

Community Impact Assessment

Part 1 – Details

What Policy/ Procedure/ Strategy/Project/Service is being assessed?	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025
Date Conducted	October 2020
Name of Lead Officer and Service Area	Sarah Finnegan, Housing Solutions
Commissioning Team (if applicable)	
Director Responsible for project/service area	Tina Mustafa, Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods
Who are the main stakeholders	<p>External stakeholders that actively are involved in developing the strategy have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffordshire County Council • Staffordshire Police • Tamworth Advice Centre / Citizens Advice Mid-Mercia • Tamworth Cornerstones Housing Association • Starfish Project • Tamworth Night Shelter Trustees.
Describe what consultation has been undertaken. Who was involved and what was the outcome	<p>As part of developing the strategy, Housing Quality Network (HQN) were commissioned to produce a study on homelessness and rough sleeping – see below. This included semi-structured interviews with 11 public sector and voluntary sector / third sector agencies on homelessness and rough sleeping issues in Tamworth.</p> <p>The organisations were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Work and Pensions – Staffordshire & Derbyshire • Heart of Tamworth Community Project • Staffordshire County Council [3] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adult Social Care ○ Armed Forces Covenant ○ Care Leavers – Burton & Tamworth Team • Staffordshire Police • Tamworth Advice Centre / Citizens Advice Mid-Mercia • Tamworth Centre for Voluntary Services (CVS) • Tamworth Cornerstones Housing Association • Tamworth Covenanting Churches / Starfish Project • Tamworth Night Shelter Trustees. <p>The key findings from the interviews included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity of groups and types of households affected by homelessness and rough sleeping including vulnerable

	<p>adults eg people with mental health issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of good practice in addressing aspects of homelessness and rough sleeping eg night shelter provision and help for young people (18-25 years of age) with low or medium needs • Effective collaboration at operational levels to tackle issues (led and enabled by Tamworth Borough Council) • Willingness of stakeholders to work together to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping • Emerging issues such as the impact of (i) 'out-of-borough moves' from the West Midlands conurbation into poor quality temporary accommodation and (ii) 'county lines' and 'cuckooing' re vulnerable households, possibly leading to homelessness through loss of a tenancy in the social rented and private rented sectors. 	
<p>Outline the wider research that has taken place (E.G. commissioners, partners, other providers etc)</p>	<p>Review of national policy and research by Housing Quality Network for the Council eg MCHLG policy, House of Commons Library briefings, Local Government Association reports, Crisis, Shelter and CaCHE (UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence)</p> <p>Telephone survey of district councils in the Midlands eg semi-structured interviews with housing policy officers in 10 local authorities in the Midlands on homelessness and rough sleeping strategies</p> <p>Analysis of local and national data eg MHCLG data for England and Tamworth</p> <p>Review of local policy documents eg Tamworth Borough Council Homeless Prevention Strategy 2016-2020 (including Action Plan, Evidence Base and Spending Priorities), Tamworth Borough Council Allocations Policy (Draft) and Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-2020 (Update 2018)</p>	
<p>What are you assessing? Indicate with an 'x' which applies</p>	<p>A decision to review or change a service</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>A Strategy/Policy/Procedure</p>	<p>X</p>
	<p>A function, service or project</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>What kind of assessment is it? Indicate with an 'x' which applies</p>	<p>New</p>	<p>X</p>
	<p>Existing</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>Being reviewed</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>Being reviewed as a result of budget constraints / End</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

Part 2 – Summary of Assessment

Give a summary of your proposal and set out the aims/ objectives/ purposes/ and outcomes of the area you are impact assessing.

The Homelessness Act 2002 requires all housing authorities to have in place a homelessness strategy. This requirement has been strengthened by the Government's rough sleeping strategy (2018). It provides guidance on policies and their implementation as well as the preparation of strategies. There are also two key national commitments - halve rough sleeping by 2022 and end rough sleeping by 2027.

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 has been prepared in partnership with local stakeholders, partners and with external support from Housing Quality Network (HQN). It provides a framework to drive forward the Council's homelessness activities in accordance with the requirements of the Homelessness Act 2002, the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA) and the rough sleeping strategy.

Our aspiration is to continuously improve our services and increase successful prevention and relief. The strategy focuses on prevention of homelessness and includes our existing services which prevent and alleviate homelessness.

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy sets out the Council's five key priorities for action for the period 2020 – 2025. Each priority has a number of objectives and strategic actions, which are what the Council hopes to deliver to achieve its aims and ensure it meets its priorities. There is a comprehensive evidence base and delivery plan that support the strategy.

The new strategy identifies revised priorities drawing on the evidence base as well as our response to the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on service delivery.

The five key priorities are:

1. Prevention and early intervention through working with partners and stakeholders
2. Develop rapid pathways for rough sleepers
3. Improve the supply of and access to affordable and supported housing
4. Offer a high quality and innovative service to homeless households and those threatened with homelessness
5. Improve health and well-being aspirations.

The intended overall outcome is to prevent homelessness and, where it cannot be prevented, ensuring that services work to relieve it. It also will ensure that the Council meets its statutory duties.

Who will be affected and how?

Anyone who may be homeless or threatened with homelessness and those seeking advice and assistance.

Internal staff working in homelessness and related services who are delivering services

External stakeholders involved in policy and delivering services (see above).

Are there any other functions, policies or services linked to this impact assessment?

Yes

X

No



If you answered 'Yes', please indicate what they are?

Housing Strategy

Housing Allocations Policy 2020-23

Policy to Discharge Homelessness Duty into the Private Rented Sector (PRS)

Protocols:

- Move on Protocol
- Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)
- Rough Sleeper Protocol

Part 3 – Impact on the Community

Thinking about each of the Areas below, does or could the Policy function, or service have a direct impact on them?

