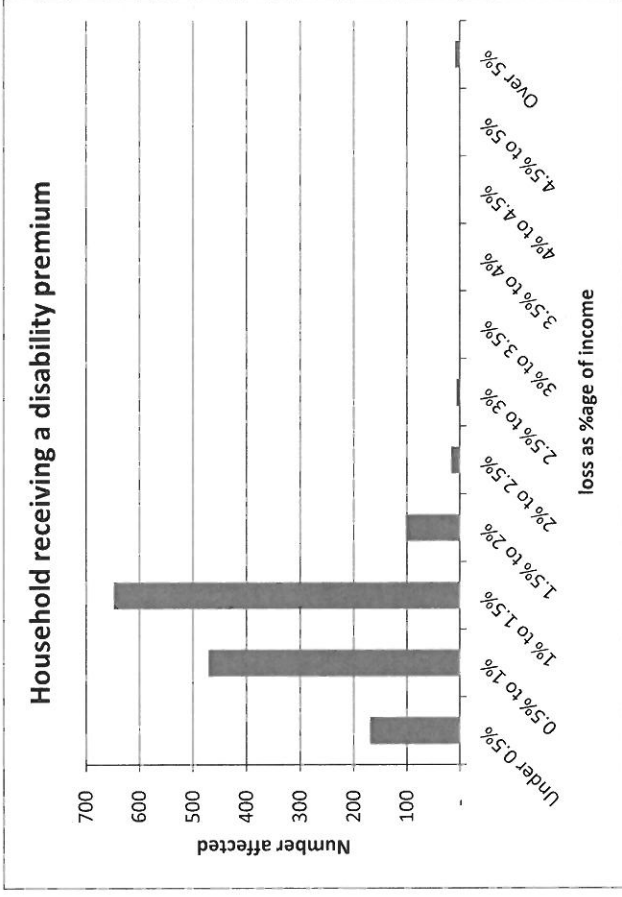
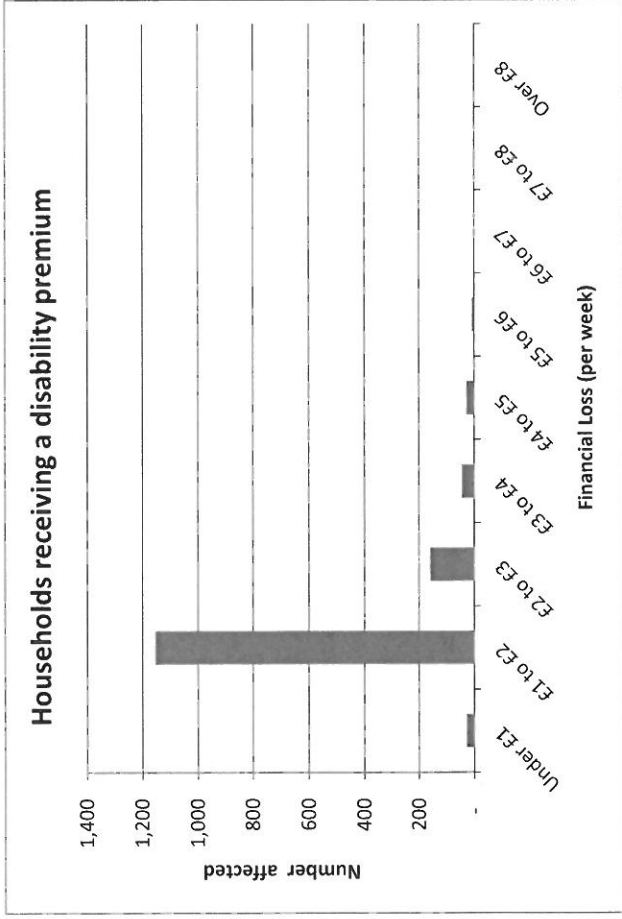
There are 72 households in this group that may also be affected by changes to the Charging Policy.

Notes:

It is a limitation of the modelling tool from our software supplier that claimants can only appear in one group. So, for example, there will be workers who have a child under the age of 5. These will appear in the children under 5 group, rather than the workers group.

