

Warwickshire County Council Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form

The purpose of an EIA is to ensure WCC is as inclusive as possible, both as a service deliverer and as an employer. It also demonstrates our compliance with Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).

This document is a planning tool, designed to help you improve programmes of work by considering the implications for different groups of people. A guidance document is available [here](#).

Please note that, once approved, this document will be made public, unless you have indicated that it contains sensitive information. Please ensure that the form is clear and easy to understand. If you would like any support or advice on completing this document, please contact the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) team on 01926 412370 or equalities@warwickshire.gov.uk

Service / policy / strategy / practice / plan being assessed	Preventing Homelessness in Warwickshire: a multiagency approach 2021-2023
Business Unit / Service Area	People Group / Public Health
Is this a new or existing service / policy / strategy / practice / plan? If an existing service / policy / strategy / practice / plan please state date of last assessment	New
EIA Review team – list of members	Emily Fernandez / Minakshee Patel
Do any other Business Units / Service Areas need to be included?	No
Does this EIA contain personal and / or sensitive information?	No
Are any of the outcomes from this assessment likely to result in complaints from existing services users, members of the public and / or employees?	No If yes please let your Assistant Director and the Customer Relations Team know as soon as possible

1. Please explain the background to your proposed activity and the reasons for it.

In April 2018 the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA17) came into force bringing sweeping changes in how councils should respond to homelessness and one of the most significant changes was the introduction of a “Duty to Refer” which required other public bodies to become more involved in homelessness service provision. The broad aim of HRA17 is to reduce homelessness by introducing systems to ensure early intervention and prevention.

Even though the District and Boroughs are responsible for implementing HRA17, the legislation is underpinned by a requirement to provide a holistic assessment of the households needs which results in a joint, multi-agency approach to achieving a positive outcome.

A recent consultation paper, “Tackling Homelessness Together”, set out the Government’s concerns that partners were not engaging positively to resolve homelessness and are not co-operating. As such they are proposing statutory requirements to provide for specific structures which could include a duty to co-operate and the establishment of Homelessness Reduction Boards.

However, Warwickshire already has an established Strategic Housing Board.

The new obligation highlighted in HRA 17, intensified conversations that were already ongoing between the District & Boroughs and WCC culminating in a conference on homelessness in the autumn of 2018 that involved a wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations who were working in the field of homelessness. Following the conference all six councils agreed to develop a countywide strategy.

In order for Warwickshire County Council and District / Borough Councils to deliver on the actions identified in HRA 17, a Countywide Homelessness Strategy – ‘Preventing Homelessness in Warwickshire: a multiagency approach 2021 -2023’ has been developed and this Equality Impact Assessment is related to that Strategy.

2. Please outline your proposed activity including a summary of the main actions.

Public Health has been working with the Heads of Housing from the 5 District and Borough Councils in developing the Strategy. The strategy provides details on the background, key data on homelessness across Warwickshire, specific information and recommendations in five key social policy areas where co-ordinated action can have the greatest impact in preventing and tackling homelessness. The five areas are:

- Health.
- Young people.
- Domestic abuse.
- Offending.
- Financial inclusion.

3. Who is this going to impact and how? (customers, service users, public and staff)

It is good practice to seek the views of your stakeholders and for these to influence your proposed activity. Please list anything you have already found out. If you still need to talk to stakeholders, include this as an 'action' at the end of your EIA. **Note that in some cases, there is a duty to consult, see [more](#).**

This Strategy will have an impact on staff, customers, service users and the wider community.

Views were sought on the Draft Countywide Homeless Strategy using an online survey that was available between 5th October and 1st November 2020. Responses were invited from the general public, businesses, statutory partners, local councillors/elected members, and voluntary and community sector. The results and feedback will assist in getting the strategy right for those who are at risk of homelessness, currently homeless or sleeping rough on Warwickshire streets. It will inform the priorities and recommendations of the final version of the strategy being presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2021.

A summary of the findings from the survey are listed below, however the full consultation report is available as an Appendix to the Strategy.

