



**East Staffordshire Borough Council
Equality and Health Impact Assessment (EHIA)**

This EHIA documents how you have taken into account health impacts and the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty in the decision making process for this function, policy or service.

1	Title of function, policy or service to be assessed: Homeless Reduction Act Compliance
2	Date: 16/01/2018
3	Name of EHIA author: Elena Campos
4	EHIA team: Brett Atkinson Elena Campos
5	Head of Service: Sal Khan
6	Is the policy, function or service existing, new or being reviewed? Existing service with some new functions/elements
7	<p>State the aims, objectives and purpose of the function, policy or service and provide a summary of the service provided:</p> <p>The Council needs to comply with the additional duties introduced by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 which will come into effect on 3rd of April 2018. The Council plans to achieve legislative compliance in performing these new duties through a number of proposed initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing the meaningful help available by enabling households to remain in the home from which homelessness is threatened by offering loans to address rent arrears (Programme 1). 2. Increasing the offer to private landlords so they are more willing to let their properties to households where they require alternative accommodation (Programme 2). This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Housing Outreach Worker to act as tenant's first point of contact to assist in the management of the tenancy. • Insurance against rent arrears for first 12 months (approx. £150pa per property)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committing to make a one off payment of £600 towards court costs if required within first 2 years. <p>3. In recognition of the increased length of applications, increasing the provision of self-contained temporary accommodation by leasing more social rented properties to meet statutory suitability requirements for TA (Programme 3).</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Are there any other functions, policies or services which might be linked with this one for the purpose of this EHIA?</p> <p>All of the above proposals are intended to be used alongside the existing homelessness prevention and relief tools available to the Housing Options team.</p> <p>Programme 1 - This scheme would run alongside and effectively mirror the current New Tenancy Finance Scheme (NTFS) which offers loans to secure alternative accommodation. The NTFS is run in partnership with the Money Spider Credit Union. The Council plans to continue to work with Money Spider Credit Union to deliver this additional scheme.</p> <p>Programme 3 – The Council already leases 3 properties from Trent and Dove to use as temporary accommodation for homeless households. The Council plans to continue its successful partnership in the delivery of this scheme through leasing further properties from Trent and Dove.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Who is it intended to affect or benefit (the target population)?</p> <p>This group of initiatives is intended to benefit households which are homeless or at risk of homelessness, as defined by legislation (including the amendments introduced by the Homelessness Reduction Act from April 2018). This means anyone who is homeless or is threatened with homelessness within 56 days stands to benefit from these proposals.</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <p>Programme 1 – households threatened with homelessness because of rent arrears. Programme 2 – households who may need support to maintain a Private Rented tenancy, households with a history of debt issues/rent arrears, households with a poor tenancy track-record or who cannot provide appropriate references/assurances who would otherwise find it hard to enter into the Private Rented Sector. Programme 3 – this proposal is specifically targeted to benefit families with dependants or family commitments in order for the Council to meet its legislative requirement to not place those households in B&B accommodation for longer than 6 weeks. However, all homeless households in need of temporary accommodation stand to benefit from an increased supply of self-contained accommodation, notably those who are poorly served within the existing temporary accommodation providers such as larger families and people with significant disabilities.</p>

10

Equality impacts

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Within this table, state whether the policy, function or service will have a positive or negative impact across the following protected characteristics and provide any comments.

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Comments
Age	Y	N	Programme 2 – might assist younger tenants to be able to secure tenancies in the Private Rented Sector. It would give landlords some financial assurance in lieu of a landlord's reference which younger tenants, new to the rental market usually do not have.
Disability	Y	N	Programme 3 – acquiring additional units of temporary accommodation offers the opportunity to address the needs of groups that are poorly served within the hotel network such as people with significant physical disabilities.
Sex / gender reassignment / pregnancy or maternity	Y	N	Programme 3 – is targeted specifically at households with family commitments (including pregnant households). By increasing the amount of self-contained accommodation that is available and suitable for expecting mothers and families the Council will improve the temporary accommodation offer for these households.
Race	N	N	No impact identified.
Religion or belief	N	N	No impact identified.
Sexual orientation	N	N	No impact identified.
Other: Mental Health			Programme 3 – Secure temporary accommodation which requires less interaction with others will be more beneficial for this group.

