



East Staffordshire Borough Council Equality and Health Impact Assessment (EHIA)

This EHIA documents how you have taken into account health impacts and the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty in the decision making process for this function, policy or service.

1	Title of function, policy or service to be assessed: Homelessness Strategy 2023 - 2027
2	Date: 27 October 2023
3	Name of EHIA author: Brett Atkinson
4	EHIA team: Brett Atkinson & Michael Petter
5	Head of Service: Thomas Deery
6	Is the policy, function or service existing, new or being reviewed? Reviewed.
7	State the aims, objectives and purpose of the function, policy or service and provide a summary of the service provided: The Homelessness Strategy is a strategy for avoiding homelessness, securing the availability of accommodation, and for providing support.
8	Are there any other functions, policies or services which might be linked with this one for the purpose of this EHIA? None.
9	Who is it intended to affect or benefit (the target population)? Households who are or may become homeless or threatened with homelessness.

10 Equality impacts

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Within this table, state whether the policy, function or service will have a positive or negative impact across the following protected characteristics and provide any comments.

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Comments
Age	X		Specifically identified for support as regard parental eviction.
Disability			No differential impact.
Sex / gender reassignment / pregnancy or maternity			No differential impact.
Race			No differential impact.
Religion or belief			No differential impact.
Sexual orientation			No differential impact.
Other			

11 What evidence do you have for the statements made in Question 10?

Action 3 under the 'Improving Homelessness Prevention' section of the strategy specifically identifies the need to support this group with early intervention.

12	<p>Consultation: Describe what consultation has been undertaken on this function, policy or service, who was involved and the outcomes.</p> <p>There were 2 rounds of consultation with statutory and voluntary partners. The first was concerning the Homelessness Review which informs the strategy, and the second was for the draft strategy document was circulated for consultation for 4 weeks until 20th October 2023.</p>															
13	<p>Briefly explain how the policy, function or service contributes to community cohesion by answering the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will it provide equality of access to services, information and employment? • Does it or could it promote good relationships within and between communities? • How will it help to prevent social exclusion? • Will it help to reintegrate those who have become excluded? • Will this assist with communities feeling that they are connected to decision making that affects them? • How will it provide good quality, inclusive services? 															
14	<p>Health impacts – screening question Will the subject of this EHIA:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 40%;"></th> <th style="width: 30%;">No (Provide a brief explanation of your response.)</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Yes (Is this impact positive or negative? Provide a brief explanation of your response.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?</td> <td></td> <td>Yes – avoiding or preventing homelessness which reduce stress and therefore have a positive impact on wellbeing.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have an impact on social, economic and environmental living conditions that would indirectly affect health?</td> <td></td> <td>Yes – some households are removed from poor environmental conditions in the home and placed in more suitable housing.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have an effect on an individual’s ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?</td> <td></td> <td>Yes – a Personal Housing Plan would include actions for the homeless household.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Affect access to, and the quality of, health, mental health or wellbeing services?</td> <td>No - although there will be some instances where the team refer or seek the support of health professionals.</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Please refer to the EHIA guidance document. If you answer yes to any of these</p>		No (Provide a brief explanation of your response.)	Yes (Is this impact positive or negative? Provide a brief explanation of your response.)	Have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?		Yes – avoiding or preventing homelessness which reduce stress and therefore have a positive impact on wellbeing.	Have an impact on social, economic and environmental living conditions that would indirectly affect health?		Yes – some households are removed from poor environmental conditions in the home and placed in more suitable housing.	Have an effect on an individual’s ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?		Yes – a Personal Housing Plan would include actions for the homeless household.	Affect access to, and the quality of, health, mental health or wellbeing services?	No - although there will be some instances where the team refer or seek the support of health professionals.	
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	questions a health impact assessment is required, please complete section 16.
15	Head of Service signature: I am satisfied with the results of this EHIA.

16. HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT¹

Please complete this, if you have answered yes to any of the health impact screening questions.

A. Describe the health impact(s). Please refer to the screening questions in Q14 above.	B. Answering ‘YES’ to the above questions (Q14) indicates an important health impact. Be explicit and include the evidence that has been considered.	C. Are the health impacts significant?
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Identify the health impact(s)	Will the health impacts affect the whole population? Will they affect particular groups of people differently?	Will the health impacts be difficult to remedy or have an irreversible effect? Are they likely to cause public concern?	Will the health impacts be medium or long-term? Are they likely to create cumulative effects?	Does this health impact have a significant positive or negative effect (based on your responses to Section B)?
Provision of homelessness assistance.	Those household facing homelessness or threatened homelessness.	No, impacts are positive.	The legislation provides that a housing solution needs to be for a minimum of 6 months to terminate a duty once one has been accepted.	Positive impact.

¹ Adapted from ‘Health Impact Assessment of Government Policy, a guide to carrying out a Health Impact Assessment of new policy as part of the Impact Assessment process.’ Department of Health, July 2010 p.13

17. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Please describe the actions, if any, you will take to mitigate against negative health or equality impacts identified in this assessment, or to maximise the benefits of the policy or service.
If significant action is required, it should be included in Service Plans.

Is it a Health or Equality action?	Issue / impact identified	Recommendation / action required	Lead officer and timescale	Resource allocation