



**East Staffordshire Borough Council
Equality and Health Impact Assessment (EHIA)**

This EHIA documents how you have taken into account health impacts and the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty in the decision making process for this function, policy or service.

1	Title of function, policy or service to be assessed: Rough Sleepers Outreach Service
2	Date: 17 th May 2016
3	Name of EHIA author: Brett Atkinson
4	EHIA team: Brett Atkinson Duane Drew
5	Head of Service: Paul Costiff
6	Is the policy, function or service existing, new or being reviewed? New
7	<p>State the aims, objectives and purpose of the function, policy or service and provide a summary of the service provided:</p> <p>The Council benefited from an externally funded Rough Sleeper Outreach Service which came to an end in April 2016. The DCLG collect a snapshot of the number of people sleeping rough in local authority areas on a given night each year. Our estimate is based on the data held by Housing Options and our voluntary partners. The number of rough sleepers in our area has fluctuated somewhat, the last estimate was for the night of 12 November 2015 and reported 7 people which represents a modest increase on previous years.</p> <p>A Rough Sleepers Outreach Service will provide the following services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to any reports of rough sleeping within 2 working days by attending the location very early in the morning. This assists the Council to properly assess homelessness applications and supports wider enforcement activity eg insecure buildings attracting anti-social behaviour. • Maintain contact with and persuade rough sleepers who are reluctant to engage with services to access the help that is available to them. This is recorded using a recognised assessment process and personal action plan. • Monitor the health of rough sleepers and intervene where necessary. • Work towards a bespoke solution for individuals with complex needs to avoid the rough sleeping becoming entrenched.

8	<p>Are there any other functions, policies or services which might be linked with this one for the purpose of this EHIA?</p> <p>It is intended for this service to work closely with the Council's Housing Options team and other organisations offering services to this client group as appropriate.</p>																												
9	<p>Who is it intended to affect or benefit (the target population)?</p> <p>The Rough Sleepers Outreach Service will work to minimise the amount of rough sleepers and reduce the associated harms by providing personal support. A rough sleeper is someone who has 'bedded down' (or who is sitting or standing near their bedding) in the open air or in a structure not designed for residential occupation¹. This will include people in derelict buildings or living in a tent (not on campsites or on organised protests).</p>																												
10	<p>Equality impacts</p> <p>The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act. • Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. • Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. <p>Within this table, state whether the policy, function or service will have a positive or negative impact across the following protected characteristics and provide any comments.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Positive Impact</th> <th>Negative Impact</th> <th>Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Age</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Y</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td>This service will provide bespoke personal support which might assist persons to access appropriate accommodation provision eg over 55s or young persons' supported accommodation.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disability</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Y</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td>This service will provide bespoke personal support taking account of any additional needs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sex / gender reassignment / pregnancy or maternity</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Y</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td>As above at disability.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Race</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td>No impact identified.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Religion or belief</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Y</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td>As above at disability.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sexual orientation</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Y</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td>As above at disability.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Comments	Age	Y	N	This service will provide bespoke personal support which might assist persons to access appropriate accommodation provision eg over 55s or young persons' supported accommodation.	Disability	Y	N	This service will provide bespoke personal support taking account of any additional needs.	Sex / gender reassignment / pregnancy or maternity	Y	N	As above at disability.	Race	N	N	No impact identified.	Religion or belief	Y	N	As above at disability.	Sexual orientation	Y	N	As above at disability.
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https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6009/1713784.pdf

Version 3. Updated 15.08.13.

	Other	N	N						
11.	<p>What evidence do you have for the statements made in question 10?</p> <p>The proposed service will be lead by the wishes of the client with the aim of improving access to mainstream services and reducing marginalisation, therefore an overall positive impact in a number of areas is anticipated.</p>								
12	<p>Consultation: Describe what consultation has been undertaken on this function or policy, who was involved and the outcome.</p> <p>The Council's Housing Options Team dealt with partner organisations and the clients who were assisted under the previous service provision, and there is widespread support for the continuation of an outreach service for this group e.g. Burton YMCA, Staffordshire Police, Probation etc.</p>								
13	<p>Briefly explain how the policy, function or service contributes to community cohesion by answering the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will it provide equality of access to services, information and employment? • Does it or could it celebrate diversity? • Will it or could it promote good relationships within and between communities? • How will it help to prevent social exclusion? • Will it help to reintegrate those who have become excluded? • How will it provide good quality, inclusive services? <p>Outreach services will be provided to all rough sleepers in the Borough regardless of ethnic group. Through assertive outreach it is anticipated that the service assist reintegration for those that have become excluded. It supports community cohesion by ensuring disadvantaged groups are given the same opportunity to access services.</p>								
14	<p>Health impacts – screening question Will the subject of this EHIA:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>No (provide a brief explanation of your response)</th> <th>Yes (Is this impact positive or negative? provide a brief explanation of your response)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?</td> <td></td> <td>Positive - personal support is provided to</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				No (provide a brief explanation of your response)	Yes (Is this impact positive or negative? provide a brief explanation of your response)	Have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?		Positive - personal support is provided to
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			those likely to experience harm as a result of rough sleeping.
	Have an impact on social, economic and environmental living conditions that would indirectly affect health?		Positive – individuals assisted would have their overall living conditions improved.
	Have an effect on an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?		Positive – assertive enablement should facilitate people to improve their own life skills and access mainstream services.
	Affect access to, and the quality of, health, mental health or wellbeing services?		Positive – improve access through personal support and encouragement.
	Please refer to the EHIA guidance document. If you answer yes to any of these questions a health impact assessment is required, please complete section 16.		
15	Head of Service signature: I am satisfied with the results of this EHIA.		

16. HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT²

To be completed if you have answered yes to any of the health impact screening questions.

A. Describe the health impact(s). Please refer to the screening questions in Q14.	B. Answering yes to these questions indicates an important health impact. Be explicit and include the evidence that has been considered.			C. Are the health impacts significant?
Identify the health impact(s)	Will the health impacts affect the whole population? Will it affect particular groups of people differently?	Will the health impacts be difficult to remedy or have an irreversible impact? Are they likely to cause public concern?	Will the health impacts be medium to long term? Are they likely to create cumulative impacts?	Does this health impact have a significant positive or negative impact? (based on your responses to section B)
Improve the health and wellbeing of Rough Sleepers.	The service is provided exclusively to those who are verified as rough sleeping.	No concerns identified as impact is positive.	It is believed that many rough sleepers will experience a long term positive impact as they are assisted into settled housing.	Significant Positive Impact.

² Adapted from 'Health Impact Assessment of Government Policy, a guide to carrying out a Health Impact Assessment of new policy as part of the Impact Assessment process.' Department of Health, July 2010 p.13

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17. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Please describe the actions, if any, you will take to mitigate against negative health or equality impacts identified in this assessment, or to maximise the benefits of the policy or service. If significant action is required it should be included in Service Plans.

Is it a Health or Equality action?	Issue/impact identified	Recommendation / action required	Lead officer and timescale	Resource allocation

