

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (March 2017)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: **Sheila Jacobs** Senior Manager – Supported Housing & Homelessness

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Head of Section: **Lisa Newman** (Asst. Director Housing Services)

Chief Officer: **Alan Evans (Dave Hughes as of March 2024)**

Directorate: Economic and Housing Growth

Date: 18th February 2020 (Refreshed March 2024)

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Wirral Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025

Section 2a: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Committee meeting?

Yes If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

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Please select hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website (please select appropriate link & delete those not relevant)

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- ✓ **Services**
- ✓ **The workforce**
- ✓ **Communities**
- ✓ **Other (Landlords)**

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any protected groups (age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation	<p>Wirral's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 sets out the actions to be taken to reduce levels of homelessness across the borough.</p> <p>A reduction in levels of rough sleeping (<i>and the associated anti-social behaviour such as street drinking, aggressive begging etc.</i>) should have a positive effect on anti-social behaviour over the long term. This may have a positive impact for older people, disabled people, people from the following ethnic groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indian• Pakistani• Bangladeshi• Chinese	No negative impacts	Sheila Jacobs	Ongoing	None

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other Asian background • Caribbean • African • Any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean background • White and Black Caribbean • White and Black African • White and Asian • Any other Mixed or multiple ethnic background • Arab • Any other ethnic group <p>and those who may be persecuted for their religion or belief, sexual orientation or gender reassignment.</p> <p>The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy recommends a series of actions to increase the range of housing options available to homeless people and those at risk of homelessness and to improve the range of information available about these housing options These recommendations do not differentiate on the grounds of race.</p> <p>Homeless people are amongst the most vulnerable in terms of socio-economic status with very few people being in employment. The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy identifies actions to try to address worklessness and to assist homeless people into training, education or employment where possible.</p>				
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	<p>The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy identifies a series of objectives to respond to homelessness in the borough. These objectives do not differentiate on the grounds of gender. The delivery of the strategy will have a positive impact on both homeless men and women alike, and identifies that female-specific supported accommodation needs to be addressed.</p> <p>Services available to homeless people can be accessed irrespective of marriage and civil partnership status. Single people and childless couples have separate provision from adults with children.</p> <p>The proposals contained within the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy are not anticipated to disproportionately impact on people's religion/beliefs. Homeless accommodation services will continue to be required to recognise the needs of different faith-based observances and practices, and identify support needed for service users to access religious and faith-based groups and services through the support planning process.</p> <p>The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy does not differentiate on grounds of pregnancy/maternity. The Council commissions specific accommodation services aimed at homeless families and teenage parents, this group may include pregnant women.</p>				
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	<p>MARCH 2024 UPDATE</p> <p>As outlined in the original report (and as required by the Homelessness Code of Guidance) consultation activity took place with other public bodies during 2019 and 2020, voluntary organisations, service users and other identified stakeholders during the large-scale review of homelessness in the Borough, which preceded the development of the Homeless & Rough Sleeping Strategy. By undertaking this review, a broad range of stakeholders throughout the community were identified and involved in the activity to develop a holistic strategy.</p> <p>The Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy and its subsequent refreshes continue to reflect on protected characteristics and other vulnerabilities, while the objectives of the strategy remain the achievement of positive outcomes for all.</p> <p>Demographic information regarding households approaching the Council's Housing Options Service and externally commissioned homeless services is recorded and regularly monitored for variance.</p> <p>The delivery of the Council's statutory response to homelessness continues to recognise and target the needs of specific groups identified as being at particularly heightened risk of homelessness due to their</p>				
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	<p>demography, geography or health and well-being needs. For example, the Supported Housing Team has worked with colleagues in Children's & Young People Department to ensure that data regarding Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and other non-heterosexuals survivors of domestic abuse is recorded in order to inform the future development/commissioning of safe accommodation services.</p>				
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Section 4a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

Oversight of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 and its associated delivery plan will be provided by Wirral Homeless Forum, a multi-agency group comprising representatives from agencies that work with homeless people.

There will be the requirement for an annual update to be provided which also forms part of reports to relevant future committees.

MARCH 2024 UPDATE – Since the original EIA, additional groups have been established to look at specific aspects of homelessness and to respond to the actions set out within the strategy.

Section 4b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

The proposals set out in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy seek to alleviate all forms of homelessness across the borough, irrespective of sex, race, sexual orientation, beliefs etc.

MARCH 2024 UPDATE– This continues to be the case.

Section 5: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 was informed by a robust review of homelessness in the borough.

MARCH 2024 UPDATE – Additional demographic data is now collected regarding people placed in homeless accommodation services and is analysed regularly. This information will feature in the future development/commissioning of homeless accommodation services.

Section 6: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

Yes

If 'yes' please continue to section 7.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

Public consultation for the review of homelessness and the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy was undertaken between August 2019 and January 2020. Where appropriate, the Strategy was amended to reflect the feedback received as part of this consultative process.

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 7: How will consultation take place and by when?

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal publishing requirements. The EIA will need to be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 4. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing.

Section 8: Have you remembered to:

- a) **Select appropriate directorate hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published**
- b) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts? (section 4)**
- c) **Send this EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 4 once consultation has taken place and sent your updated EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**