

**Equality Impact Assessment  
Level One Assessment Form**

**MEDIATION SERVICE OFFERED TO POTENTIALLY HOMELESS  
APPLICANTS. (STRATEGIC HOUSING)**

Service Area.....

**1. What is the name of the proposed policy, procedure, project etc to be assessed.**

Mediation Service offered by Hyndburn Council, housing advice team in cases of potential homelessness.

**2. What are the aims or intended outcomes of the policy to be assessed.**

To provide a mediation service to families to aid those in resolving conflict that may lead to a homelessness application.  
 To reduce levels of homelessness amongst young people, in particular 16/17 year olds.  
 To prevent homelessness in as many cases as possible.  
 To comply with government guidance on developing and delivering initiatives to prevent homelessness.  
 Resolve difficulties between landlords and tenants.

**3. Is there any potential public or staff concern that this function, policy or proposal may have a discriminatory impact**

PUBLIC	STAFF
None Identified	None Identified

**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**

a. Race. Cultural awareness around some groups as outside

involvement with a family type dispute can often be frowned on and not welcomed. Often disputes/family issues are solved within the local community.

- b. Religion. Some religious groups do not welcome outside involvement in resolving disputes within a family setting.
  
- c. Gender. Homeless applications in 16/17 year old group amongst singles are very similar. Overall there are more female applicants due to pregnancies in this age group and hence the family conflict issues this can cause.
  
- d. Disability. Support needs may need to be identified prior to any mediation offered.
  
- e. Sexual Orientation. Maybe harder to mediate within families where there is a prejudice with regards to applicants sexual orientation.
  
- f. Age. Mediation is primarily aimed at 16/17 year old applicants to prevent increase in homelessness within this group. This particular group of applicants are considered a priority need within the terms of the homelessness legislation.

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

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

This was identified in the reducing and tackling youth homelessness section of the updated homelessness strategy which was completed in July 2008. The homelessness review document from April 2008 identified agency consultation (below are listed some of the groups consulted as part of the homelessness review document for the tackling and reducing youth homelessness)

- . Teenage parents via the teenage pregnancy midwife and housing survey
- . Single young people at Crossroads supported housing project
- . Single people visiting Maundy Grange
- . East Lancashire Physical Disabilities Partnership Board
  
- . Hyndburn & Ribble Valley Mental Health Forum
- . BME Focus groups
- . Migrant Workers survey
- . Gypsy and travellers consultation via Hyndburn Community Network and Lancashire G&T Accommodation Assessment
- . Customers receiving housing advice services at Cannon St

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

Homelessness review document of April 2008 contains outcomes

## **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**

	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Disability</b>			<b>X</b>
<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 service could impact on certain group. This has been identified at question 4. The policy is aimed particularly at youth homelessness to prevent increased homelessness amongst this particular group. Mediation may be more difficult for some groups where any party to mediation may have specific prejudices. (this has been highlighted with the specific groups in question 4)

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

Promote the mediation offered by the team with partner organisations who work with the groups identified. Produce literature which is easy to understand to explain why we offer mediation where it is deemed appropriate to use

**12. Are there any additional resource implications for the steps that need to be taken, both in terms of time and finances**

Subject to existing resources/budgets

**13. How will you monitor the effect of this function, policy etc on the equality target groups**

Quarterly statistics on homeless presentations and preventions will allow us to monitor the success of mediation where it is applied and outcomes. Refusal to take part in mediation where appropriate will not affect the Council's statutory

duty towards an applicant. Support could be offered to the young person and family through a number of other sources. Support through a specific supported housing project, floating support offered by the Council's floating support provider or other voluntary and statutory agencies. Eg: Social Services. Monitoring of the policy will take place through the homelessness strategy young persons-sub group to ascertain if any adverse impacts on target group.

**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**

Not at this time. The homeless review document of April 2008 highlighted issues around mediation and young people and this has now been reflected as an objective in the updated homelessness strategy

Name  
Signed

Service  
Dated

**Service Manager Signature**

Approved by Corporate Equalities Planning and Scrutiny Group

**Signed**

**Date**