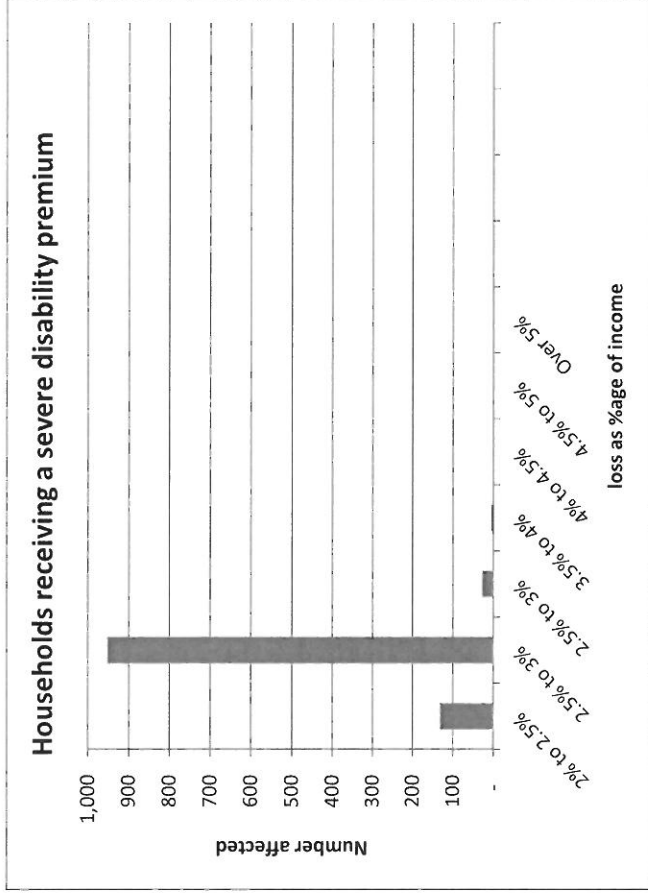
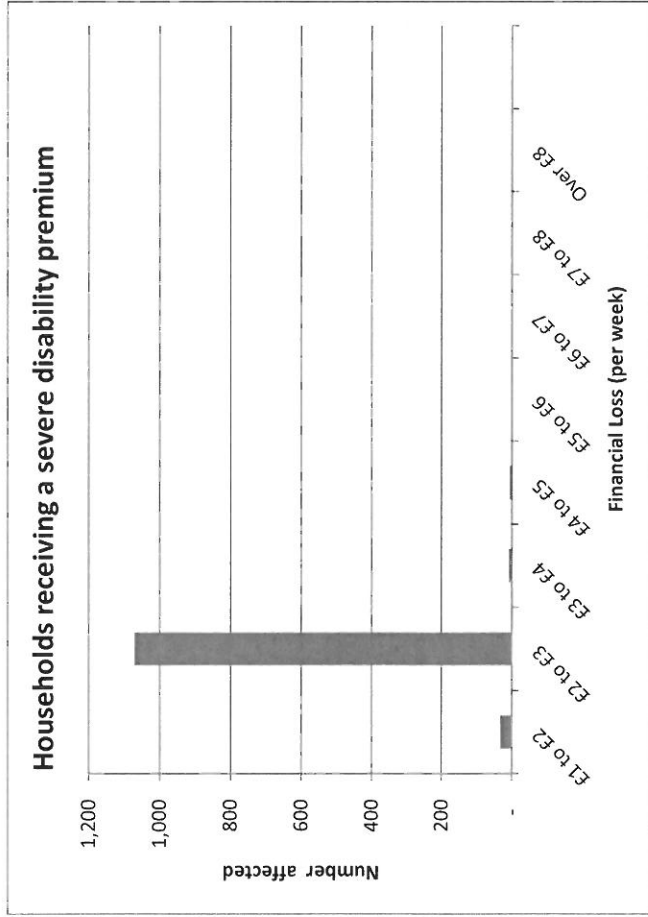
Slight discrepancies on averages or totals may occur due to second adult rebate. These are not included in the above figures, but may appear in other reports

