

Equality Analysis (EIA) Form

A) Description

Name of service, function, policy (or other) being assessed

Accommodation based and floating support services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with an offending history, substance use or mental health issues.

Directorate or organisation responsible (and service, if it is a policy)

Adults and wellbeing

Date of assessment

August 2018

Names and job titles of people carrying out the assessment

Ewen Archibald,

Accountable person

Stephen Vickers, Director for Adults and Wellbeing

What are the aims or main purpose of the service, function or policy? What does it provide and how does it provide it?

The aim of the accommodation based service is to provide transitional supported accommodation, for single homeless people over the age of 18. The service provides support to assist people to be able to live independently by sourcing and settling into suitable accommodation in the community.

The aim of the floating support service is to support vulnerable adults, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The service users receive targeted support to remain in their own home, to work towards maintaining and sustaining their accommodation, without the need to make a homeless application, where possible.

The strategic outcomes of the service are to:

1. Reduce levels of homelessness
2. Reduce levels in incidences of repeat homelessness
3. Reduce the use of temporary accommodation
4. Reduce the number of households registered with Homepoint
5. Reduce the number of people who reoffend

The proposal is to commission, by means of a competitive tender process, an accommodation based housing related support service and housing related floating support service. Two separate but related contracts.

Location or any other relevant information

Both services support those who have an offending history, substance use or mental health issues.

The accommodation based service has a total of 30 bed spaces in two buildings, and the facility to accommodate one single emergency homeless case out of hours. All the accommodation units are located in Hereford.

The housing related floating support service provides a housing support service across the County of Herefordshire.

List any key policies or procedures to be reviewed as part of this assessment.

Needs data will be considered when reviewing the Housing Strategy and Homelessness Prevention Strategy.

Who is intended to benefit from the service, function or policy?

Single vulnerable adults, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who have an offending history, substance use or mental health issues.

Who are the stakeholders? What is their interest?

- Current and future service users – access to the services
- Providers – provision of the services
- Herefordshire Council – commissioner and referrer into the services
- Warwickshire West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Company (WWMCRC) – referrer into the services
- Elected members

B) Partnerships and Procurement

If you contract out services or work in partnership with other organisations, Herefordshire Council remains responsible for ensuring that the quality of provision/delivery meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, ie.

- Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advances equality of opportunity between different groups
- Fosters good relations between different groups

What information do you give to the partner/contractor in order to ensure that they meet the requirements of the Act? What information do you monitor from the partner/contractor in order to ensure that they meet the requirements of the Act?

Providers will be made aware of their contractual requirement in regards to equality legislation.

Are there any concerns at this stage that indicate the possibility of inequalities/negative impacts? For example: complaints, comments, research, and outcomes of a scrutiny review. Please describe:

If the decision is made not to commission the services by means of a competitive tender process. There will be no accommodation or floating support service to meet the needs of vulnerable adults homeless or at risk of homelessness, who have an offending history, substance use or mental health issues.

C) Information

What information (monitoring or consultation data) have you got and what is it telling you?

Quarterly monitoring meetings are held with the current provider of both services. There is a need to increase the provision of supported accommodation in Herefordshire. Currently referrals are received exclusively from Herefordshire Council's Housing Solutions team. In a 6 month period, from January to June 2018, an average of 13 referrals a month were received, with all the accommodation fully occupied. The increasing complexity of client needs presents challenges for the provider to support a move to independent accommodation and managing a suitable mix of vulnerable adults.

Data of need has also been collated from mental health, Addaction, Warwickshire West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Company and Children's Wellbeing.

D) Assessment/Analysis

Describe your key findings (eg. negative, positive or neutral impacts - actual or potential). Also your assessment of risk.

Strand/community	Impact
The services are for vulnerable adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who have an offending history, substance use or mental health issues.	The services are required to meet the council's statutory duties under homelessness legislation by supporting and developing the ability of individuals to live as independently as possible.

E) Consultation

Did you carry out any consultation?

Yes No

Who was consulted?

Referrers into the service – Housing Solutions Team and Warwickshire West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Company. Further consultation will take place as appropriate with service users.

Describe other research, studies or information used to assist with the assessment and your key findings.

Captured in the quarterly monitoring of the services.

Do you use diversity monitoring categories? Yes x No

(if No you should use this as an action as we are required by law to monitor diversity categories)

If yes, which categories?

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage & Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy & Maternity
- Race
- Religion & Belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

What do you do with the diversity monitoring data you gather? Is this information published? And if so, where?

The data will be used to identify trends and plan current and future provision. The data will ensure that the needs of the service users are met by engaging with the correct support agencies. The data will ensure that the right people are receiving the right service and that they have the opportunity to successfully transition by moving into suitable secure accommodation within appropriate timescales.

F) Conclusions

	Action/objective/target OR justification	Resources required	Timescale	I/R/S/J
a)	Quarterly monitoring meetings	Officer time	quarterly	
b)				
c)				
d)				

- (I)** *Taking immediate effect.*
- (R)** *Recommended to Council/Directors through a Committee or other Report*.*
- (S)** *Added to the Service Plan.*
- (J)** *To be brought to the attention of the Equality Manager.*

*Summarise your findings in the report. Make the full assessment available for further information.

NB: Make sure your final document is suitable for publishing in the public domain.