

Part 1: Equality Impact Screening/Pre-Assessment*

Name of Policy/Function/Strategy to be assessed: Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027	Section/Directorate: Homes and Communities		
Name of person responsible for assessment: Sarah Elvin	Date of Screening: 20th October 2022		
Policy Aims			
What is the purpose of the policy/function/strategy? What are its intended outcomes?			
The strategy aims to reduce and prevent homelessness and rough sleeper and ensure any incidences are rare, brief and non-recurring			
Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy/function/strategy? District Councils, LCC, RP's, third sector providers,			
Do the identified stakeholders stand to be positively or negatively affected by the policy/function/strategy?			
Neither positive or negatively affected, we will be working with them to improve services those who are homeless or a risk of homelessness			
Does this policy/function/strategy support the Council's stated equality objectives? (see overleaf.) Does it serve to impede them? Please explain.			
It does support those and it does not stand to impede them.			
Preliminary Impact Assessment			
	Yes	No	Unsure
1. Will this policy or function have an impact on:			
a. How services are delivered to the public?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Human Resources Policies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Have any aspects of your policy/strategy already been covered by other EIAs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a. If yes, please indicate which ones and the dates. Also indicate which new/additional aspects would be covered under this EIA.			
If you answered Yes or Unsure for question1 please proceed to Part 2 of the EIA, which is to be completed with a small team of people.			
Otherwise, if you are satisfied that there would be no additional benefit to completing a full impact assessment (noting that many issues with no apparent relevance may have hidden impacts) then please have your Service Manager sign and date this sheet to indicate that the EIA has been fully completed at this stage.			

* Part 1 should be completed by the Lead Officer and signed by the Service Manager. Refer to the [Internal EIA Guidance](#) for more information on what EIAs are, why they are important, when they should be completed, who should be involved, and how they should be done.

Manager's Signature: 	This document may be published on the website <input type="checkbox"/>
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Equality Objectives

1. Review Corporate Plan and Equality objectives to ensure links are clear and objectives are evidence based
2. Ensure that all our staff, elected members and volunteers are aware of our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty
3. Engage our communities to participate in the determination of our priorities and decision making
4. Ensure we are transparent in decision making

Part 2: Equality Impact Assessment†

Identifying Potential Equality Issues

Use the information in Part 1, any other supporting documents, and the questions below to aid the group's discussion on the presence of potential equality issues.

- What do you know already about equality impact or need?
- Is there any indication that particular features of this policy/function will create problems for specific groups?
- Is there any indication that particular features of this policy/function will benefit specific groups or advance equality between different groups of people?

Evidence‡

It is difficult to achieve an effective EIA without good evidence. Answer the questions below about the evidence relating to the project/policy/function.

What are the existing sources of evidence and mechanisms for gathering data?

Data is gathered via our government returns regarding homelessness in the County. Public and stakeholder consultation was undertaken to inform priorities and shape the strategy

Action groups will be formed to take forward highlighted challenges and improve ways of working as part of an implementation plan.

Is there any evidence that different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to the particular policy or function?

There are many factors that can be involved in individuals becoming homeless and rough sleeping. These are widely documented within the strategy and mechanisms are required to ensure each cohort of people are dealt with in a tailored and measured approach.

Is there any evidence, or other reason to believe, that there is a higher or lower level of participation or uptake among different groups?

Becoming homeless is not a choice, but it does have different impacts on different people. These are all highlighted and addressed within the strategy to ensure a tailored and measured approach can be actioned.

All groups will be able to access support and provision tailored to their needs but in line with homelessness law. Those not in priority need still have options to be accommodated. There is no blanket process or option, each individual receives an assessment of their needs as everyone had different circumstances.

† Part 2 should be completed by the Policy/Project Lead with the help of a team of people invited to assist.

‡ See the "Evidence Collection and Data Use" section of the [Internal EIA Guidance](#).

Does this policy/project impact a particular area of the District? Have there been any demographic changes or trends locally?

The strategy does not aim to tackle homelessness in just one part of the district, there is a tailored approach no matter what area of the district you are from. However, we see higher levels of homelessness within the town centres and this is not just a West Lindsey trend but a national picture and reflects the delivery of services within those centres.

Services are accessible regardless of location including telephone contact and face to face visits including outreach services.

Is there any informal feedback from managers, staff or voluntary organisations?

Consultation has been undertaken for the strategy which has been positively received by stakeholders.

Are there gaps in the data or our knowledge? What further evidence is needed to understand the impact upon equality?

Statutory Homelessness legislation alongside guidance dictates how Homelessness services are delivered.

This strategy looks at data both quantitative and qualitative to determine where there are gaps in services but also where changes can be made to improve services. The sector has to be responsive to changes in the National position, for example, covid-19 had a huge impact on homelessness when the government brought in the campaign to ensure no one spent nights on the streets during lockdown.

Evidence is continuously being gathered to ensure that Countywide services can be responsive to the latest national issues facing the sector and these will be reflected in the ways in which services are both managed and developed locally.

Based on the identification of potential equality issues and the supporting evidence, the team can try to determine the impact of the policy/project/service/function on different groups.

Does the data show different impact upon different groups?

Yes ☐

No ☒

If yes, which groups are affected?


Group	May particularly benefit	May adversely impact	No impact anticipated
People from different ethnic groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Men	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maternity/pregnancy impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled people or carers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People from different faith groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lesbian, gay or bisexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older or younger people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People in rural locations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Married people or people in civil partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Group cont'd	May particularly benefit	May adversely impact	No impact anticipated
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain the potential benefits or adverse impacts listed above.

Everyone is able to access support with their housing situation regardless of their protected characteristics. Eligibility is set in homelessness law but options are available for those not in priority need through Rough Sleeper Initiatives. Pathways are set for certain groups including single people, families, those with complex or specific needs, prison leavers, care leavers and of the armed forces community. However, these pathways are only identified to allow access to services specific to the needs of these groups but any provision and support to tailored to individual needs regardless of any group or protected characteristics that they may fall into.

Recommendations

Please select a recommended course of action and, where appropriate, explain your choice.

No major change needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adjust the policy <input type="checkbox"/> Adverse impact but continue <input type="checkbox"/> Stop and remove the policy <input type="checkbox"/>
Future actions: None required at this time
<div>Lead Signature: </div> <div>Date§: 20th October 2022</div>

§ What happens next? – See the “Understanding the EIA process” section of the [Internal EIA Guidance](#).