

Equality Impact Assessment Record

Date of EIA July 2009

Directorate Environment Culture and Communities

Initial Screening Record	
Activity to be assessed	Housing Advice and Homelessness Prevention
What is the activity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy/strategy <input checked="" 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 provide housing advice and assistance to people seeking help with their housing situation.</p> <p>The activity is designed for: Any household who may need help with or advice on accessing or maintaining housing</p>
Who is responsible for the activity?	<p>The person/section/team responsible for this policy/function is:</p> <p>Housing Options Service</p>
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 Bob Orrow – Housing Options Manager Claire Bennett – Forestcare Manager
What evidence has been found to indicate that the activity might need to be amended? (Include any consultation undertaken)	<p>Homelessness prevention activity is recorded for minority groups. During 2008/09, 7% of homeless applications were from households from a minority ethnic group.</p> <p>The most frequent reasons for homelessness in the borough are relationship breakdown and family eviction. The homelessness legislation sets out the priority need groups that the Council has a duty to provide housing for. A significant number of people seeking advice tend to be people who do not fall into the priority need groups and the advice and assistance offered is therefore limited.</p>

		White British	Minority Ethnic
	Homeless Applications	111 (92.5%)	9 (7.5%)
	Homeless Acceptances	73 (91%)	7 (9%)
	<p>There is no data collected for housing advice work at present and so it is not possible to assess the impact that this activity is having on minority groups. The lack of information on housing advice is due to not having a comprehensive computer system, once the Choice Based Lettings system is in place in the autumn of 2009 more detailed analyses will be available.</p>		
<p>With regard to the equalities themes, which groups might be impacted by the activity? Might any of these groups be impacted adversely?</p>	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 type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation <input type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief		<input type="checkbox"/> Race and ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input 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>Although larger numbers of young people seek advice the advice does not affect them adversely – although the Government's definition of homelessness may do.</p>		
<p>On what grounds can impact or adverse impact be justified?</p>	<p>None</p>		
<p>Is there any current action that addresses issues for any of the groups impacted/adversely impacted?</p>	<p>The reporting of homelessness prevention activity can be implemented with immediate effect.</p> <p>We have no restrictions on advice and assistance including rent deposit loans. Don't have to be in a priority need group to gain assistance, Bracknell Forest Council will help anybody.</p> <p>For younger people we encourage the development of 1 bedroom shared ownership properties which are suitable for their needs.</p>		
<p>What changes will you make to the activity reduce or remove any differential/adverse impact?</p>	<p>The new Housing IT system will allow more comprehensive recording of housing advice activity and homelessness prevention. Monthly reports will be generated to monitor the impact of these services on minority groups to enable us to identify and target any disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>New information will be produced for people seeking assistance from the Housing Options Service as part</p>		

	<p>of the implementation of the new allocations policy.</p> <p>Leaflets and information on the website will include information about how to access housing advice and the options that may be available to help with different housing situations.</p>
Into which action plan/s will these actions be incorporated?	<p>Choice Based Lettings Implementation plan</p> <p>Housing Options Service Plan</p>
Who is responsible for the action plan?	Bob Orrow – Housing Options Manager
Have any examples of good practise been identified as part of the EIA?	The Council's open access Rent Deposit Scheme.
Has the EIA been published on the Council website?	Yes
Who is the relevant Chief Officer and have they signed off the EIA?	Chief Officer: Housing - Simon Hendey
Which PMR will this EIA be reported in?	Quarter 2,2009-10