

**Equality Impact Assessment  
Level One Assessment Form**

**Service Area Housing Options/Advice & Homelessness Strategic  
Housing.....**

<b>1. What is the name of the proposed policy, procedure, project etc to be assessed.</b>	
<p>Provision of a good quality housing options service to residents who require free, independent advice on all housing needs related issues. Set up joint working protocols with relevant agencies where appropriate in achieving homeless prevention and support to homeless households. Investigate homelessness applications and decision making under S184 of Housing Act 1996, as amended by Homelessness Act 2002. Provision of temporary accommodation for those who are eligible, homeless and in priority need.</p>	
<b>2. What are the aims or intended outcomes of the policy to be assessed.</b>	
<p>Prevention of homelessness. Reducing and tackling youth homelessness. Reducing the use of temporary accommodation &amp; provision of appropriate supported accommodation. Developing an enhanced housing options approach.</p>	
<b>3. Is there any potential public or staff concern that this function, policy or proposal may have a discriminatory impact</b>	
<p><b>PUBLIC</b> Applicants that are not eligible within the terms of the homelessness legislation could perceive the legislation as discriminatory</p>	<p><b>STAFF</b> None identified.</p>
<b>4. Is there any other evidence (results of consultations, monitoring data etc) to suggest that the proposals could have an adverse/differential impact on the grounds of</b>	
<p>a. Race. Migrant workers, for many we are limited in the advice if they are ineligible for assistance. Gypsy/Travellers, no transit facilities to use as T/A that would be suitable for those who could not live in bricks &amp; mortar T/A. If no pitch available this could prompt a homeless application and accommodation would need to</p>	

be provided. Residents who cannot read or understand English may have difficulties accessing housing options due to language barriers. Service may not cater for cultural needs.

- b. Religion. No issues identified at present, but issues could arise in the future as local population becomes more diverse.
- c. Gender. Unable to offer refuge placement to men as a housing option to men fleeing domestic abuse. Women with older male children fleeing violence are unable to access refuge provision.
- d. Disability. Can be difficult finding suitable private and social housing for households with disabilities. Private landlords will not in the main agree adaptations. Social housing providers have limited adapted stock and normally have long waiting lists for such properties.
- e. Sexual Orientation. No issues identified.
- f. Age. 16/17yr olds, PIE data confirms that this group are one of the three main causes of homelessness nationally. HB regulations make it difficult for these group to secure self contained accommodation and unable to hold a secure tenancy in social housing until the age of 18yr old. Limited amount of supported housing available locally for this group. Young people living independently for the first time have a high tenancy failure rate.

**5. If there is no evidence are there any experts/ relevant groups who you can approach to explore their views on the issues**

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**6. How will the views of these groups be obtained**

Consultation with different groups and stakeholders was made during the recent update of the homelessness strategy completed in July 2008.

**7. Please detail the outcomes of these consultations**

The homelessness review document produced in April 2008, details the outcomes of the consultation process with these groups and others. Further consultation will take place through the Hyndburn homeless forum which meets on a quarterly basis.

**8. What are the risks (if any) associated with the policy in relation to the adverse/differential impact on the ETG's**

See Question 4.

**9. Considering the evidence above what priority would you give this policy in relation to the Equality Target Groups. Please provide a rationale for your conclusions**

	High	Medium	Low
Disability		X	

<b>Race</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Gender</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Religion or Belief</b>		<b>X</b>

**10. If in your judgment the proposed service/policy etc does have an adverse impact? Can that impact be justified?**

The homeless application process is set in law by the Housing Act 1996, as amended by the 2002 Homelessness Act. The legislation is quite clear about the ineligibility of certain client groups who we cannot assist. Ineligible clients will also have limited options and advice that can be given to them.

**11. What steps will you take to address any unjustified impact**

Updated homeless strategy has identified the need for provision of additional units of supported accommodation for young people. Ensure that joint working protocol with Social Services for 16/17yr olds used for joint assessments of needs. Male domestic abuse presentations are low, however this item can be included at the next homelessness forum to gauge further information/statistics to enable us to discuss this with partner agencies. Improve housing options literature and ensuring that it is made available and accessible to all residents within the borough. Review current information and assess the need for it to be translated into community languages. This has been highlighted as an objective in the updated homelessness strategy.

<b>12. Are there any additional resource implications for the steps that need to be taken, both in terms of time and finances</b>	
The above will be subject to limited staff time and resources.	
<b>13. How will you monitor the effect of this function, policy etc on the equality target groups</b>	
Service to be constantly reviewed through customer service feedback questionnaires which will be updated to keep up with service provision and changes made. Findings of this assessment to be fed into the homeless forum. Reference to assessment to be made in updates and action plan of homeless strategy.	

**14. (HR Policies Only) Is the Policy consistent with employment Codes of Practice on Race, Gender and Disability? If not what else needs to be included**

**15. Does this Policy need to be fully impact assessed? Please give reasons**

Consultation with groups affected has already taken place within the homelessness review which was completed in April 2008, these findings were fed into the current homelessness strategy.

Name Denis Aldridge  
Housing.  
Signed

Service Strategic

Dated

**Service Manager Signature**

Approved by Corporate Equalities Planning and Scrutiny Group

**Signed**

**Date**