Impact Area	Yes	No	Reason (provide brief explanation)
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	
Disability	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical / health disability: Between 9 and 13 cases per quarter of those assessed as owed a homelessness duty have physical ill-health / disability support needs Learning disability and / or autism: Between 2 and 13 cases per quarter of those assessed as owed a homelessness duty have learning disability support needs (but the number of cases is on a downward trend)
Gender Reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	There may be some groups who are not eligible to access homelessness service (for example those with no recourse to public funds). But they are able to have advice and assistance free of charge as legislation states that this should be available to all
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	
Gypsy/Travelling Community	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	

Those with Caring/Dependent responsibilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	
Those having an offending past	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Between 3 and 9 cases per quarter of those assessed as owed a homelessness duty have an offending history (but there is a downward trend in cases over the last two years)
Children	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Although the number of young people (including 16 & 17-year olds) presenting themselves as homeless or rough sleeping continues to be low, we are aware that there may be a hidden issue (eg sofa-surfing)
Vulnerable Adults	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	The number of people / households with multiple support needs who are assessed as owed a homelessness duty ranges from 19-35 per quarter over the last two years
Families	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	The main reason for the loss or threat of a loss of a home is friends / families unwilling to continue to provide accommodation
Those who are homeless	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Focus of strategy In 2018/19 and 2019/20, the number of households assessed as owed a homelessness duty per quarter ranged from 72-85 The number of rough sleepers ranged from 2-8 in the annual count between 2010 and 2019
Those on low income	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	
Those with Drug or Alcohol problems	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Between 4 and 10 cases per quarter of those assessed as owed a homelessness duty have substance abuse support needs
Those with Mental Health issues	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mental health is the major support need of those assessed as owed a homelessness duty – between 2018/19 and 2019/20, there have been between 17 and 40 cases per quarter
Those with Physical Health issues	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	See above
Other (Please Detail): Domestic Abuse	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	A reason for the loss or threat of a loss of a home is domestic abuse – there are between 5 and 9 cases per quarter

Source of data: Evidence-base for the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-25

Part 4 – Risk Assessment

From evidence given from previous question, please detail what measures or changes will be put in place to mitigate adverse implications

Impact Area	Details of the Impact	Action to reduce risk
<i>Eg: Families</i>	<i>Families no longer supported which may lead to a reduced standard of living & subsequent health issues</i>	<i>Signposting to other services. Look to external funding opportunities.</i>
Those who are homeless	Loss of a home leading to potentially poorer quality of accommodation and rough sleeping Adverse impact on quality of life eg health etc	The overarching aim underpinning the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020-25 is to prevent homelessness and, where it cannot be prevented, ensuring that services work to relieve it See above re the five priorities in the strategy
Those with mental health issues	Homelessness and rough sleeping may contribute to and exacerbate mental health issues	We will expand the current service at the Tamworth Advice Centre (TAC) to include mental health support / signposting Staffordshire approach to well-being for people with mental health issues will be rolled out more widely (eg South Staffordshire Network for Mental Health). These actions will help to address the relatively large number of homeless households citing mental health as a support need
Disability (including physical health issues)	Homelessness and rough sleeping may contribute to and exacerbate physical ill-health and learning disabilities and / or autism	We are developing policies and protocols to ensure that OT assessments for customers can be undertaken
Domestic abuse	Loss of a home and safety / security issues - domestic abuse is both one of the immediate reasons for homelessness as well as one of the support needs for those presenting themselves as homeless	We will work with our partners in developing and implementing policies to address this issue
Substance abuse	Homelessness and rough sleeping may contribute to and exacerbate substance abuse issues	The scale and nature of the issue will continue to be monitored because of emerging concerns regarding 'county lines' and 'cuckooing'
Children	Children leaving care	We will work with Staffordshire County

	may find it difficult to access accommodation and maintain a tenancy	Council (adult social care and childrens services) and other stakeholders (such as Tamworth Cornerstones Housing Association) to identify the scale of the issue and develop and implement a protocol based on best practice
Offending history	Difficulty of accessing accommodation / maintaining a tenancy	Tenancy-ready schemes can help to ensure that households are able to sustain a tenancy so preventing the possibility of homelessness
Vulnerable adults	Adults with multiple support needs may have difficulty accessing accommodation / maintain a tenancy without wrap around support	<p>We will investigate with our partners the potential of putting together a hybrid package of support to help households</p> <p>Working with our community safety partnership, we will promote the Staffordshire Smart Alert service to vulnerable customers</p> <p>Supporting vulnerable households on digital inclusion so as to directly access / use, for example, e-forms and customer portals</p> <p>Assisting third sector organisations to support their vulnerable customers to access services online</p> <p>Tenancy-ready schemes can help to ensure that households are able to sustain a tenancy so preventing the possibility of homelessness</p>

Part 5 - 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 impact areas, you should explain why

Impact (positive or negative) identified	Action	Person(s) responsible	Target date	Required outcome
	Outcomes and Actions entered onto Covalent			
Positive	Prevent and alleviate homelessness by early intervention through working with partners and stakeholders		2025	
Positive	Develop rapid pathways for rough sleepers		2022 and 2027	Halve rough sleeping by 2022 and end rough sleeping by 2027
Positive	Offer high quality and innovative services to homeless households and those threatened with homelessness eg advice, tenancy-ready schemes and Staffordshire Smart Alert service for vulnerable households		2025	
Positive	Improve health and well-being aspirations eg mental health		2025	

	signposting, OT assessments for customers			
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Date of Review (If applicable)