

## HDC Initial Equality Impact Assessment Form (EIA1)

Service Area/Section	<b>Housing Needs Team Built Environment Dept</b>		Persons undertaking the assessment (please also state name of contact officer)		<b>Phil Warrington</b>	
Name of policy or function to be assessed	<b>Temporary Accommodation for Rough Sleepers</b>		Date of assessment	<b>14/1/09</b>	New or existing policy	<b>New</b>
Briefly describe the aims, objective or purpose of the policy, or service function.	To ensure that rough sleepers are provided with temporary accommodation during periods of severe cold weather					
Are there any associated objectives of the policy/function?	Ensuring all residents have access to good quality housing contributes to achievement of priorities in the District and County Sustainable Community Strategies.					
1. Who is intended to benefit from this policy and in what way?	Applicants who are street homeless. Providing them with accommodation and advice and assistance to find suitable long term accommodation.					
2. What outcomes are wanted from this policy/function and for whom?	To reduce the incidence of rough sleeping. To help rough sleepers find long term, sustainable solutions to their housing needs.					
3. How do these outcomes meet or hinder other policies, values, or objectives of HDC?	They contribute to achievement of the Council's mission to provide innovative, accessible and responsive services.					
What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the intended outcomes?	The ability of the Housing Needs Team to find suitable long term accommodation. Failure to do so could lead to the applicant returning to street homelessness.					
4. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to this policy?	Rough sleepers plus other agencies working with them. These include health and social care professionals and voluntary agencies.		5. Who implements the policy/function and is responsible for the policy?	The Housing Needs Team		
6. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact on racial groups?			<b>N</b>	The incidence of rough sleeping amongst the BME community is very low. I do not anticipate that any of the policy changes set out in the Strategy will have a differential impact on BME groups. A policy that assists rough sleepers will only serve to benefit the BME community.		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</li> </ul>			Homelessness returns record the number of BME households seeking assistance. The numbers have been historically low and show no sign of increasing.
7. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to gender?	<b>Y</b>		More men will benefit from the introduction of this service as most rough sleepers are male.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			Evidence from day to day involvement with clients. No records kept.
8. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to disability?	<b>Y</b>		Significant number of rough sleepers have mental health problems.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			Evidence from day to day involvement with clients
9. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to sexual orientation?		<b>N</b>	No evidence linking sexual orientation to rough sleeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</li> </ul>			Information regarding sexual orientation is not recorded as part of the homelessness returns. Through day to day casework we are aware that sexual orientation is not a causal factor for homelessness.
10. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to age?	<b>Y</b>		Rough sleeping is an issue that primarily affects the young. The incidence of homelessness amongst the elderly is very low. The proposed policy will benefit the young.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</li> </ul>			Homelessness returns record the age of the applicant

11. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to religious belief?		<b>N</b>	No evidence of homelessness being linked to religious beliefs
• What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			No evidence
12. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to people having dependants/caring responsibilities?		<b>N</b>	Very few rough sleepers have carer responsibilities. Households with dependents are considered to be in priority need so should be provided with temporary accommodation.
• What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			Homelessness returns record the number of families with dependent children
13. Could any differential impact identified in 9-15 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy?		<b>N</b>	The aim of the policy is to improve the service for all rough sleepers. There will be no detrimental effect..
14. Can any adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one or more groups or any other reason?		<b>N</b>	n/a
15. Should the policy proceed to a <b>full</b> impact assessment?		<b>N</b>	Not required

16. If no, are there any recommended changes required to the policy to improve it around the equality agenda?	<b>None</b>		
Additional notes/guidance (Policy Officer)	None		

--	--

Signed (completing officer) .....Phil Warrington ..... Date 14/01/2009

Signed (Head of Service) ..... Date \_\_/\_\_/\_\_