

Housing Strategy. Equalities Analysis

	Priority 1 Preventing and reducing homelessness	Priority 2 Delivering new homes	Priority 3 Improving use and condition of existing homes	Priority 4 People with care and support needs	Evidence
Disability – evidence of need	<p>Levels of ill-health and disability are higher among homeless applicants. People reporting having physical ill-health or a disability accounted for nearly 13% of homeless applicants but only 3.2% of the population. Out of 690 applicants owed a homelessness prevention or relief duty in 2021/21, 186 reported having mental health issues, which is over a quarter. 128 reported physical ill-health or a disability, which is 18%.</p>	<p>People with disabilities and health conditions need homes that will meet their long-term needs, through the provision of accessible features. The provision of a supply of fully adaptable wheelchair properties, particularly for affordable rent, is needed for some disabled households.</p>	<p>People identifying themselves as having a disability made up 21% of housing register applicants and received 27% of housing allocations. People with a disability are more likely to be vulnerable to the impact of fuel poverty and poor quality housing including low energy performance</p>	<p>A small number of people with mental health issues have been placed in supported accommodation with a need for more specialist housing provision identified in relation to people with more complex mental health conditions. Research estimated the future need for people with learning disabilities and autism to 2035 as 64 places in 24/7 supported housing and 16 places for people living in a tenancy with support. A growing area of need is for accommodation for people with learning disabilities who are ageing. There is also a potential need for group/shared supported living accommodation for younger adults with learning disabilities. The current level of specialist housing provision for people with physical disabilities is considered adequate. Some people with physical disabilities depend on aids and adaptations (DFGs) to enable them to remain living in their own homes.</p>	<p>Homeless Review – analysis of homelessness applications/duties Analysis of households on the housing register Analysis of households rehoused through the housing register. The Care and Accommodation Strategy The Housing Needs Assessment reviews the need for wheelchair user dwellings The review of older people’s housing needs undertaken by Housing LIN provides evidence of future unmet needs for specialist housing provision. The review of the future needs of people with a learning disability undertaken by Housing LIN estimates the need for specialist provision for people with higher and more complex needs.</p>
Disability – impact of strategy	<p>The strategy proposes new support services for former rough sleepers and single homeless people, among whom a high proportion have mental health issues and other health issues. This will include a new mental health outreach service</p>	<p>The strategy will benefit disabled households by delivering a continued supply of accessible and adaptable homes that meet the needs of applicants on the housing register, as well as ensuring that a high proportion of new</p>	<p>People with a disability accounted for 21% of housing register applications and received 27% of allocations. This is a positive outcome, reflecting the high level of priority given to disabled households on the housing register. The</p>	<p>A number of priorities and actions are proposed to increase the provision of specialist housing and support for older people who experience dementia and limited mobility and working age adults with a learning disability, physical and</p>	

	The proposal to develop a specialist supported accommodation offer for rough sleepers including emergency beds and housing-led accommodation with support, will again benefit single homeless people with mental health conditions.	housing meets accessibility standards.	strategy highlights the development a revised allocations policy to ensure that the limited social housing becoming available to let continues to be allocated to those with the highest needs including those with a disability.	sensory impairment and mental ill-health, and for people with more complex and high level needs. The strategy also outlines proposals to increase assistance with aids and adaptations to enable people with disabilities to remain living in their own home.	
Racial equality – evidence of need	White and Asian households are under-represented in the homelessness statistics. Black households are at a significantly higher risk of homelessness than any other group.	BAME households are more likely than white British households to be renting accommodation and less likely to be able to own their own home. Gypsy and traveller households have insufficient pitches in the local area to meet their needs	2016 estimates of the ethnic breakdown on the population in Bracknell Forest show 2.5% are black, 4.2% are Asian, 2.5% are mixed ethnic groups and 0.8% are other ethnic groups. 90% of households are white British or other white groups. 85% of housing register applicants identified as white. 4.6% identified themselves as black households, 2% as Asian, 2.8% mixed ethnic groups and 2.6% as 'other' ethnic groups. Black and other ethnic groups in particular are over-represented on the housing register suggesting greater levels of housing need among these groups. Black and Asian households made up a slightly higher share of those rehoused in 2021/22 in relation to their share of applications. People from minority ethnic backgrounds are more likely to live in overcrowded households and in intergenerational households.		Homeless Review – analysis of homelessness applications/duties Analysis of households on the housing register Analysis of households rehoused through the housing register. Gypsy and traveller needs Assessment 2021
Race Equality – impact of strategy	The homelessness strategy and action plan focus on building closer working relationships and referral pathways with local service providers to promote early help and prevention. It also	The strategy references the emerging Local Plan proposal to increase the number of pitches for gypsies and travellers. Also the focus on delivering affordable housing and	The strategy contains actions to address housing standards including: greater investigation and intelligence gathering to target HMOs and other properties that fall below housing standards and		

