

Equality Impact Assessment

Service Area	Housing and Property Services
Policy/Service being assessed	Severe Weather Emergency Provision
Is this is a new or existing policy/service?	New
If existing policy/service please state date of last assessment	
EIA Review team – List of members	Emma Chong
Date of this assessment	March 2011
Signature of completing officer (to be signed after the EIA has been completed)	
Name and signature of Head of Service (to be signed after the EIA has been completed)	

A copy of this Equality Impact Assessment Report including relevant data and information should be saved in the Equality and Diversity Folder on the shared drive.

Form A1

INITIAL SCREENING FOR STRATEGIES/POLICIES/FUNCTIONS FOR EQUALITIES RELEVANCE TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AND PROMOTE EQUALITY



High relevance/priority



Medium relevance/priority



Low or no relevance/ priority

Note:

1. Tick coloured boxes appropriately, and depending on degree of relevance to each of the equality strands
2. Summaries of the legislation/guidance should be used to assist this screening process

DEPARTMENT:	Relevance/Risk to Equalities																										
State the Function/Policy /Service/Strategy being assessed:	Gender			Race			Disability			Sexual Orientation			Religion/Belief			Age			Socio-economic			Priority status For EIA					

Form A2

Equality Impact Assessment
Please Explain

<u>Stage 1 – Scoping and Defining</u>	
(1) What are the aims and objectives of policy/service?	To provide overnight emergency accommodation during periods of severe weather for rough sleepers or roofless individuals with no priority need and are not owed a duty under the homelessness provisions.
(2) How does the policy/service fit with the council's wider objectives?	Sustainable Community Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protecting our communities from harm with an emphasis on the prevention of incidents whilst focusing on the most vulnerable to make them feel safer.• Everyone is able to enjoy a healthy lifestyle and sense of well being.
(3) What are the expected outcomes of the policy/service? Who is intended to benefit from the policy/service and in what way?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To ensure that rough sleepers or roofless individuals with no priority need are not a risk of dying or suffering serious harm during periods of cold weather. Beneficiaries are those rough sleepers or roofless individuals with no priority need with a local connection who are not owed a duty under the Housing Act 1996 Part VII as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002.

<p>(4) Does this policy/service have the potential to directly or indirectly discriminate against any particular group?</p> <p>Please identify all groups that are affected and briefly explain why</p>	<p>RACE NO</p> <p>There are no contra indicators. All rough sleepers and non priority roofless individuals regardless of race would be considered.</p>	<p>AGE NO</p> <p>There are no contra indicators. All rough sleepers and non priority roofless individuals regardless of age would be considered. Certain service users may be considered to be in priority need in accordance with homelessness legislation due to their age and would be accommodated under those provisions.</p>	<p>GENDER NO</p> <p>There are no contra indicators. All rough sleepers and non priority roofless individuals regardless of gender would be considered.</p>
	<p>RELIGION/BELIEF NO</p> <p>There are no contra indicators. All rough sleepers and non priority roofless individuals would be considered regardless of their religion or beliefs.</p>	<p>DISABILITY NO</p> <p>There are no contra indicators. All rough sleepers and non priority roofless individuals would be considered regardless of their disability. If the service user was considered to be in priority need as defined by homelessness legislation due to their disability they would be accommodated under those provisions. For wheelchair users, suitable accommodation will be identified.</p>	<p>SEXUAL ORIENTATION NO</p> <p>There are no contra indicators. All rough sleepers and non priority roofless individuals would be considered regardless of their sexual orientation.</p>

<p>(5) Are there any obvious barriers to accessing the service?</p>	<p>The service is accessed either by approaching Housing Advice directly or via a referral from the Salvation Army. It can also be accessed over the phone and at the one stop shops.</p> <p>Whilst there are no barriers to accessing the service rough sleepers and non priority roofless individuals without a local connection would not be provided with emergency accommodation as their own local authority should provide this. However they would be provided with advice and assistance to enable them to access accommodation.</p>
<p>(6) How does the policy/service contribute to promotion of equality?</p>	<p>By providing equal access to all regardless of race, age, gender, religion disability or sexual orientation.</p>
<p>(7) Does the policy/service have the potential to promote good relations between groups?</p>	
<p><u>Stage 2 - Information Gathering</u></p>	
<p>(1) What type and range of evidence or information have you used to help you make a judgement about the policy or service?</p>	<p>CLG guidance Homeless Link – Good practice guide Best practice amongst other local authorities</p>
<p>(2) What consultation/ information has been used? What new consultation, if any, do you need to undertake?</p>	<p>Procedure has been circulated to partner agencies, councillors and is also promoted on Warwick District Council’s website and through the Housing Sounding Board. Some councillors have expressed concerns regarding the local connection criteria as they feel it is discriminatory against those who do not have local connection.</p>
<p><u>Stage 3 – Making a Judgement</u></p>	

