

Equality Analysis

Birmingham City Council Analysis Report

EA Name	Birmingham Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2017+
Directorate	People
Service Area	People - Policy And Commissioning
Type	New/Proposed Policy
EA Summary	This Equality Analysis covers considerations relating to the process of developing and implementing a new Homelessness Prevention Strategy. The new strategy will replace the current Birmingham Homelessness Strategy 2012+. The decision being sought is on the ability to go to consultation on the draft strategy.
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Introduction

The report records the information that has been submitted for this equality analysis in the following format.

Initial Assessment

This section identifies the purpose of the Policy and which types of individual it affects. It also identifies which equality strands are affected by either a positive or negative differential impact.

Relevant Protected Characteristics

For each of the identified relevant protected characteristics there are three sections which will have been completed.

- Impact
- Consultation
- Additional Work

If the assessment has raised any issues to be addressed there will also be an action planning section.

The following pages record the answers to the assessment questions with optional comments included by the assessor to clarify or explain any of the answers given or relevant issues.

1 Activity Type

The activity has been identified as a New/Proposed Policy.

2 Initial Assessment

2.1 Purpose and Link to Strategic Themes

What is the purpose of this Policy and expected outcomes?

The purpose of the Homelessness Prevention Strategy is to set out the broad aims and objectives supported by a system model which seeks a shift towards tackling at pre-crisis stage causes, triggers and risk factors associated with homelessness, rebalancing current practice which is focused on preventing and alleviating homelessness at crisis point. The stated main beneficiaries of the strategy will be any household or person facing the prospect of losing their home, dealing with the immediate crisis of having nowhere to live or recovering from being homeless.

For each strategy, please decide whether it is going to be significantly aided by the Function.

Children: A Safe And Secure City In Which To Learn And Grow	No
Health: Helping People Become More Physically Active And Well	No
Housing : To Meet The Needs Of All Current And Future Citizens	Yes
Jobs And Skills: For An Enterprising, Innovative And Green City	No

2.2 Individuals affected by the policy

Will the policy have an impact on service users/stakeholders?	Yes
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Comment:

More than 20,000 (est.) households in Birmingham each year either homeless, at risk of becoming homeless or transitioning out of homelessness, The Strategy seeks to establish a city-wide framework to tackle and prevent homelessness based on a Positive Pathway service model. For delivery to be successful on-going commitment and support is required from citizens, those with lived experience of homelessness, strategic partners e.g. Housing Birmingham and other key stakeholders. The impact of the proposed strategy will be more clearly understood following analysis of the public consultation programme.

Will the policy have an impact on employees?	No
Will the policy have an impact on wider community?	Yes

Comment:

Homeless services throughout the city can have a positive impact on the wider community including local businesses which have been directly/indirectly affected by the recent national rises in street sleeping which are reflected in Birmingham.

2.3 Relevance Test

Protected Characteristics	Relevant	Full Assessment Required
Age	Relevant	No
Disability	Relevant	No
Gender	Relevant	No
Gender Reassignment	Relevant	No
Marriage Civil Partnership	Not Relevant	No

Pregnancy And Maternity	Relevant	No
Race	Relevant	No
Religion or Belief	Relevant	No
Sexual Orientation	Relevant	No

2.4 Analysis on Initial Assessment

This is the initial Equality Assessment (EA) to help guide and inform the Birmingham Homelessness Prevention Strategy. The vision of the strategy and the approach advocated is relevant to all protected characteristics. This EA will be a 'live' document incrementally considered and updated during the development stages which include consultation prior to the Strategy document being finalised.

The EA considerations have been overseen by a multi-agency Programme Board (Homelessness Positive Programme Pathway Board) EA Task Group which has expertise and responsibilities linked to the proposed service model put forward in the Strategy.

This EA forms parts of a suite of documents, including the draft Strategy, to be circulated for consideration and comment.

Further assessments will be undertaken following a meaningful consultation on the draft Strategy.

3 Full Assessment

The assessment questions below are completed for all characteristics identified for full assessment in the initial assessment phase.

