

Equality Impact
Assessment
Homelessness and
Rough Sleeping
Strategy

- **Background**

An Equality Impact Assessment is an improvement tool. It will assist you in ensuring that you have thought about the needs and impacts of your service/policy/function in relation to the protected characteristics. It enables a systematic approach to identifying and recording gaps and actions.

- **Legislation- Equality Duty**

As a local authority that provides services to the public, Charnwood Borough Council has a legal responsibility to ensure that we can demonstrate having paid due regard to the need to

- ✓ Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation.
- ✓ Advance Equality of Opportunity
- ✓ Foster good relations

For the following protected characteristics:

- ✓ Age
- ✓ Disability
- ✓ Gender reassignment
- ✓ Marriage and civil partnership
- ✓ Pregnancy and maternity
- ✓ Race
- ✓ Religion and belief
- ✓ Sex (Gender)
- ✓ Sexual orientation

What is prohibited?

- ✓ Direct Discrimination
- ✓ Indirect Discrimination
- ✓ Harassment
- ✓ Victimisation
- ✓ Discrimination by association
- ✓ Discrimination by perception
- ✓ Pregnancy and maternity discrimination
- ✓ Discrimination arising from disability
- ✓ Failing to make reasonable adjustments

Complete this action plan as you go through the questions

- **Step 1 – Introductory information**

Title of the policy / strategy / project	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy
Lead officer and others undertaking this assessment	Dawn Eckersley Strategic Housing Manager
Date EIA started	18 th December 2023
Date EIA completed	28 th August 2024

● **Step 2 – Overview of policy/function being assessed**

Outline: What is the purpose of this policy? (Specify aims and objectives)

It is a legal requirement for local authorities to have a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

The council has a number of statutory duties and responsibilities under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and the Housing Act 1996. The legislation provides the legal definition of homelessness which does not include rough sleeping. Although rough sleeping is a visible and distressing representation of homelessness it is subject to the same legislative tests and duties as other forms of homelessness including those who are “homeless at home”. The legislation clearly defines the circumstances in which the council has a legal duty to provide accommodation, both immediately and for the longer-term.

This strategy will set out our aims around homelessness and rough sleeping and delivery of our services:

- Partnership working
- Advice and support to prevent the loss of accommodation
- Advice and support to access accommodation
- Advice and support to sustain accommodation
- Advice and support for rough sleepers

What specific group/s is the policy designed to affect/impact and what is the intended change or outcome for them?

This strategy will impact all individuals and households experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping. The intention of this strategy is to inform delivery of a responsive homelessness advice and casework service and the issuing of informed and legally compliant decisions.

Which groups have been consulted as part of the creation or review of the policy?

- Homeless Delivery Group
- Equality Working Group

● **Step 3 – What we already know and where there are gaps**

List any existing information/data do you have/monitor about different diverse groups in relation to this policy? Such as in relation to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation etc.

Data/information such as:

- Consultation
- Previous Equality Impact Assessments
- Demographic information
- Anecdotal and other evidence

Each local authority complete statutory returns providing homelessness data to DLUHC and must undertake an annual rough sleeper count/estimate.

What does this information / data tell you about diverse group? If you do not hold or have access to any data/information on diverse groups, what do you need to begin collating / monitoring? (Please list)
It is understood that some groups are disproportionately affected by facets of homelessness; for example men are more likely to be sleeping rough. This is due to wider societal factors, rather than inequity in the delivery of our services.

● **Step 4 – Do we need to seek the views of others? If so, who?**

Considering the answers given in Step 2, do you need to consult with specific groups to identify needs / issues? If not explain why.
The views of service-users and professionals in partner agencies have been sought during a consultation exercise.

● **Step 5 – Assessing the impact**

Considering any data/consultation/information and your own knowledge, identify whether the policy has a positive or negative impact on the individuals or community groups who identify with any 'protected characteristics' and provide an explanation for your decision. Please refer to the general duties on the front page.	
Age	Neutral
Disability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Physical ● Visual ● Hearing ● learning disabilities ● mental health 	<p>Positive impact - The strategy recognises that rough sleepers often have mental or physical health conditions. It can be difficult for rough sleepers to secure and sustain suitable accommodation, and there is a need to provide advice and support. To this end, the strategy sets out the Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure information and advice about realistic housing options, including information about eligibility / qualification for services, is available for persons who are rough sleeping within the borough ● Identify persons who are rough sleeping within the borough and encouraging them to engage with and access advice and support services ● Identify trends amongst rough sleepers within the borough, contributing factors and possible preventative measures.
Gender Reassignment (Transgender)	Neutral
Race	Neutral
Religion or Belief (Includes no belief)	Neutral
Sex (Gender)	Neutral

Sexual Orientation	Neutral
Other protected groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy & maternity • Marriage & civil partnership 	Neutral
Other socially excluded groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers • Low literacy • Priority neighbourhoods • Health inequalities • Rural isolation • Asylum seeker and refugee communities 	<p>Positive impact - The strategy recognises that there is a shortage of affordable housing, and many groups find it difficult to access suitable accommodation. Some groups, such as those leaving long-term care can find it particularly difficult to access suitable accommodation. The provision of advice and support can assist households to identify accommodation that is suitable for them and the steps that they need to take to secure that accommodation. To this end, the strategy sets out the Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure effective information and advice on the council's website about securing private sector housing, social housing and semi-independent / supported accommodation. • Ensure effective targeted advice and accommodation pathways for groups who are more likely to have difficulty accessing accommodation.

Where there are potential barriers, negative impacts identified and/ or barriers or impacts are unknown, please outline how you propose to minimise all negative impact or discrimination.

- If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is illegal, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately.
- Additionally, if you have identified adverse impact that is justifiable or legitimate, you will need to consider what actions can be taken to mitigate its effect on those groups of people.

N/a

Summarise your findings and give an overview as to whether the policy will meet Charnwood Borough Council's responsibilities in relation to equality and diversity (please refer to the general duties on the front page).

This strategy meets the responsibilities of the council in relation to equality and diversity. Through the provision of advice, support, and targeted accommodation pathways, there will be a positive impact on customers with mental or physical health conditions, and socially excluded groups including care leavers.

● **Step 6- Monitoring, evaluation, review**

Are there processes in place to review the findings of this Assessment and make appropriate changes? How will you monitor potential barriers and any positive/ negative impact?

This strategy will be monitored through the Homeless Delivery Group attended by voluntary and statutory sector partner agencies.

How will the recommendations of this assessment be built into wider planning and review processes? e.g., policy reviews, annual plans and use of performance management systems.

The strategy will be supported by a delivery plan to enable progress towards the objectives to be monitored.

- **Step 7- Action Plan**


Please include any identified concerns/actions/issues in this action plan. The issues identified should inform your Service Plan and, if appropriate, your Consultation Plan

Reference Number	Action	Responsible Officer	Target Date
	N/a		

- **Step 8- Who needs to know about the outcomes of this assessment and how will they be informed?**

	Who needs to know?	How they will be informed (we have a legal duty to publish EIA's)
	Customers	Through the Council's website.
	Partner Agencies	Through the Homeless Delivery Group
To ensure ease of access, what other communication needs/concerns are there?	None identified	

- **Step 9- Conclusion (to be completed and signed by the **Service Head**)**

I agree with this assessment
Signed (Service Head): 
Date: 28.04.24

Please send completed & signed assessment to **Vicky Brackenbury** for publishing.