

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

THE STAGE ONE ASSESSMENT FORM - the initial screening process

SERVICE, POLICY OR FUNCTION BEING ASSESSED: Homelessness administration

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE, POLICY OR FUNCTION: (e.g. main purpose, users or beneficiaries etc)

This assessment forms part of the department's statutory functions to assess the needs of the homeless and determine a series of outcomes in accordance with primary legislation. The legislation applies to households who are threatened with or actually homeless.

The Council is under a legal duty to accommodate households who are eligible for assistance being in priority need and unintentionally homeless. The initial housing duty is to offer temporary or interim accommodation, which may also occur during the assessment period. The part 6 offer will arise once duties have been completed. A discharge of housing duty could also apply if the household fails to take up a reasonable offer of accommodation or if they become homeless from the temporary accommodation provided. Households may seek to review adverse decisions.

The Council must comply with the primary legislation regarding homelessness at all times.

Please indicate if it is an existing area of service or a new area/project:

Target Equality Group <i>(see guidance note 2 for details)</i>	Does it have a Positive Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 6 for details)</i>	Does it have a Neutral Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 9 for details)</i>	Does it have a Negative Impact If yes please explain how, indicate if it is legal and whether or not it is intended. <i>(see guidance note 7 for details)</i>	If it has a negative impact, is the level of this impact high or low? <i>(see guidance note 10 for details)</i>
Age	The legislation positively discriminates in favour of households who are under 18 years and who are deemed vulnerable because of old age		The decision to restrict the use of temporary accommodation at Sandringham Court in Sudbury to households with children under 11 provides an unintended negative impact on those families with older children	Low

Target Equality Group <i>(see guidance note 2 for details)</i>	Does it have a Positive Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 6 for details)</i>	Does it have a Neutral Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 9 for details)</i>	Does it have a Negative Impact If yes please explain how, indicate if it is legal and whether or not it is intended. <i>(see guidance note 7 for details)</i>	If it has a negative impact, is the level of this impact high or low? <i>(see guidance note 10 for details)</i>
Belief or faith		There is no evidence of homelessness being linked to religious beliefs or faith.		N/A
Disability	The legislation positively discriminates in favour of households, and persons who might be reasonably expected to reside with the households, who are vulnerable because of physical disability or handicap and mental illness			N/A
Sexual Orientation		There is no evidence of homelessness being linked to a household's sexual orientation.		N/A
Gender		Domestic violence is the main cause of homelessness amongst women. The legislation is equally applicable to men experiencing violence and therefore the impact is considered neutral		N/A

Target Equality Group <i>(see guidance note 2 for details)</i>	Does it have a Positive Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 6 for details)</i>	Does it have a Neutral Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 9 for details)</i>	Does it have a Negative Impact If yes please explain how, indicate if it is legal and whether or not it is intended. <i>(see guidance note 7 for details)</i>	If it has a negative impact, is the level of this impact high or low? <i>(see guidance note 10 for details)</i>
Race	The Suffolk protocol for sharing responsibility for persons given leave to remain in the UK following a successful asylum discussion provides for a positive impact on these groups. This agreement means that such households will be afforded a positive homelessness status and will be prioritised for suitable accommodation alongside other homelessness households.	The incidence of reported homelessness from within the BME community is low and is subject to reporting. Any changes in this trend therefore would be taken into account when delivering services in the future		N/A

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IF ANY AREAS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH LOW LEVEL NEGATIVE IMPACT

IS THE IMPACT LIKELY TO CHANGE OVER TIME?

Yes	X	No	
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IF YES, HOW WILL THE IMPACT CHANGE?

The decision to apply age restrictions to children at Sandringam Court does mean that households with children over 11 are offered accommodation of a lower standard

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MINIMISE OR REMOVE ANY *UNINTENDED* NEGATIVE IMPACT?

We have transferred our main temporary accommodation in Sudbury to Orwell Housing Association who are currently refurbishing this accommodation to the same standard as Sandringham Court. This decision formed part of the actions contained within our Homelessness Strategy. We will not be applying the same age restrictions and once the refurbishment has been completed, in August 2009, we will have a consistently high quality and flexible stock of temporary accommodation available for homeless households

HOW COULD YOU MONITOR THIS WORK?

The development of this accommodation and the homelessness management service is being managed by a Project Team who will report any difficulties with the project to the Housing Panel

IF YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED ANY AREAS WHERE THE LEVEL OF NEGATIVE IMPACT IS HIGH PLEASE REFER TO YOUR HEAD OF SERVICE PRIOR TO COMPLETING A STAGE TWO ASSESSMENT FORM

Signed:David Clarke.....Service Manager undertaking the Assessment.

Date:12 September 2008.....