3.1 Age - Assessment Questions

3.1.1 Age - Relevance

Age	Relevant
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Comment:

Applications are received from people across the age range 16-65+ years. However the under-35-year old population does appear to be disproportionately affected, accounting for more than 60% of the total homeless applications made to the Council between 2011/12 and 2015/16, with 25-34 year olds accounting for 35.4% of homeless applications.

3.1 Disability - Assessment Questions

3.1.1 Disability - Relevance

Disability	Relevant
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Comment:

Physical disability accounts for 5.2% of priority need households and 6.1% with mental health related support needs.

3.1 Religion or Belief - Assessment Questions

3.1.1 Religion or Belief - Relevance

Religion or Belief	Relevant
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Comment:

Information in this area is limited as of the homeless cases we know of, almost 50% either did not disclose or refused, or the information was not recorded. 20.5% were Christian and 17.9% were Muslim.

3.1 Gender - Assessment Questions

3.1.1 Gender - Relevance

Gender	Relevant
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Comment:

For priority homelessness cases, over half are lone parent female headed households. For non-priority cases of homelessness, there are greater proportions of single adult males (28.4%) compared to single female adults (18.5%). Street homelessness in Birmingham presents a significantly different picture where 93% of rough sleepers are male and just 7% being female.

3.1 Pregnancy And Maternity - Assessment Questions

3.1.1 Pregnancy And Maternity - Relevance

Pregnancy & Maternity	Relevant
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Comment:

The current homelessness safety net system affords priority housing need to expectant mothers and deems maternity as part of the vulnerability. Between 3-6% of priority homelessness cases

(6% in 2015 to 5% in 2016 and 3% in 2017) involve pregnant women. Data collected from the Birmingham Youth Hub in 2015/16 also captures maternity related characteristics for the 4,000 clients that approached that year. As with priority homelessness a similar proportion (8%) young people who approach involve characteristics associated with pregnancy and maternity.

3.1 Race - Assessment Questions

3.1.1 Race - Relevance

Race	Relevant
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Comment:

Compared to the ethnic profile of Birmingham, all Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups are disproportionately overrepresented when considering households deemed homeless and in priority need. Of the overrepresented BME groups, the biggest difference is reflected in the Other Ethnic group which accounts for 8.5% of priority need households and just 1% of the city's overall population. This is small group in percentage terms but accounts for just over 250 households from a diverse range of ethnicities. The ethnic profile of non-priority homeless households shows four in every ten households are of White origin. In comparison to homeless priority need households, the ethnic profile of non-priority homeless households follows that of Birmingham more closely, however Asian ethnic groups (Pakistani and Bangladeshi in particular) are somewhat underrepresented in comparison to the profile of the city.

3.1 Sexual Orientation - Assessment Questions

3.1.1 Sexual Orientation - Relevance

Sexual Orientation	Relevant
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Comment:

77.3% of homeless applications were from people who are heterosexual or straight, 0.46% bisexual, 0.45% gay and 0.40% lesbian. 12.6% of people did not have their orientation recorded, 8.9% chose not to disclose and 0.82% refused.

3.1 Concluding Statement on Full Assessment

This is an initial Equality Assessment (EA) to help form Birmingham's Homelessness Prevention Strategy. It assesses whether the strategy will be relevant to all protected characteristics and the EA will be updated incrementally.

These considerations have been overseen by the Homelessness Positive Pathway Programme Board. This is a multi-agency group with representatives each providing expertise to identify and recommend considerations around what equality strands will or may affect citizens positively or negatively.

This EA forms part of a suite of draft documents to be circulated for consideration and comment. A further assessment will be undertaken following full and meaningful consultation on the draft Homelessness Prevention Strategy. In addition to open public consultation a programme of targeted consultation has been devised to include individuals with the lived experience of being homeless e.g. Supporting People Citizen's Panel. A Full Assessment will be undertaken on receipt and consideration of stakeholder/public consultation and feedback received on the draft Strategy and the EA will then be refreshed. This will also include a Health Impact Assessment given the issues the strategy seeks to address.

4 Review Date

20/10/17

5 Action Plan

There are no relevant issues, so no action plans are currently required.