Disability Premium



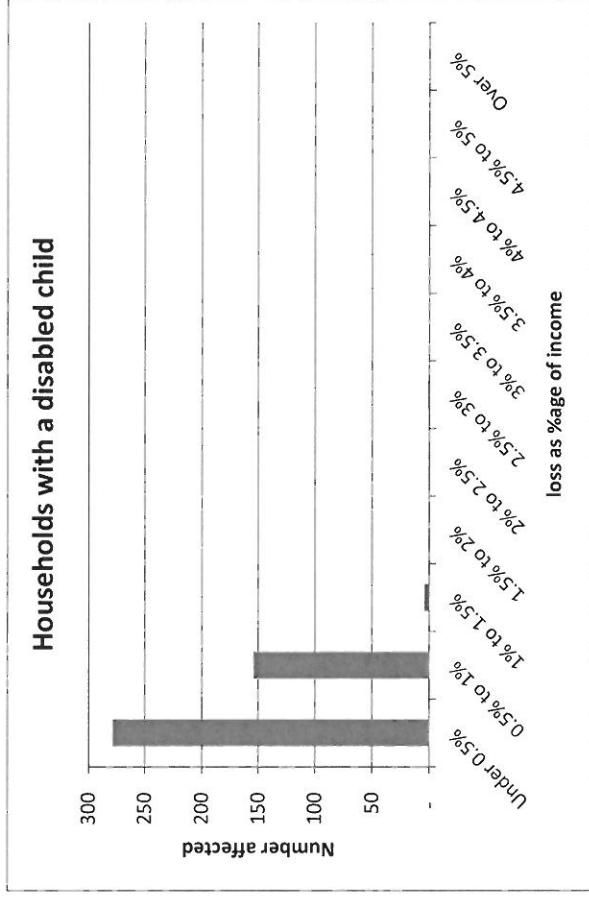
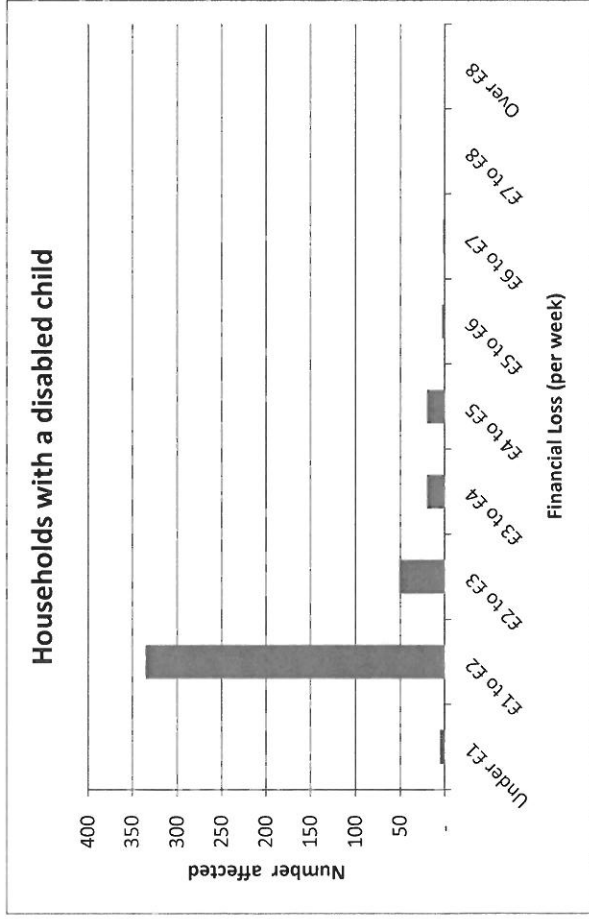
There are approximately 1423 people receiving a disability premium. Their income, on average, is £208.28. On average their benefit will be reduced by £1.72 which is 0.83% of their average income.