<p>(1) From your data and consultations is there any adverse or negative impact identified for any particular group?</p> <p>Is there any evidence of needs not being met? e.g. language or physical access barriers; lack of appropriate resources or facilities</p>	<p>Rough sleepers and non priority roofless individuals with no local connection as defined by the Homelessness Legislation.</p> <p>Rough sleepers and non priority roofless individuals deemed to be a high risk following a risk assessment.</p> <p>No evidence of needs not being met we have provided emergency accommodation for 1 night for 2 applicants without a local connection.</p>
<p>(2) If there is an adverse impact, can this be justified?</p>	<p>If the service was opened to all the LA could potentially be inundated with rough sleepers from other districts who do not offer a similar provision. If a service user with no local connection was to approach we could offer emergency accommodation for one night with advice for them to return to their 'home district'. Whilst there is no statutory duty to provide this service the CLG recommend that all local authorities have this provision, therefore the onus would lie with the local authority that the service user has the connection with to provide accommodation. All neighbouring authorities within the County have similar provision with the exception of Stratford. There is no reason why a person who required this service would be denied accommodation in their 'home' authority and therefore no reason why they should present to Warwick District.</p> <p>If it was identified that the individual posed a risk to others we would exclude in order to protect other users. In the event of an individual being unable to access the service due to potential risks Housing Advice would signpost towards basic shelter, provide sleeping bags and ask the police to check on them will provide some safeguards.</p>

(3) What actions are going to be taken to reduce or eliminate negative or adverse impact?	Continue to monitor the demand for provision and take appropriate action if necessary.																								
(4) Is there any positive impact? Does it promote equality of opportunity between different groups and actively address discrimination?	The positive impact is that those rough sleepers or individuals who are roofless with no priority need who would not ordinarily qualify for emergency accommodation are provided for during periods of severe weather.																								
<u>Stage 4 – Action Planning, Review & Monitoring</u>																									
<p>If No Further Action is required then go to – Review & Monitoring</p> <p>(1) Action Planning – Specify any changes or improvements which can be made to the service or policy to mitigate or eradicate negative or adverse impact on specific groups, including resource implications.</p>	<p>EIA Action Plan</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="779 798 2040 1286"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="779 798 1032 874">Action</th> <th data-bbox="1032 798 1285 874">Lead Officer</th> <th data-bbox="1285 798 1538 874">Date for completion</th> <th data-bbox="1538 798 1792 874">Resource requirements</th> <th data-bbox="1792 798 2040 874">Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="779 874 1032 1171">Monitor 2011/2012 demand</td> <td data-bbox="1032 874 1285 1171">Emma Chong</td> <td data-bbox="1285 874 1538 1171">April 2012</td> <td data-bbox="1538 874 1792 1171">None</td> <td data-bbox="1792 874 2040 1171">Continue to monitor demand for provision and take appropriate action if necessary.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="779 1171 1032 1248"></td> <td data-bbox="1032 1171 1285 1248"></td> <td data-bbox="1285 1171 1538 1248"></td> <td data-bbox="1538 1171 1792 1248"></td> <td data-bbox="1792 1171 2040 1248"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="779 1248 1032 1286"></td> <td data-bbox="1032 1248 1285 1286"></td> <td data-bbox="1285 1248 1538 1286"></td> <td data-bbox="1538 1248 1792 1286"></td> <td data-bbox="1792 1248 2040 1286"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Action	Lead Officer	Date for completion	Resource requirements	Comments	Monitor 2011/2012 demand	Emma Chong	April 2012	None	Continue to monitor demand for provision and take appropriate action if necessary.										
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Monitor 2011/2012 demand	Emma Chong	April 2012	None	Continue to monitor demand for provision and take appropriate action if necessary.																					
(2) Review and Monitoring State how and when you will monitor policy and EIA Action Plan																									

Once complete please save a copy of this EIA into the central drive **L:/Equalities & Diversity/EIA/2010/relevant service area**
Please annotate your policy with the following statement:

'An Equality Impact Assessment on this policy was undertaken on March 2011 and will be reviewed on March 2014.