

Equality Impact Assessment Record

Date of EIA

October 2009

Directorate

Environment Culture and Communities

Initial Screening Record		
Activity to be assessed	Homelessness Service	
What is the activity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy/strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function/procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change	
Is it a new or existing activity?	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing	
Aim / objective / purpose of the activity – who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	<p>The purpose of the activity is to: To ensure the Council meets its statutory duties under the Homelessness Legislation</p> <p>The activity is designed for: Meeting the needs of people presenting to the Council as homeless meeting the criteria set down in the legislation.</p>	
Who is responsible for the activity?	The person/section/team responsible for this policy/function is: the Housing Options Team	
Did Step 1: Initial Screening indicate that a full EIA was necessary?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – full EIA completed and recorded below. <input type="checkbox"/> No – full EIA not completed therefore record ends here.	
Full EIA Record		
Who are the members of the EIA team?	Clare Dorning – Head of Housing Strategy and Needs Claire Bennett – Forestcare Manager Bob Orow – Housing Options Manager	
What evidence has been found to indicate that the activity might need to be amended? (Include any consultation undertaken)	<p>National evidence suggests that minority ethnic groups are disproportionately represented among the homeless. 9% of homeless applicants in Bracknell are from a minority ethnic group which is in line with, but not in excess of, the minority ethnic population in the borough. This could suggest that this population may not be aware of the service or may not be accessing the service or that because Bracknell BME population tends to come from the higher socio-economic groups it has less housing need than BME populations in other parts of the country.</p> <p>During 2008/09, 4% of households accepted as homeless had a physical disability and 6% of homeless acceptances had mental health problems.</p> <p>Single vulnerable young people, including those leaving care, account for 15% of homeless in Bracknell Forest each year.</p>	
With regard to the equalities themes, which groups might be impacted by the activity? Might any of these groups be impacted adversely ?	Groups Impacted	Groups impacted adversely
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race and ethnicity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/> Race and ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation <input type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief

<p>What evidence is there to suggest an impact/adverse impact?</p>	<p>Because the definition of the homelessness legislation excludes those without dependents it tends to adversely impact on younger people without dependents.</p> <p>Analysis of ethnic origins of our clients suggest that Bracknell, unusually, does not have a higher than population level of homelessness among minority ethnic groups. This is probably because the minority ethnic population trends in Bracknell Forest tend to come from the higher socio-economic groups.</p>
<p>On what grounds can impact or adverse impact be justified?</p>	<p>The homelessness legislation is very specific in terms of the level of assistance that may be given to households. This generally adversely impacts on younger people.</p>
<p>Is there any current action that addresses issues for any of the groups impacted/adversely impacted?</p>	<p>The Housing Advice service offers housing advice and assistance for people unable to access services through the homelessness legislation. Bracknell Forest provides support through the rent deposit scheme to all in need regardless of age.</p>
<p>What changes will you make to the activity reduce or remove any differential/adverse impact?</p>	<p>Provide more information via web site and leaflets</p> <p>Consult with community groups and agencies to determine whether current recorded profile reflects their own service users and knowledge of the community.</p> <p>Extend analysis of monitoring data using the new Choice Based Lettings System.</p>
<p>Into which action plan/s will these actions be incorporated?</p>	<p>Homelessness Strategy</p>
<p>Who is responsible for the action plan?</p>	<p>Head of Housing Strategy and Needs</p>
<p>Have any examples of good practise been identified as part of the EIA?</p>	<p>The Council's open access Rent Deposit Scheme.</p>
<p>Has the EIA been published on the Council website?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Who is the relevant Chief Officer and have they signed off the EIA?</p>	<p>Chief Officer: Housing – Simon Hendey</p> <p>Signature.....</p>
<p>Which PMR will this EIA be reported in?</p>	<p>3rd Quarter 2009</p>