- The Draft Countywide Homeless Strategy survey received 45 responses. Of these, 28 were from members of the general public and the remainder from other groups (business, statutory partner, local Councillor/elected member, voluntary community sector).
- In total, 91.1% of all respondents stated that they agreed (either agree or strongly agree) with the vision set out for this strategy. Just 6.8% disagreed (either disagree or strongly disagree) with the vision.
- Respondents generally agreed with each of the strategic priorities; Priority 3 (domestic abuse) had the greatest agreement – 93.3% of all respondents stated they agreed or strongly agreed with this priority.
 - A small percentage, 8.9% of the respondents disagreed (disagree or strongly disagree) with Priority 1 (health).
 - Overall, respondents either agreed or agreed to some extent that the recommendations proposed for each strategic priority are the correct ones to focus on for 2021/22:
 - Priority 1 – Health: 62% agreed, 31% agreed to some extent
 - Priority 2 – Young People: 60% agreed, 24% agreed to some extent
 - Priority 3 – Domestic Abuse: 73% agreed, 15.6% agreed to some extent
 - Priority 4 – Offending: 57.8% agreed, 24.4% agreed to some extent
 - Priority 5 - Financial inclusion: 64.4% agreed, 22.2% agreed to some extent

An equality analysis of the respondents is also included in the consultation report.

Data on homelessness in Warwickshire is taken from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, which compiles information from H-CLIC returns from all local housing authorities. Full information is available as an Appendix to the Strategy.

4. Please analyse the potential impact of your proposed activity against the protected characteristics.

N.B Think about what actions you might take to mitigate / remove the negative impacts and maximize on the positive ones.

This will form part of your action plan at question 7.

	What information do you have? What information do you still need to get?	Positive impacts	Negative impacts
Age	Consultation data and service user data is both available.	The service is open to everyone from the age of 16+	
Disability Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical disabilities Sensory impairments Neurodiverse conditions (e.g. dyslexia) Mental health conditions (e.g. depression) Medical conditions (e.g. diabetes) 	Consultation data is available; however, it is not broken down into the different categories. Service user data is not collected through the H-CLIC data returns. However, is picked up as part of the support needs of household.	The service is open to everyone irrespective of what disability they present with. The service provision is based on individual needs.	
Gender Reassignment	Consultation data is available, however. Service user data is not collected through the H-CLIC data returns	The service provision is based on individual needs.	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Data not collected either as part of consultation monitoring or the H-CLIC data returns. However, not required.	The service provision is based on individual needs.	
Pregnancy and Maternity	Data not collected either as part of consultation monitoring or the H-CLIC data returns. However, not required.	The service provision is based on individual needs.	

Race	Consultation data and service user data is both available.	The service is open to everyone irrespective of their ethnicity. The service provision is based on individual needs.	
Religion or Belief	Consultation data is available, however. Service user data is not collected through the H-CLIC data returns	The service provision is based on individual needs.	
Sex	Consultation data and service user data is both available.	The service is open to everyone irrespective of their gender. The service provision is based on individual needs. A specific priority relating to Domestic Abuse has been identified within the Strategy.	
Sexual Orientation	Consultation data is available, however. Service user data is not collected through the H-CLIC data returns	The service is open to everyone irrespective of their sexual orientation. The service provision is based on individual needs.	

5. What could the impact of your proposed activity be on other vulnerable groups e.g. deprivation, looked after children, carers?

There will be a positive impact as there are priorities identified within the Strategy to support vulnerable groups. They are:

- Young people, which includes looked after children, care leavers
- Domestic Abuse
- Financial Inclusion
- Offending

6. How does / could your proposed activity fulfil the three aims of PSED, giving due regard to:

- the elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- creating equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- fostering good relationships between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

The service is available to anyone who presents as homeless and are owed a duty under HRA17 irrespective of their specific protected characteristic. The service provision is based on individual needs.

7. Actions – what do you need to do next?

Consider:

- Who else do you need to talk to? Do you need to engage or consult?
- How you will ensure your activity is clearly communicated
- Whether you could mitigate any negative impacts for protected groups
- Whether you could do more to fulfil the aims of PSED
- Anything else you can think of!

Action	Timescale	Name of person responsible
Strategy to be adopted by Health & Wellbeing Board	March 2021	Emily Fernandez, WCC
Strategy to be adopted by District & Boroughs	February 2021	District & Boroughs Heads of Housing

8. Sign off.

Name of person/s completing EIA	Emily Fernandez / Minakshee Patel
Name and signature of Assistant Director	
Date	
Date of next review and name of person/s responsible	