Severe Disability Premium



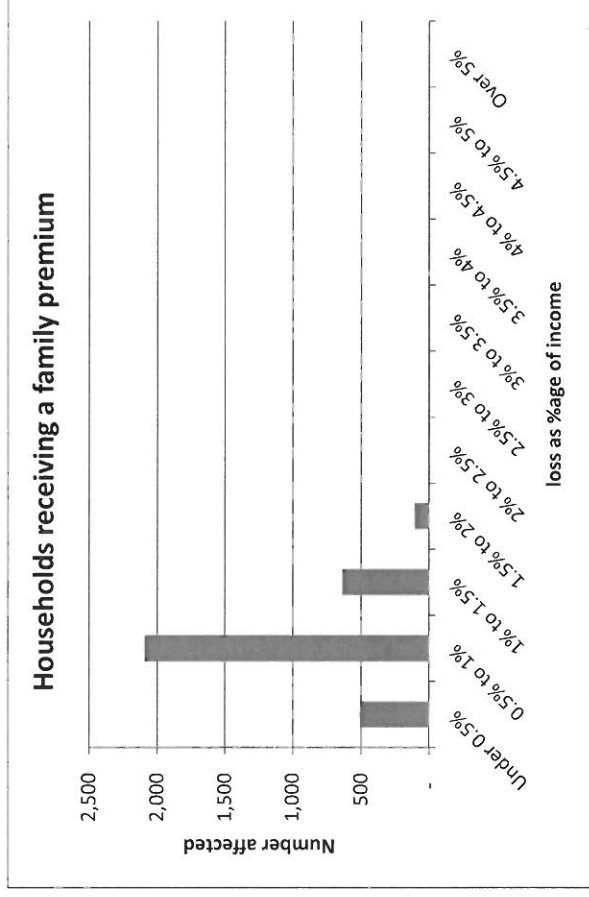
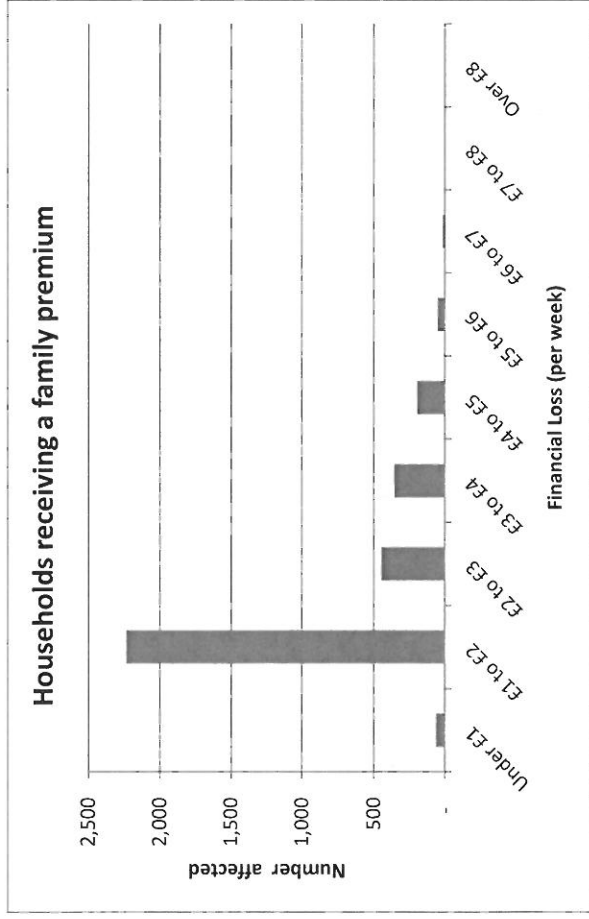
There are approximately 1119 people receiving a severe disability premium. Their income, on average, is £191.93. On average their benefit will be reduced by £1.26 which is 0.66% of their average income.

