

West Suffolk – Equality Impact Assessment

Name of strategy, project or policy to be assessed	
West Suffolk Homelessness Strategy 2015-18	
Lead officer completing assessment	Job title
Tony Hobby	Housing Options Manager

Summary:**Equality Impact Assessment****1. What is the main purpose of the strategy?**

To set out what West Suffolk, along with its partners, will do over the next three years to address and prevent homelessness, ensuring that there is sufficient suitable temporary accommodation and support for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

2. List the main activities of the project/policy (for strategies list the main policy areas):

1. Address the causes of homelessness in the area.
2. Introduce initiatives to prevent homelessness wherever possible.
3. Provide sufficient temporary accommodation for those households that are or may become homeless.
4. Ensure that appropriate support is available for people who have previously experienced homelessness in order to prevent it happening again.

3. Who are the main stakeholders?

Residents
 Voluntary and community sector
 Suffolk County Council – Children and Young People services, Adult Care Services
 Registered Providers
 Police
 Probation
 Housing Providers
 Users of the service

4. What outcomes are wanted from this strategy?

This strategy identifies the steps needed to achieve the four keys aims of addressing the causes of homeless, preventing homelessness, having suitable temporary accommodation and support for those threatened with homelessness.

The action plan details how West Suffolk will build on existing partnerships and develop new partnership to achieve these aims.

5. Are there any concerns that the strategy could have a differential impact in terms of equality?

The table below highlights where we believe the project will have a positive or negative impact on a particular group.

	Explanation
Gender	The Homelessness Strategy plans positively for the residents in West Suffolk and will benefit all homeless people regardless of gender. We monitor the gender profile of homeless cases and will take action if required.
Race	The Homelessness Strategy will have no negative impact upon people in terms of race. It plans positively for the residents in West Suffolk and will benefit all homeless people regardless of race.
Disability	We expect the strategy to have a positive impact on this group. The re-provision of temporary accommodation will facilitate the provision of more suitable and accessible accommodation.
Sexual Orientation	The Homelessness Strategy will have no negative impact upon people in terms of sexual orientation. It plans positively for the residents in West Suffolk and will benefit all homeless people regardless of sexual orientation.
Age	<p>Older people (60 +):</p> <p>The Homelessness Strategy will have no negative impact upon older people in terms of age. It plans positively for the residents in West Suffolk and will benefit all homeless people regardless of age.</p> <p>Younger people:</p> <p>We expect the strategy to have a positive impact on this group. The strategy includes plans to engage with partners on specific multi-agency homeless prevention projects to improve the support given to young homeless people across West Suffolk. We monitor the age profile of homeless cases and will take action if required.</p>

Belief or Religion	The Homelessness Strategy will have no negative impact upon people in terms of belief or religion. It plans positively for the residents in West Suffolk and will benefit all homeless people regardless of belief or religion.
Language	The Homelessness Strategy will have no negative impact upon people in terms of language. It plans positively for the residents in West Suffolk and will benefit all homeless people regardless of language. Translation services are available to ensure language is not a barrier.
Social inclusion and rural isolation	<p>Low Income:</p> <p>We expect the strategy to have a positive impact on this group. Households on a low income are likely to have fewer options available to them than those on a higher income when threatened with homelessness. This strategy seeks to assist such affected people.</p> <p>Rural Isolation:</p> <p>The Homelessness Strategy will have no negative impact upon people in terms of rural isolation. It plans positively for the residents in West Suffolk and will benefit all homeless people.</p> <p>Social Inclusion:</p> <p>We expect the strategy to have a positive impact on the provision of specialist housing and support as we plan to set up a task and finish group to develop a model for housing chronically excluded adults and will continue to lead on the county-wide partnership to develop a 'move-on' strategy for marginalised adults.</p>
Other Groups	No other group has been identified that the Homelessness Strategy will impact upon. It plans positively for the residents in West Suffolk and will benefit all homeless people.

6. Are key elements of people's lives affected by this strategy for example finance, accommodation, welfare?

The Strategy could have a positive impact for all people threatened with homelessness living in West Suffolk as it is aimed at improving Housing/Accommodation and Health and Wellbeing.

7. Could the strategy discriminate against any group(s) either directly or indirectly? If yes, please state how.

No

8 a) If there are any negative impacts, how could you minimise or remove any negative impact?

N/A

8 b) How could you improve the strategy, project or policy's positive impact?

The Homelessness Strategy and action plan in place to deliver it will continue to be reviewed and monitored. This will help to ensure that we plan positively for the future of those threatened with homelessness in the area.

9. If there is no evidence that the strategy, policy or project promotes equality, equal opportunities or improved relations – how could it be adapted so that it does?

N/A

10. What consultation has been carried out on the strategy? Please include details of any equality monitoring carried out.

Consultation with stakeholders and members of the public occurred in December 2014 – January 2015.

11. Do you have data available which monitors the impact of the policy on minority groups? If not, please explain how you intend to continue monitoring the impact of this strategy, policy or project

Equality monitoring for housing is conducted by:-

- Collecting data for our Homelessness Database, giving us information on age, disabilities and ethnic origin of people who are homeless or threatened with Homelessness.

We will continue to use this data to monitor the impact of the Homelessness Strategy

12. Next steps: Based on your assessment, what changes, if any do you need to make? Tick one of the following and provide an explanation of why this is the action you are taking.

Action*	Tick ✓ relevant	Explanation of action
No major change	✓	
Adjust the policy		

Continue the policy		
Stop and remove the policy		

Please sign and date this form, keep one copy and send one copy to the relevant Director and one to the Policy Team.

Name: Tony Hobby

Signed:

Date:

If you have identified any negative impact which is possibly discriminatory and not intended and / or of high impact, you must amend your policy/strategy and/or contact the Policy Unit to discuss remedial action

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