

Initial Equalities Screening Record Form

Date of Screening: 11/11/2015	Directorate: ASCH&H		Section: Housing
1. Activity to be assessed Homelessness Strategy	Please give full details of the activity The Homelessness Act 2002 places a statutory obligation on all local authorities to undertake a review of homelessness in their area, and based on the findings of this review, to develop a strategy to tackle homelessness. This Homeless Strategy has been developed by the Council in partnership with voluntary organisations that provide services to homeless and potentially homeless people as well as registered providers of affordable housing. The Strategy sets out priorities for meeting the housing needs of households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness in the borough, and an action plan to deliver these priorities.		
2. What is the activity?	x Policy/strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function/procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Review <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change		
3. Is it a new or existing activity?	x New <input type="checkbox"/> Existing		
4. Officer responsible for the screening	Clare Dorning		
5. Who are the members of the screening team?	Clare Dorning – Head of Housing Strategy and Needs Simon Hendey – Chief Officer:Housing		
6. What is the purpose of the activity?	The Strategy sets out priorities for meeting the housing needs of homeless households in the borough, and an action plan to deliver these priorities.		
7. Who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	Homeless households in Bracknell Forest		
Protected Characteristics	Please tick yes or no	Is there an impact? What kind of equality impact may there be? Is the impact positive or adverse or is there a potential for both? If the impact is neutral please give a reason.	What evidence do you have to support this? E.g equality monitoring data, consultation results, customer satisfaction information etc Please add a narrative to justify your claims around impacts and describe the analysis and interpretation of evidence to support your conclusion as this will inform members decision making, include consultation results/satisfaction information/equality

			monitoring data					
8. Disability Equality – this can include physical, mental health, learning or sensory disabilities including conditions such as dementia.	Y	N	<p>We have no evidence to suggest that there is a differential impact upon people with a disability at this point in time.</p> <p>People with a disability are likely to fall within a priority need group within the Homelessness Legislation.</p>					
9. Racial equality	Y	N	<p>We have no evidence to suggest that there is a differential impact upon people from a particular racial group at this point in time.</p>					
10. Gender equality	Y	N	<p>We have no evidence to suggest that there is a differential impact upon people from a particular gender at this point in time.</p>					
11. Sexual orientation equality	Y	N	<p>We have no evidence to suggest that there is a differential impact upon people with a particular sexual orientation at this point in time.</p>					
12. Gender re-assignment	Y	N	<p>We have no evidence to suggest that there is a differential impact upon people who have undergone gender re-assignment at this point in time.</p>					
13. Age equality	Y	N	<p>We have no evidence to suggest that there is a differential impact upon people with a disability at this point in time.</p> <p>People under the age of 18 yrs and over 60 yrs disability are more likely to fall within a priority need group within the Homelessness Legislation.</p>					
14. Religion and belief equality	Y	N	<p>We have no evidence to suggest that there is a differential impact upon people on the basis of their religion at this point in time.</p>					
			<p>During 2014/15, 17% of homeless applicants had a disability of some kind.</p>					
			<p>During 2014/15, 10% of homeless applicants were from minority ethnic groups</p>					
			<p>During 2014/15, 70% of homeless application were from women</p>					
			<p>During 2014/15, 1% of homeless applicants reported they were lesbian, 5% reported they were bisexual, 2% reported their sexuality as “other”.</p>					
			<p>We do not have screening data available on the group</p>					
			<p>During 2014/15, 4% of homeless applicants were over 60 yrs.</p>					
			<p>During 2014/15, homeless applicants reported the following religions;</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Christian – 39%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buddhist - <1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hindu - 1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jewish - <1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sikh - <1%</td> </tr> </table>	Christian – 39%	Buddhist - <1%	Hindu - 1%	Jewish - <1%	Sikh - <1%
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Muslim – 5%							
None – 49%							
Other – 5%							
15. Pregnancy and maternity equality	Y	N	<p>We have no evidence to suggest that there is a differential impact upon people on the basis of pregnancy at this point in time.</p> <p>Pregnant women fall within a priority need group under the homelessness strategy.</p>	During 2014/15, 5% of homeless applicants were pregnant women			
16. Marriage and civil partnership equality	Y	N	We have no evidence to suggest that there is a differential impact upon people on the basis of their household status at this point in time.	We do not have screening data available on the partnership status of homeless applicants.			
17. Please give details of any other potential impacts on any other group (e.g. those on lower incomes/carers/ex-offenders, armed forces communities) and on promoting good community relations.	The primary focus of the Council's homelessness prevention services is to maximise income and independence for all households who come to us for advice or assistance. This is particularly important for those on lower incomes and coming out of institutions. The Homeless Strategy priorities will benefit these groups.						
18. If an adverse/negative impact has been identified can it be justified on grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group or for any other reason?	Please explain						
19. If there is any difference in the impact of the activity when considered for each of the equality groups listed in 8 – 14 above; how significant is the difference in terms of its nature and the number of people likely to be affected?	<p>The Council accepts a statutory duty to house an estimated 220 households each year, and prevents a further 60 households from becoming homeless each year.</p> <p>Financial assistance is provided to an estimated 60 households each year to secure accommodation in the private rented sector.</p>						
20. Could the impact constitute unlawful discrimination in relation to any of the Equality Duties?	Y	N	The Homeless Strategy proposes actions which will enable the Council to meet it's statutory duties under the homelessness legislation.				
21. What further information or data is required to better understand the impact? Where and how can that information be obtained?	Work has taken place with agencies over the last twelve months to develop the draft homelessness strategy and action plan. Wider consultation is proposed and comments received during the consultation will be reflected in the final strategy.						

22. On the basis of sections 7 – 17 above is a full impact assessment required?	Y	N		
23. If a full impact assessment is not required; what actions will you take to reduce or remove any potential differential/adverse impact, to further promote equality of opportunity through this activity or to obtain further information or data? Please complete the action plan in full, adding more rows as needed.				
Action	Timescale	Person Responsible	Milestone/Success Criteria	
Consultation on the Homelessness Strategy	January – March 2016	Clare Dorning		
24. Which service, business or work plan will these actions be included in?	ASCH&H Service Plan			
25. Please list the current actions undertaken to advance equality or examples of good practice identified as part of the screening?				
26. Chief Officers signature.	Signature:		Date:	

When complete please send to abby.thomas@bracknell-forest.gov.uk for publication on the Council's website.