Disabled Children



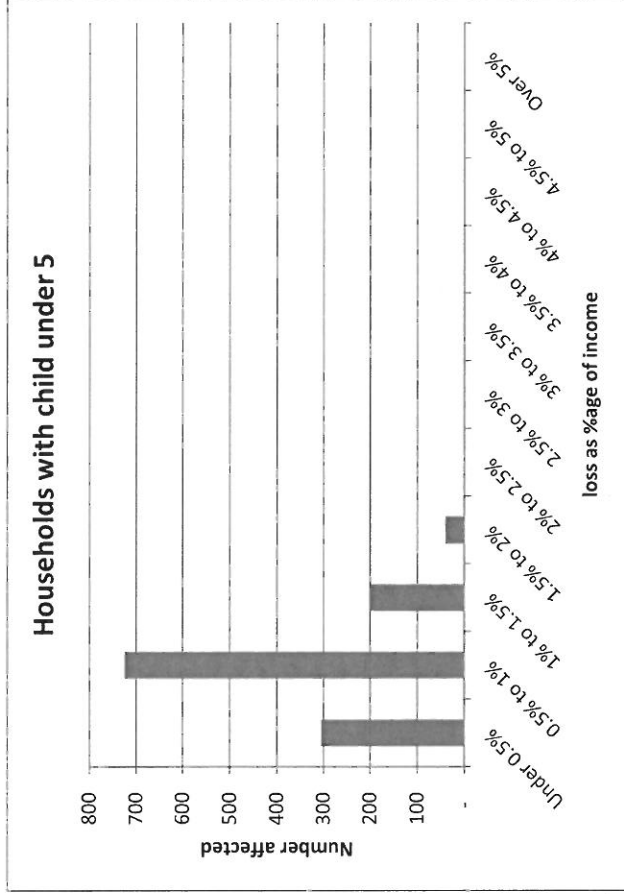
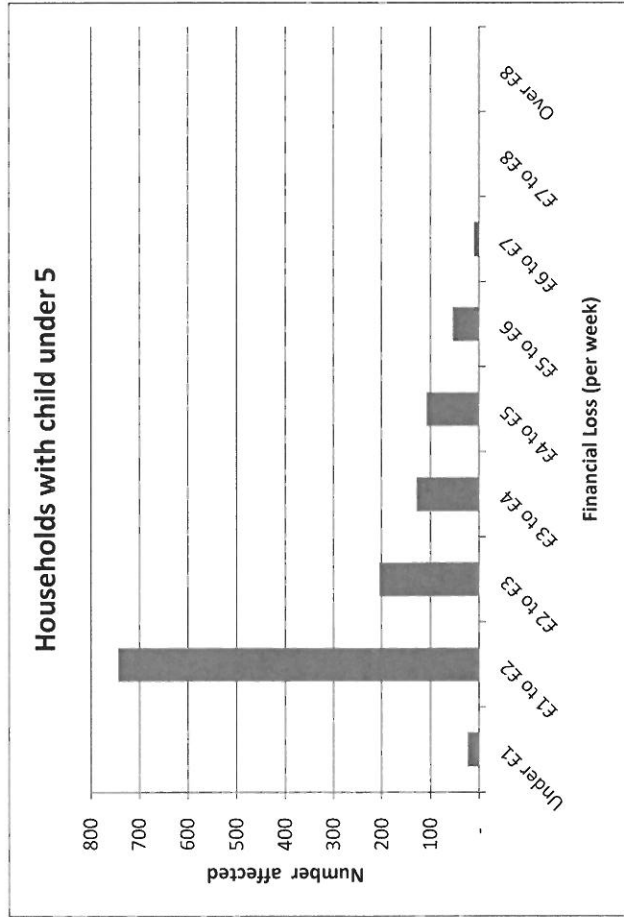
There are approximately 437 households which have a disabled child. Their income, on average, is £395.25. On average their benefit will be reduced by £1.88 which is 0.48% of their average income.

