

City Executive Board 13 February 2013 Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan/ Discharge of Duty - Appendix F

Equality Impact Assessment

1. Which group (s) of people has been identified as being disadvantaged by your proposals? What are the equality impacts?

No groups have been identified as being disadvantaged by the Homelessness Strategy. The document is targeted at meeting the housing needs of those most vulnerable in Oxford.

The Homelessness Strategy outlines the priority towards preventing homelessness across all client groups to achieve positive outcomes. Vulnerable groups are over-represented within homelessness service as issues such as disability, mental health, drugs/alcohol dependency, poverty have a direct impact on ability to access and retain a home.

Statutory homelessness operates within a legal framework which identifies 'priority need' groups so specific groups such as households with children are over-represented in homelessness acceptances.

2. In brief, what changes are you planning to make to your current or proposed new or changed policy, strategy, procedure, project or service to minimise or eliminate the adverse equality impacts?

Please provide further details of the proposed actions, timetable for making the changes and the person(s) responsible for making the changes on the resultant action plan.

The Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan acknowledges groups who have specific needs and the proposed priorities for action include actions for young people (mediation, preventing parental exclusion, help to access accommodation), those in poverty (financial inclusion, advice, credit unions), BME groups (gaining more knowledge of needs and issues), developing services for clients with mental health needs, drug/alcohol dependency, complex needs in partnership with other services, those with support needs. The proposed policy in relation to discharge of duty in private rented sector specifically identifies groups of people for whom a Private sector offer may not be appropriate i.e. vulnerable households, those requiring supported accommodation, those fleeing domestic violence, disabled households needs special adaptations to housing to meet their needs. It also recognises affordability issues which impact on those with low household incomes.

3. Please provide details of whom you will consult on the proposed changes and if you do not plan to consult, please provide the rationale behind that decision.

Please note that you are required to involve disabled people in decisions that impact on them.

The Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan has been produced following discussions and feedback with partners and providers of housing and support services in the City and public consultation in 2012

4. Can the adverse impacts you identified during the initial screening be justified without making any adjustments to the existing or new policy, strategy, procedure, project or service?

Please set out the basis on which you justify making no adjustments

Not applicable as no adverse impacts are predicated.

5. You are legally required to monitor and review the proposed changes after implementation to check they work as planned and to screen for unexpected equality impacts.

Please provide details of how you will monitor/evaluate or review your proposals and when the review will take place

The Homelessness Strategy Action Plan targets will be subject to annual review.

Lead officer responsible for signing off the EqIA: Sheila Farley
Role: Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager
Date: December 2012