

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) form: Initial impact assessment.

EqIA Titular information:

Date:	October 2019.
Service:	Place Commissioning.
Project, policy or service EQIA relates to:	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.
Completed by:	Victoria Higgins.
Has the EQIA been discussed at services team meeting:	Yes.
Signed off by:	Nigel Bailey – Assistant Director Housing & Place Commissioning.
Sign off date:	10.10.2019.

1. Policy, Project or service information:

<p>What is the purpose of the project, policy change or service change , its expected outcomes and how does it relate to your services corporate plan:</p>
<p>The impacts of homelessness can be devastating for individuals and families. Homelessness can affect health, education and employment. Homelessness can have long term consequences for those affected. As a result, reducing homelessness and rough sleeping is a key priority for Wokingham Borough Council.</p> <p>This Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy sets out how we will, over the next three years, tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in the Borough and support residents in housing crisis.</p> <p>Our actions over the next three years will be targeted across four strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Early intervention and prevention. ❖ Working towards ending rough sleeping and tackling hidden homelessness. ❖ Building more affordable homes. ❖ Supporting our vulnerable residents. <p>All local housing authorities have a duty to carry out a review of homelessness and homelessness service provision for their area and, in consultation with local partners and stakeholders, formulate and publish a homelessness and rough sleeping strategy based on the results of that review, at least every five years. The council is pro-active in developing a number of supportive and preventative measures to help address homelessness and rough sleeping such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing tenancy support. • Negotiating with private landlords. • Providing supported housing options for vulnerable clients. • Providing a supported housing scheme for vulnerable young people aged 16 – 25 at risk of homelessness.

- Providing a range of temporary accommodation across the borough.
- Assessing housing, care and support needs and agreeing an action plan for each individual.
- Ensuring that the priority schemes (social and medical) within the Housing Register are accessible and responsive to individual need.

Outline how you are delivering your project, policy change or service change. What governance arrangements are in place, which internal stakeholders (Service managers, Assistant Directors, Members etc) have/will be consulted and informed about the project or changes:

The strategy will be widely consulted on, both internally and with external stakeholders, prior to adoption. The strategy will also be considered at Corporate Services Leadership Team, Customer & Localities Leadership Team, Executive Briefing, Conservative Group, Executive and full Council.

Outline who are the main beneficiaries of the Project, policy change or service change?

Residents who are at risk of housing crisis, homelessness and/or rough sleeping or residents experiencing any or all of these difficulties.

Groups considered to be most at risk of rough sleeping include:

- Vulnerable young people aged 16-25
- Those with high support need (mental health needs and/or addiction issues)
- Those suffering emotional and/or economic hardship

Outline any associated aims attached to the project, policy change or service change:

To support residents at risk of or experiencing housing crisis, homelessness and/or rough sleeping.

2. Protected characteristics:

There are 9 protected characteristics as defined by the legislation:

- Race
- Gender
- Disability
- Gender re-assignment
- Age
- Religious belief
- Sexual orientation
- Pregnancy/Maternity
- Marriage and civil partnership:

3. Initial Impact review:

In the table below, please indicate whether your project, Policy change or service change will have a positive or negative impact on one of the protected characteristics. To assess the level of impact, please assign each group a Positive, No, Low or High impact score:

Protected characteristics	Impact score	Please detail what impact will be felt by the protected group:
Race:	Positive	<p>There have been several economic migrants who are known to be rough sleeping in the borough who have told us that they are choosing to live in tented communities in order to save money.</p> <p>During the last rough sleeper count in 2018, out of 7 rough sleepers, 5 were UK nationals and 2 were not.</p> <p>The Council is aware of the need to continue to ensure that our services are accessible to all members of the community. We are able to offer a</p>

		<p>person-centred approach tailored to the needs of an individual, including a multi-agency approach where appropriate.</p>
Gender:	Positive	<p>During the last rough sleeper count in 2018, out of 7 rough sleepers, 6 of the individuals were male and 1 was female.</p> <p>The Council is aware of the need to continue to ensure that our services are accessible to all members of the community. We are able to offer a person-centred approach tailored to the needs of an individual, including a multi-agency approach where appropriate.</p>
Disabilities:	Positive	<p>Rough sleepers may have a combination of complex needs including mental illness, substance misuse/addiction.</p> <p>Our approach is individual and person-centred. If an applicant has a disability or specific health need, it is likely that the statutory homeless safety net will be available to them.</p> <p>The Council is aware of the need to continue to ensure that our services are accessible to all members of the community. We are able to offer a person-centred approach tailored to the needs of an individual, including a multi-agency approach where appropriate.</p>
Age:	Positive	<p>Lack of affordable accommodation across all tenures results in young people experiencing barriers to accessing suitable accommodation.</p> <p>Parental eviction is an issue for young people. Young people are more likely to be amongst the hidden homeless – sofa surfing etc.</p> <p>During the last rough sleeper count in 2018, all 7 were aged over 26.</p>

		<p>Where appropriate, the Council is able to provide a range of preventative measures, including family mediation. The Housing Needs Team works closely with Children's and Adult's Service to ensure a holistic service delivery.</p> <p>The Council is aware of the need to continue to ensure that our services are accessible to all members of the community. We are able to offer a person-centred approach tailored to the needs of an individual, including a multi-agency approach where appropriate.</p>
Sexual orientation:	No	<p>Whilst there was nothing of concern coming from the findings relating specifically to this characteristic, the Council is aware of the need to continue to ensure that our services are accessible to all members of the community. We are able to offer a person-centred approach tailored to the needs of an individual, including a multi-agency approach where appropriate.</p>
Religion/belief:	No	<p>Whilst there was nothing of concern coming from the findings relating specifically to this characteristic, the Council is aware of the need to continue to ensure that our services are accessible to all members of the community. We are able to offer a person-centred approach tailored to the needs of an individual, including a multi-agency approach where appropriate.</p>
Gender re-assignment:	No	<p>Whilst there was nothing of concern coming from the findings relating specifically to this characteristic, the Council is aware of the need to continue to ensure that our services are accessible to all members of the community. We are able to offer a person-centred approach tailored to the needs of an individual, including a multi-agency approach where appropriate.</p>

Pregnancy and Maternity:	Positive	<p>If pregnant females are identified as rough sleeping, they are offered accommodation under the Council's statutory homeless duties.</p> <p>The Council is aware of the need to continue to ensure that our services are accessible to all members of the community. We are able to offer a person-centred approach tailored to the needs of an individual, including a multi-agency approach where appropriate.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership:	No	<p>Whilst there was nothing of concern coming from the findings relating specifically to this characteristic, the Council is aware of the need to continue to ensure that our services are accessible to all members of the community. We are able to offer a person-centred approach tailored to the needs of an individual, including a multi-agency approach where appropriate.</p>

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Based on your findings from your initial impact assessment, you must complete a full impact assessment for any groups you have identified as having a low or high negative impact. If No impact, or a positive impact has been identified, you do not need to complete a full assessment. However, you must report on this initial assessment and it must receive formal approval from the Assistant Director responsible for the project, policy or service change.

Initial impact assessment approved by.... Nigel Bailey – Assistant Director Housing & Place Commissioning.

Date:....10.10.2019