Family Premium



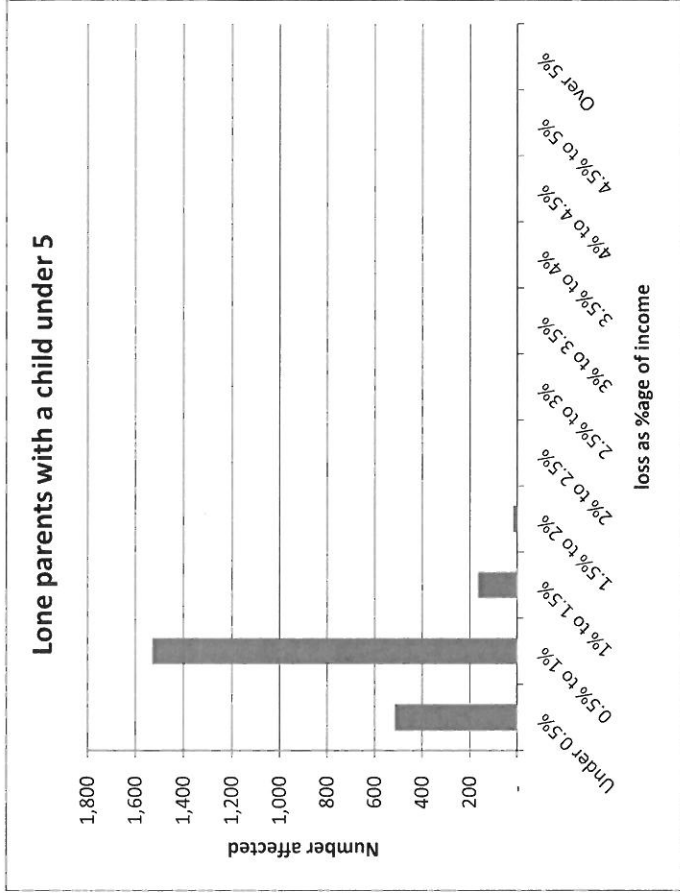
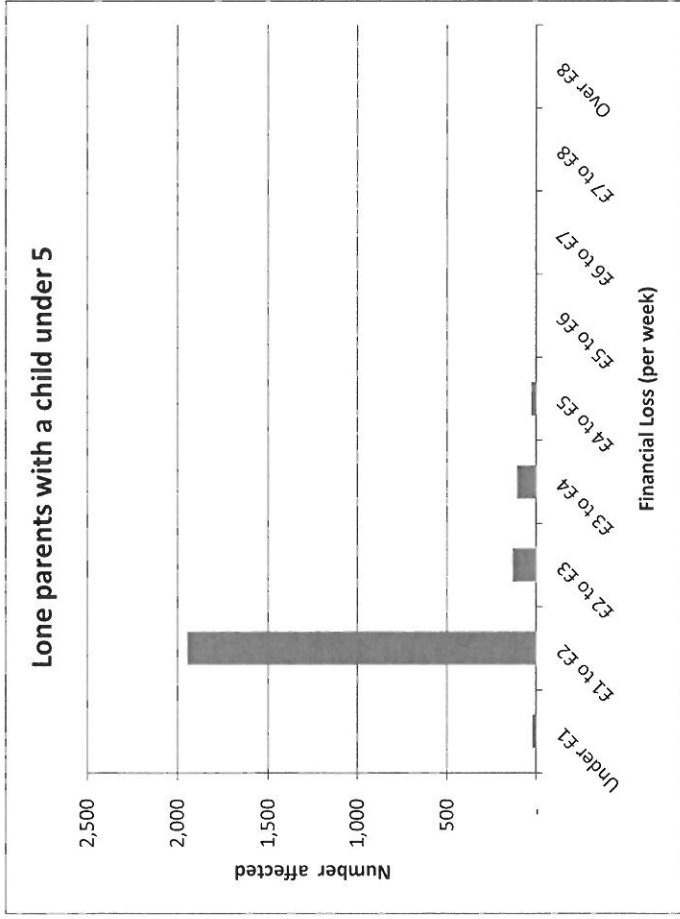
There are approximately 3366 households which receive a family premium. Their income, on average, is £262.58. On average their benefit will be reduced by £2.03 which is 0.77% of their average income.