	sets out measures designed to target financial assistance to the most vulnerable households which will benefit those from BAME groups.	increasing the supply of larger affordable rented homes will benefit households from BAME groups who are more likely to have lower incomes and larger household sizes.	ensuring that fuel poverty advice and funding to improve the condition and the energy efficiency of homes is available to more vulnerable households. These initiatives will benefit BAME households who are more likely to live in homes in the poorest condition. Similarly taking steps to work with RPs to develop collaborative and innovative approaches to under-occupation in social housing will help to release larger family homes which will positively impact on some BAME households.		
Gender equality – evidence of need	Women are over-represented in the homelessness statistics, accounting for 57% of applicants, indicating that as a group, women are at higher risk of homelessness in Bracknell Forest. A high proportion of applicants are female headed households with dependent children. Domestic abuse as a cause of homelessness predominantly affects women		Female applicants make up 67% of households on the housing register and received 61% of housing allocations. Female headed households are more likely to be vulnerable to the impact of fuel poverty and poor quality housing including low energy performance.		Homeless Review – analysis of homelessness applications/duties Analysis of households on the housing register Analysis of households rehoused through the housing register. Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment and Strategy
Gender equality – impact of strategy	The homelessness strategy and action plan focus on building closer working relationships and referral pathways with local service providers to promote early help and prevention. It also sets out measures designed to target financial assistance to the most vulnerable households which will benefit women and female headed households. Reviewing the provision of temporary accommodation and developing or acquiring additional units where there		The strategy proposes help for the most vulnerable, households including fuel poverty advice and funding to improve the condition and the energy efficiency of their homes. This will positively benefit female headed households.		

	<p>are shortfalls will reduce the use of emergency nightly paid accommodation and provide better accommodation for women who are homeless.</p> <p>Greater support for victims of domestic abuse is being provided through the establishment of an outreach support service for victims in temporary accommodation and a dedicated DA housing specialist within the Council.</p> <p>The establishment of a Sanctuary Scheme provides a means for some female victims to live safely in their own home and to avoid homelessness.</p>				
Sexual orientation equality – evidence of need	<p>0.8% of homelessness applicants identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual.</p> <p>In 2018 the Office of National Statistics estimated that 2.2% of the population in the South East of England were gay, lesbian or bisexual</p> <p>It is not possible to determine if lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender people are under- or over-represented in the homelessness figures as there is a high proportion of ‘prefer not to say’ and a significantly high number where sexual orientation was not recorded at all</p>		<p>4% of housing register applicants identified themselves as gay/lesbian, bisexual or other; these groups accounted for 3% of those rehoused. The number may be greater as 13% of applicants preferred not to say</p>		<p>Homeless Review – analysis of homelessness applications/duties</p> <p>Analysis of households on the housing register</p> <p>Analysis of households rehoused through the housing register.</p> <p>2018 ONS estimates for South East of England</p>
Sexual orientation equality – impact of strategy	No specific impacts identified				
Gender re-assignment – evidence of need					There is no evidence available on gender-reassignment
Gender re-assignment – impact of strategy	No specific impacts identified				
Age equality – evidence of need	<p>18-34 year olds are significantly over-represented in homelessness figures.</p>	<p>Older people need ‘lifetime’ homes which are accessible and enable them to continue</p>	<p>Older applicants make up only 7% of households register applications but received 12% of all housing</p>	<p>Some older households require specialist housing provision, particularly those</p>	<p>Homeless Review – analysis of homelessness applications/duties</p>

	<p>Young people aged 18 – 24 are almost 3 times more likely to become homeless than those aged 45 – 54. Care leavers are over-represented in homelessness statistics nationally, regionally and locally, when compared to their peers who are not care leavers. In 2019/20, 10 former relevant care leavers aged 18 – 20 were owed prevention or relief duties, which is around 17% of all care leavers in Bracknell Forest aged 18 – 21. Young people may need support to enable them to manage in a new home</p>	<p>living independently in their own homes. Young people are more likely to find new housing unaffordable and will be more reliant on affordable home ownership products. Many young people are unable to leave the family home due to the unaffordability of much accommodation in the private sector.</p>	<p>allocations. This may be due to the relatively higher number of older person's sheltered housing units becoming available to let compared to general needs housing; and older people may have higher priority due to medical and disability issues. The vast majority of applicants are working age adults over 25. Young people up to 25 made up 15% of applicants and received 18% of housing allocations. This may be due to some young people being given a high priority for rehousing due to their vulnerability. Older people are more vulnerable to the impact of fuel poverty and poor quality housing including low energy performance. Young people are more likely to be in PRS and shared/HMO accommodation which is more likely to be of a poor standard.</p>	<p>aged over 75 with more complex needs. There is also increasing demand for care in relation to dementia and challenging behaviour. The largest unmet need for specialist housing for older people over the next few years is extra care housing, followed by nursing care homes. Young people and care leavers need semi-independent housing. This is currently provided by Lookahead, with 75 commissioned bedspaces.</p>	<p>Analysis of households on the housing register Analysis of households rehoused through the housing register. The Care and Accommodation Strategy. Housing LIN review of older people's housing needs.</p>
<p>Age equality – impact of strategy</p>	<p>For younger people, there are recommendations in the strategy aimed at improving access to resettlement and tenancy support, and to develop a joint protocol with Children's Services to reduce the risk of care leavers making homelessness applications.</p>	<p>The strategy will benefit older people by delivering a continued supply of accessible and adaptable homes that meet the needs of applicants on the housing register, as well as ensuring that a high proportion of new housing meets accessibility standards. Affordable Home ownership options will benefit younger households unable to afford to buy their own homes.</p>	<p>Energy efficiency grants and improvements will target the most vulnerable, including older people. The strategy contains actions to address housing standards, including: greater investigation and intelligence gathering to target HMOs and other properties that fall below housing standards. These initiatives will benefit young people who are more likely to live in homes in the poorest condition.</p>	<p>The strategy outlines recommendations to increase the provision of housing with support and care for older people. Proposals to provide an enhanced support and adaptations service for households to enable them to continue living in their homes, will benefit mainly older people. The strategy proposes to review and re-commission services for young people in housing need to ensure these are meeting young people's needs for housing with support.</p>	
<p>Religion and belief equality – evidence of need</p>			<p>43% of housing register applicants had no religion</p>		<p>Analysis of households on the housing register</p>

