

Government changes to licensing requirements for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) – October 2018

Harborough District Council Equality Impact Statement

From 1 October 2018, mandatory licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) will be extended to an increased number of properties. Currently the requirement for licensing is limited to particular HMOs, which are three or more storeys high. The new legislation will extend licensing requirements to also comprise some buildings which are either single storey or two storeys high, including some flats. These changes have been made within Government legislation and come into effect on 1st October 2018.

Under current legislation there are three HMO properties in the Harborough District which are licensed. The occupants of these properties vary in characteristics and there does not seem to be any one particular group of people who are housed in this type of household. The numbers of additional properties in the area which will need to be licensed under the new legislation is currently unknown. Work is underway to try and determine the extent of the impact, but it is anticipated that there will only be a small number of households affected and these households will similarly be made up of people with differing characteristics.

At present, we at Harborough District Council do not believe that these changes will have a negative equality related impact on any one of the protected characteristic as defined within the Equality Act 2010. However, if we identify any negative impacts, or potential impacts, as a consequence of the new legislation then this equality impact statement will be reviewed and updated accordingly. A full equality analysis will also be completed if necessary.

Report Author: Ian Bartlett

Date: Wednesday 26th September 2018