Children under 5 years old



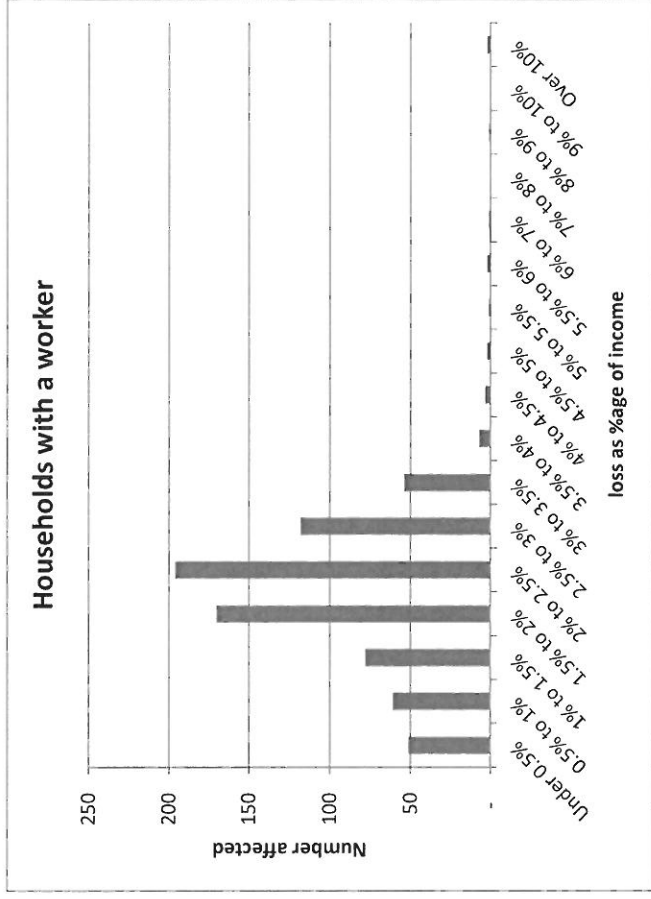
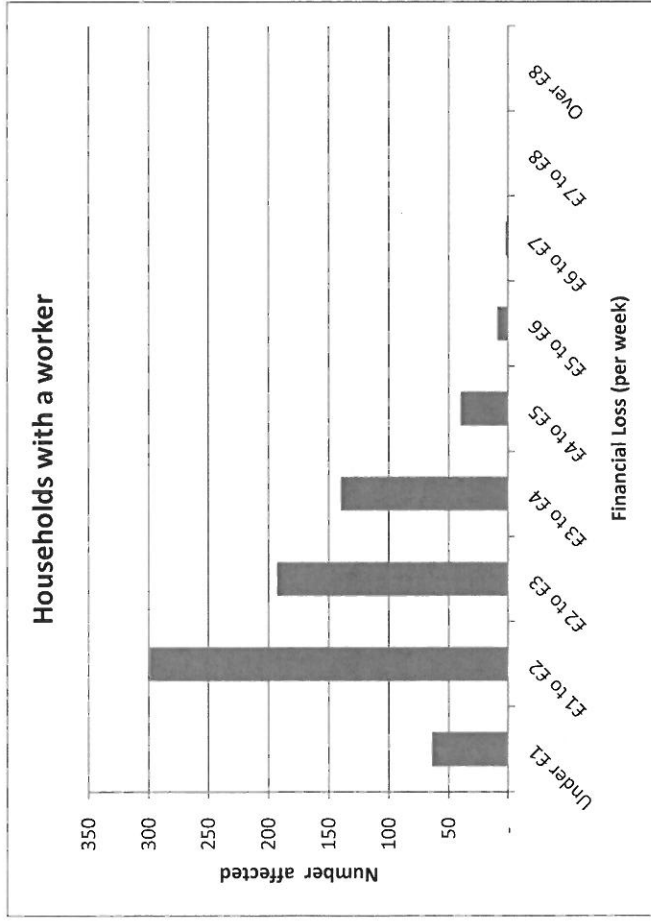
There are approximately 1274 households which have a child under 5. Their income, on average, is £332.69. On average their benefit will be reduced by £2.38 which is 0.71% of their average income.

