

# Stafford Borough Council Community Impact Assessment

<b>Part 1 - Details</b>		
<b>Title Of Community impact Assessment</b>	<b>Homelessness Strategy 2014-2019</b>	
<b>Date Conducted</b>	<b>05/02/15</b>	
<b>Name Of Lead Officer and Service Area</b>	<b>John Fraser, Health and Housing</b>	
<b>CIA Team</b>	<i>Anna Nevin, Tomos Jones</i>	
<b>Head Of service</b>	<b>Howard Thomas</b>	
<b>What are you assessing? Indicate with an 'x' which applies-</b>	<i>A decision to review or change a service</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>A strategy</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<i>A policy or procedure</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>A function, service or project</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>What kind of assessment is it? Indicate with an 'x' which applies</b>	<i>New</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Existing</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Being reviewed</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Being reviewed as a result of budget constraints</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## Part 2 – Summary of Assessment

**Set out the aims/objectives/purposes/outcomes of the area you are impact assessing and give a summary of the changes you are proposing?**

The Homelessness Strategy aims to:

- Prevent homelessness;
- Ensure there is sufficient accommodation available for people who are, or who may become homeless; and
- Ensure there is satisfactory support for people how are, or who may become homeless, or who need support to prevent them from becoming homeless.

This strategy has been updated to take into account the current policy environment. Partners agreed that the priorities from the last strategy were still relevant and should be carried forward.

**Are there any other functions, policies or services linked to this impact assessment?**

Yes  No

**If you answered ‘Yes’, please indicate what they are?**

- Health and Housing Services Group Action Plan
- Draft Housing Strategy 2014-2019
- Stafford and Surrounds Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Corporate Plan 2012 – 2015
- Allocations Policy / Tenancy Strategy
- Empty Homes Strategy
- Plan for Stafford Borough
- Private Sector Assistance Policy
- Corporate Enforcement Policy

**Who is the proposal intended to affect or benefit (the target population)?**

The strategy is for those in housing need, at risk of homelessness or any resident of Stafford who requires advice about their housing options.

## Part 3 - Equality Strands

**Indicate which equality areas are likely to be affected by the proposals?**

Equality Strand	Positive	Negative
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Marriage and Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Part 4 – Evidence and Impact

From evidence given from the previous question what actions, if any, will you need to take against each of the following equality stands:

<b>Age</b>	<p>The presence of dependent children will give a household priority when submitting a homeless application. This is set out in legislation and reflected in the homelessness strategy.</p> <p>The Council is investing in awareness raising activities to help young people have realistic perceptions of homelessness and knowledge of support services.</p>
<b>Disability</b>	<p>The Strategy is committed to working with specialist accommodation providers, Registered Providers and the County Council to provide accommodation suitable to meet the needs of those with a disability, alongside an appropriate package of support.</p>
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	N/A
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	N/A
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	<p>Pregnant women have priority when submitting a homeless application. This is set out in legislation and reflected in the homelessness strategy.</p>
<b>Race</b>	N/A
<b>Religion or belief</b>	N/A
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	N/A

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Sex	N/A
<b>Part 5 – Community Cohesion and Inclusion</b>	
<b>Briefly explain how the proposals contribute to community cohesion and inclusion?</b>	
How will it provide equality of access to services, information and employment?	<p>The Council aims to provide clear information in a variety of ways to ensure equality of access. It provides information via printed materials, the website, telephone helplines, email and in person, via the daily drop in sessions (every weekday). The housing team meet people in their own home, provide advice over the telephone and make use of translation services for people who don't understand English.</p> <p>Partner agencies promote the services of the Health and Housing Team and can refer customers to us via any of these methods. They also hold copies of the printed material so customers can access our services via a third party, rather than having to come to us.</p>
Does it or could it celebrate diversity?	N/A
Will it or could it promote good relationships within and between communities	Living in stable and secure accommodation enables individuals to become part of their community. This is likely to encourage good relationships between different communities – between young and old, different races etc. If households constantly have to move home, it can be difficult to build up strong local networks. The homelessness strategy aims to provide settled secure homes for residents.
How will it help to prevent social exclusion?	A secure, settled home as set out above is more likely to encourage community involvement and therefore reduce social exclusion.
How will it help to reintegrate those who have become excluded	<p>Providing a good supply of affordable housing will ensure there are plenty of homes for the population of the Borough. There is no reason why anyone should be street homeless. Tackling homelessness and providing sustainable accommodation will help integrate those who have been excluded.</p> <p>Providing specialist accommodation and related support will ensure those vulnerable households will get the support they require and enable them to be included in both society and their community.</p> <p>The strategy will work with partners to ensure an individual's wider needs are met, for example, helping them find employment or improve their financial literacy. This can help break down the barriers that lead to people being socially excluded.</p>
How will it provide good quality, inclusive services	<p>The Strategy is about providing good quality, appropriate and affordable housing for current and future population of Stafford BC. It is about ensuring those who are vulnerable have the support needed to live independently. It is about signposting people to the right services and products that will enable them to have a sustainable housing solution.</p> <p>Regular monitoring and evaluation of the strategy will be undertaken to identify gaps in the service provided.</p>

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### Part 6 – Consultation and Engagement

Describe what consultation has been undertaken on the proposals, who was involved and the outcome.

The Strategy was drafted following an evidence review on the state of homelessness in the Borough and consultation with key partners at the Council’s Homelessness Forum. Consultation was carried out with a link to the Strategy on the website. Responses were received from Registered Providers working in the Borough, Supported Housing Providers and the Home Improvement Agency. Their comments were incorporated into the strategy. Focus Groups were held at Eagle and Lichfield House about the experiences of those residents in looking for accommodation in Stafford and the contact they have had with both Stafford BC and other agencies.

### Part 7 – Sign off

**Head of Service:**

**Signature and Date of Head of Service:**

If you have any queries about using Community Impact Assessments, Please contact:

Louise Bell - 01785 619656 or email: [lbell@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:lbell@staffordbc.gov.uk)

If Louise is unavailable then please contact:

Tracy Redpath - 01785 619195 or email: [redpath@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:redpath@staffordbc.gov.uk)

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**Action Plan and review**

Detail in the plan below, actions that you have identified in your CIA, which will eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and/or foster good relations.

**If you are unable to eliminate or reduce negative impact on any of the equality areas, you should explain why**

Impact(positive or negative) identified	Proposed action	Person(s) responsible	Where will action be monitored?(e.g., Directorate Business Plan, Equality Action)	Target date	Required outcome

**Could making the changes in any of the above areas have a negative effect in other groups? Explain why and what you will about this.**

**Review**

Your CIA should be reviewed at least every four years, less if it has significant impact on people.

Please enter the date your CIA will be reviewed.....You should review progress on your CIA action plan annually