



EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Assessment Form

Homeless strategy 2008-2013

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Assessment Form

Please use this form to record your findings in relation to the assessment of an existing policy, function, service and practice.

A. POLICY, PRACTICE, FUNCTION OR PROJECT TO BE ASSESSED

A1. Please describe what are the main aims, objectives, purpose and intended outcomes of the policy or function?

The overall aim of the homelessness strategy is:

- the prevention of homelessness
- ensuring that there is sufficient accommodation available to people who are, or who may become homeless
- ensuring there is adequate support for people who are, or who may become homeless, or who need support to prevent them from becoming homeless again

A2. Is this policy or function associated with any other Council policy or priority?

Yes, these are outlined on pages 4-7 of the strategy document and include:

Regional Homelessness Action Plan
The Cambridgeshire Local Area Agreement 06-09
The Supporting People Commissioning Body
Choice Based Lettings Scheme
Housing strategy
Housing Futures
Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-10

Corporate Objective:

- *Deliver high quality services that represent best value and are accessible to all our community.*

A3. Who are the intended beneficiaries/stakeholders of the policy or function? How many people are affected and from what sections of the community?

All residents in the district who need housing advice or are at risk of homelessness. Key agencies in the area where joint working will be of benefit to the community.

The homelessness review document illustrates figures of those accessing the service.

A4. Is the policy/function corporate and far reaching?

Yes – this is a statutory responsibility and could have a significant impact on finances.

A5. Are you expecting to make any significant change to the policy or service in the near future? If so, please give details.

Potential changes could arise as a result of legislative changes, the outcome of the housing futures project and external factors – such as ‘credit crunch’

Is this a new or existing policy or function?	A new strategy for 2008-2013, replacing previous 2003-2008 strategy.
Lead Officer	Sue Carter
Service	Housing advice and options
Date of Assessment	01/07/08
Equality Impact Assessment Team	Sue Carter
	Julie Fletcher
	Patricia Crampton

B.	<p>EVIDENCE/ DATA</p> <p>It is important to consider all information that is available in determining whether the policy or function could have a differential impact. Please attach examples of monitoring information, research or consultation reports.</p>
<p>B1. What monitoring or other information do you have about relevant target groups which will show the impact of the policy or function?</p> <p>The homeless review shows statistical information on the impact of the service, including those accessing the service, homeless prevention and homeless applications.</p>	
<p>B2. Have you compared the data you have with the equality profile of the local population? What does it show?</p> <p>Page 10 of the homeless review shows comparisons between homeless applications and population by ethnic origin. Whilst there are a higher proportion of non-white applicants making homeless application (7.1% compared to 2.9%), these figures could be misleading due to the actual numbers being very small (the highest proportion of 2.6% is for mixed-other mixed which translates to 3 non-white homeless applications).</p>	
<p>B2. If monitoring has not been undertaken, will it be done in the future or do you have access to relevant monitoring data for this area? If not please specify what arrangements you have in place to undertake this?</p> <p>Homeless monitoring on equality has tended to cover ethnicity only. Further consideration to be given to other equality factors, such as those contained in the housing register application form.</p> <p>Improved monitoring of housing advice enquiries – part of action plan.</p>	
<p>B3. Please list any consultations that you may have undertaken or supporting consultation, research or other information that will assist you in carrying out this impact assessment.</p> <p>General consultation carried out in respect of the Homeless Strategy. Surveys during homelessness review conducted with service providers, private landlord, housing associations, and service users. Research during homelessness review.</p>	

B4. Have you undertaken any consultation with staff to assess their perception of any impacts on the policy or function?

Informal discussion on review and action plan at team meetings.

C1. IMPACT OF THE POLICY OR FUNCTION

Assess the potential impact on each of the equality strands/groups. The impact could be negative, positive or neutral. If you assess a negative impact for any of the groups then you will need to assess whether that impact is low, medium or high. Refer to the evidence you use.

	DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT	Nature of Impact (Positive/ Neutral/ Adverse)	Extent of Impact (Low, Medium, High)
GENDER	The proportions of male or female headed households making homeless applications are similar to those accepted as homeless. Statutory guidance is followed for such applicants – there is the possibility that more women could be assisted, due to pregnancy and increased incidents of domestic violence. As prevention increases and occupants of temporary accommodation decrease, more resources are available to assist non-priority cases (gender neutral)	Neutral	Low
RACE	Page 10 of the homeless review shows comparisons between homeless applications and population by ethnic origin. Whilst there are a higher proportion of non-white applicants making homeless application (7.1% compared to 2.9%), these figures could be misleading due to the actual numbers being very small	Neutral	Low
DISABILITY	Disability can impact on assistance offered to single applicants – if this places them in priority need. Aim of strategy is to also provide support for vulnerable residents. Will also be linked into the Disability Housing Strategy.	Positive	High
AGE	Age can impact on assistance offered to single applicants – if this places them in priority need. Aim of strategy is to also provide support for vulnerable residents. Prevention scheme, which is age specific – young persons floating support service.	Positive	High
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	No information available (monitoring in future to be considered). Assistance offered not affected, as does not affect vulnerability.	Neutral	Low

RELIGION/FAITH	No information available (monitoring in future to be considered). Assistance offered not affected, as does not affect vulnerability.	Neutral	Low
OTHER	Migrant workers – need for better monitoring (identified in homeless strategy).		

Generally, proceed to a full assessment if the Nature of the Impact is Adverse on equalities.

C2. Could you minimise or remove any negative or potential impact that is high, medium or low significance? Explain how.	
Homeless strategy is about intervention to ensure the needs of those who could be potentially homeless are addressed. Assistance in place for vulnerable groups. Statutory provisions. Further monitoring – and will increase that in draft action plan to cover all strands of equality.	
C3. Does the policy actively promote equal opportunities and good community relations?	
Yes – this is a key action within the action plan, including through work with partner agencies to address further the needs of vulnerable groups and through the equality and diversity priority (amendment to be made as indicated above to cover monitoring of all equality strands).	
C4. Please provide any further information, qualitative or quantitative that does not fit into the questions but you feel has a likely impact on this assessment.	
None	

D	COMMUNITY/VOLUNTARY SECTOR INVOLVEMENT
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D1. Please give details of any community engagement in connection with this impact assessment. Do you feel that external involvement in this assessment is adequate?

Involvement in the homelessness review and consultation on the strategy – see acknowledgments in the strategy, including parish councils.

E ACTION PLANNING AND MONITORING

E1. Have you drawn up an action Plan to implement changes?

Will incorporate additional actions identified into homeless strategy action plan (as currently in consultation period).

E2. How will you monitor the achievement of your action plan and its impact?

Quarterly or six monthly monitoring.

F CONCLUSION

F1. Did you conclude that the policy or function would have an adverse impact (medium or high impact) on equalities? (Partial Assessment)

Yes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	GO TO F2
No?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GO TO F4
Insufficient Evidence?	<input type="checkbox"/>	GO TO F5

F2. Did you complete a full assessment and Action Plan?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	GO TO F3

F3. What are your plans (if any) for completing the full assessment?

F4. Do you plan to review the service/policy in future to assess whether there has been any change? If so, when?

Ongoing monitoring. As new strategy, renewed focus on trends. Achieved objectives from last strategy. To review annually.

F5 Please give your plans for evidence gathering and continuing with the assessment

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Signature of Lead Officer

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Signature of Corporate Manager:

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Date completed:

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Please retain the original form on your service area and return a copy of the completed form to the Equality & Diversity Officer.

ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Key Activity	Progress/Milestone	Officer Responsible	Progress
Further monitoring of all strands of equality	Further consideration by the team of appropriate methods. To use similar monitoring to that on Housing register form	Improved recording methods in place by March 2009.	Sue Carter	