Lone Parents with Children under 5



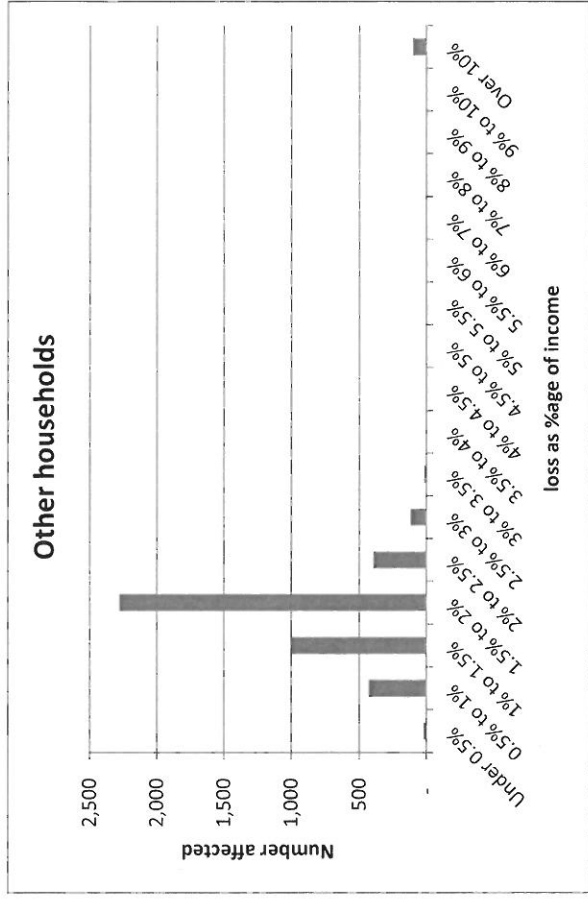
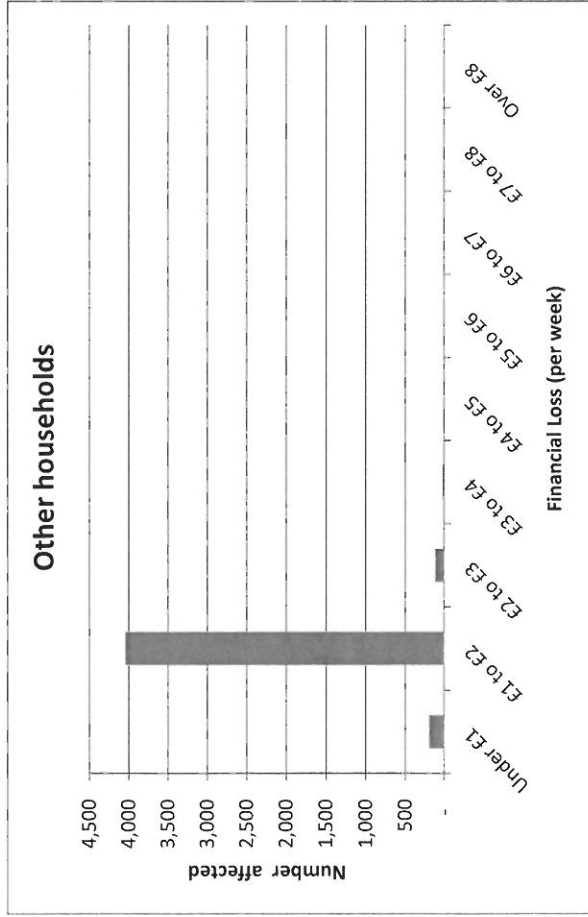
There are approximately 2236 lone parent households which have a child under 5. Their income, on average, is £234.62. On average their benefit will be reduced by £1.50 which is 0.64% of their average income.

Workers



There are approximately 750 households who are in paid employment. Their income, on average, is £133.82. On average their benefit will be reduced by £2.19 which is 1.64% of their average income.

Others



There are approximately 4403 households that do not fall into the other categories Their income, on average, is £86.92. On average their benefit will be reduced by £1.32 which is 1.52% of their average income.

Notes:

It is a limitation of the modelling tool from our software supplier that claimants can only appear in one group. So, for example, there will be workers who have a child under the age of 5. These will appear in the children under 5 group, rather than the workers group.

Slight discrepancies on totals may occur due to second adult rebate. These are not included in the above figures, but may appear in other reports

