

Stafford Borough Council Community Impact Assessment

Part 1 - Details		
Title Of Community impact Assessment	Housing Strategy 2014-2019	
Date Conducted	05/02/15	
Name Of Lead Officer and Service Area	John Fraser, Health and Housing	
CIA Team	<i>Anna Nevin, Tomos Jones</i>	
Head Of service	Howard Thomas	
What are you assessing? Indicate with an 'x' which applies-	<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"/>
What kind of assessment is it? Indicate with an 'x' which applies	<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 Housing Strategy has a vision to provide quality, safe and affordable housing to meet the current and future needs of the population of Stafford Borough and to ensure they provide a healthy living environment to residents and local communities. There are two priorities that run through the strategy and frame the actions, these are: Desirable Homes and Neighbourhoods; and Healthy People and Communities.

The strategy has been revised and updated following an evidence review on the state of the Borough, by looking at the achievements since the last strategy, by undertaking a learning and development event with key partners, and by taking into account any new relevant strategies and the overall policy context.

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 Homelessness Strategy 2014-2019
- Stafford and Surrounds Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Corporate Plan 2012 – 2015
- Tenancy Strategy / Allocations Policy
- Empty Homes Strategy
- Plan for Stafford Borough
- Corporate Enforcement Policy
- Private Sector Assistance Policy
- Affordable Warmth Strategy

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

The strategy is for all current and future residents of Stafford Borough.

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"/>
Marriage and Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Pregnancy and Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input checked="" 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:

Age	<p>The Strategy is committed to providing homes that meet local needs. Stafford Borough has an ageing population and it is important that in developing new homes this is accounted for. The Strategy is committed to working with specialist accommodation providers, Registered Providers and the County Council to provide accommodation such as Flexi-Care.</p> <p>The Strategy commits to tackling Fuel Poverty and Energy Inefficient Homes, although this could impact on any resident of the Borough, the implications for older people are particularly severe.</p> <p>An action in the Strategy is to ensure that older and vulnerable households have access to services.</p> <p>With regard to younger people and those forming households, the commitment to providing a significant supply of new and affordable homes will help enable younger people to get a house.</p>
Disability	<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. Support is also provided by the County Council to support those with a disability to live independently.</p> <p>Healthy People and Communities is a priority in the strategy, tackling fuel poverty and energy inefficient homes is an action that will in particular help many people with a physical disability.</p> <p>An action in the Strategy is to ensure that older and vulnerable households have access to services.</p>
Gender Reassignment	N/A
Marriage and Civil Partnership	N/A

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Pregnancy and Maternity	Pregnant women could be particularly vulnerable to poor housing conditions, this Strategy is designed to improve poor housing and provide good quality new homes. Pregnant women and those with dependent children get priority under Homelessness Legislation.
Race	It is unlikely there will be any differing impact on residents due to their race. It is recognised that different groups have differing housing requirements. Currently the non white British population in Stafford is relatively low and new housing developments and the existing housing stock should provide sufficient choice to meet demand. If during monitoring we identify that the market is not meeting specific needs, actions will be put in place to try and meet this need. Further information will to be collected via monitoring and feedback forms, this information needs to be analysed regularly and used to inform service planning. If issues do arise, the action plans that underpin this strategy will take any impacts (positive or negative) into account.
Religion or belief	N/A
Sexual Orientation	N/A
Sex	N/A

Part 5 – Community Cohesion and Inclusion

Briefly explain how the proposals contribute to community cohesion and inclusion?

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.
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. In tackling poor housing conditions, individuals are more likely to want to invite people into their homes, thereby minimising social exclusion.
How will it help to reintegrate those who	Providing a good supply of affordable housing will ensure there are plenty of homes for the population of the Borough. There is no reason

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<p>have become excluded</p>	<p>why anyone should be street homeless. Tackling homelessness and providing secure 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>Providing good quality open space provides the amenities required for local communities to interact, supports good health and social inclusion.</p> <p>By improving poor quality housing, households are more likely to invite others into their home, thereby promoting social inclusion.</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>
<p>How will it provide good quality, inclusive services</p>	<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>

Part 6 – Consultation and Engagement

<p>Describe what consultation has been undertaken on the proposals, who was involved and the outcome.</p>	<p>The Council held a learning and development event with partners to capture the views of partners on the priorities for the Borough. The strategy went out to consultation on the Council's website and was sent to all partners. Focus groups were held at Lichfield and Eagle House. Comments have been consolidated and incorporated in the document where appropriate. Where comments haven't been incorporated a separate document sets out the reasons why and a number of comments were noted as they provided support for the strategy.</p> <p>Partners included Registered Providers that operate in Stafford BC, supported housing providers, Staffordshire Women's Aid, the Stafford Housing Cooperative, Sustainability Matters, the Home Improvement Agency and Public Health England</p>
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Part 7 – Sign off

<p>Head of Service:</p>	
<p>Signature and Date of Head of Service:</p>	

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

Louise Bell - 01785 619656 or email: lbell@staffordbc.gov.uk

If Louise is unavailable then please contact:

Tracy Redpath - 01785 619195 or email: trredpath@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