11.	<p>What evidence do you have for the statements made in question 10?</p> <p>The Housing Options service provides bespoke personal support which assists persons to access appropriate homelessness prevention strategies and accommodation provision taking into consideration any additional needs. The proposed initiatives will further increase the options available to the council for preventing and relieving homelessness for all households irrespective of individual differences as well as increasing the choice and suitability of temporary accommodation available to all groups but notably those poorly served by the current hotel offer. Therefore, an overall positive impact in a number of areas is anticipated.</p>								
12	<p>Consultation: Describe what consultation has been undertaken on this function or policy, who was involved and the outcome.</p> <p>The Council's Housing Options Team has consulted with partner organisations including Money Spider Credit Union, Trent and Dove, as well as with potential social landlords and there is widespread support for the proposed schemes.</p>								
13	<p>Briefly explain how the policy, function or service contributes to community cohesion by answering the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will it provide equality of access to services, information and employment? • Does it or could it celebrate diversity? • Will it or could it promote good relationships within and between communities? • How will it help to prevent social exclusion? • Will it help to reintegrate those who have become excluded? • How will it provide good quality, inclusive services? <p>These initiatives will be provided to all households in the Borough which are homeless or at risk of homelessness regardless of ethnic group or individual differences. The proposals support social inclusion and community cohesion by ensuring disadvantaged groups are given the same opportunity to access services and have access to the same quality of services.</p>								
14	<p>Health impacts – screening question Will the subject of this EHIA:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 1704 1485 2020"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="236 1704 730 1839"></th> <th data-bbox="737 1704 1107 1839">No (provide a brief explanation of your response)</th> <th data-bbox="1114 1704 1485 1839">Yes (Is this impact positive or negative? provide a brief explanation of your response)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="236 1848 730 2020">Have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?</td> <td data-bbox="737 1848 1107 2020"></td> <td data-bbox="1114 1848 1485 2020">Positive – Those helped to prevent or relieve homelessness through these schemes will be spared the negative</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				No (provide a brief explanation of your response)	Yes (Is this impact positive or negative? provide a brief explanation of your response)	Have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?		Positive – Those helped to prevent or relieve homelessness through these schemes will be spared the negative
	No (provide a brief explanation of your response)	Yes (Is this impact positive or negative? provide a brief explanation of your response)							
Have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?		Positive – Those helped to prevent or relieve homelessness through these schemes will be spared the negative							

			effects of experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping. Some may also experience a direct positive impact to their mental health and wellbeing through their housing situation being alleviated.
	Have an impact on social, economic and environmental living conditions that would indirectly affect health?		Positive – individuals assisted could have their overall living conditions improved
	Have an effect on an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?		Positive – a stable address secured access and continuity in health service provision.
	Affect access to, and the quality of, health, mental health or wellbeing services?		Positive – having their own property is beneficial to enable the health assessor to get a true reflection of the individual's abilities.
Please refer to the EHIA guidance document. If you answer yes to any of these questions a health impact assessment is required, please complete section 16.			
15	Head of Service signature:		

16. HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT¹

To be completed if you have answered yes to any of the health impact screening questions.

A. Describe the health impact(s). Please refer to the screening questions in Q14.	B. Answering yes to these questions indicates an important health impact. Be explicit and include the evidence that has been considered.			C. Are the health impacts significant?
Identify the health impact(s)	Will the health impacts affect the whole population? Will it affect particular groups of people differently?	Will the health impacts be difficult to remedy or have an irreversible impact? Are they likely to cause public concern?	Will the health impacts be medium to long term? Are they likely to create cumulative impacts?	Does this health impact have a significant positive or negative impact? (based on your responses to section B)
Improve the mental health and wellbeing of households which are homeless or threatened with homelessness	The services are provided exclusively to those verified as homeless or threatened with homelessness as defined in legislation.	No concerns identified as impact is positive.	It is believed that those helped through these schemes will experience medium to long term positive impact as they are assisted to keep their home or move to other settled housing.	Significant positive impact.

17. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Please describe the actions, if any, you will take to mitigate against negative health or equality impacts identified in this assessment, or to maximise the benefits of the policy or service. If significant action is required it should be included in Service Plans.

Is it a Health or Equality action?	Issue/impact identified	Recommendation / action required	Lead officer and timescale	Resource allocation

¹ Adapted from 'Health Impact Assessment of Government Policy, a guide to carrying out a Health Impact Assessment of new policy as part of the Impact Assessment process.' Department of Health, July 2010 p.13

--	--	--	--	--