

Community Impact Assessment

Part 1 – Details		
What Policy/ Procedure/ Strategy/Project/Service is being assessed?	Homelessness Prevention: Emergency Accommodation Charging Policy	
Date Conducted	March 2023	
Name of Lead Officer and Service Area	Tina Mustafa, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and Recovery and Reset Programme Director.	
Commissioning Team (if applicable)		
Director Responsible for project/service area	Rob Barnes, Executive Director Communities	
Who are the main stakeholders	Community of Tamworth	
Describe what consultation has been undertaken. Who was involved and what was the outcome	<p>People experiencing or homelessness are a group defined their circumstances at the time, and as such formal consultation is difficult. Our housing solutions teams have been filtering ad-hoc lived experiences into the policy-formation period.</p> <p>The policy has been proposed based on legislative requirements and contemporary social policy through a paid consultant specialising in local government revenue income and social inequality policy. Additional consultation internally has been conducted with finance, partnerships, and housing teams, as well as external legal advice.</p>	
Outline the wider research that has taken place (E.G. commissioners, partners, other providers etc)	<p>As outlined above, the housing solutions team commissioned an external consultant to conduct policy analysis and the resultant policy has been further validated through external legal advice through South Staffordshire legal services.</p> <p>The portfolio holder for housing has been consulted, as have internal teams whose work on vulnerability in particular overlaps.</p>	
What are you assessing? Indicate with an 'x' which applies	A decision to review or change a service	X
	A Strategy /Policy/Procedure	X
	A function, service or project	X
	New	

What kind of assessment is it? Indicate with an 'x' which applies		
	Existing	X
	Being reviewed	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Being reviewed as a result of budget constraints / End of Contract	<input type="checkbox"/>

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.

Who will be affected and how?

Vulnerable people experiencing homelessness, and who are housed in emergency accommodation under the Council's statutory obligations will benefit from this policy. The updated policy bring clarity to fees and charges, and eligibility to financial support. People being supported by this new policy will benefit financially as the policy has been designed to ensure financial assistance is maximised.

Decisions around the performance of the service under this policy are made with due regard to the Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty and other obligations such as the Disability Discrimination Act 2017 as amended which provides for equality of access to public services.

Through our impact assessments, risk assessments and engagement work, it is intended that there will be no negative impact for any section of the community and equality of access to our services will remain.

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

Yes No

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

Peripheral services include the administration of housing benefits, however this policy does not impact the eligibility or administration of benefits, only the support a vulnerable person experiencing homelessness will receive.

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		X	
Disability		X	
Gender Reassignment		X	
Marriage & Civil Partnership		X	

Pregnancy & Maternity		X	
Race		x	
Religion or belief		X	
Sexual orientation		X	
Sex		X	
Gypsy/Travelling Community		x	
Those with Caring/Dependent responsibilities		x	
Those having an offending past		X	
Children	X		Households with children who experience homelessness will be supported by this policy.
Vulnerable Adults	X		The majority of people who experience homelessness are vulnerable adults, and the policy has, on the whole, been designed to maximise support for them.
Families	X		As above.
Those who are homeless	X		The service offer does not change, nor does the Council's statutory obligations to provide emergency accommodation to people experiencing homelessness. This policy is designed to continue the support provided to people who are homeless.
Those on low income	X		As above, people who are homeless are more likely to be living on a reduced income and this policy is designed to support them, their families, to maximise access to financial assistance, and to support them into more permanent accommodation.
Those with Drug or Alcohol problems	X		As above, people who are homeless are more likely to experience problems with drugs and alcohol and the policy is designed to support them – information provided as part of the support measures will include supporting signposting.
Those with Mental Health issues	X		Increased prevalence of mental ill-health is also present in the housing insecure community, and the policy has considered the mental health impact of financial management e.g. rent payments, during vulnerable periods such as when a person experiences homelessness. The policy has been designed to lessen vulnerabilities and provide support.
Those with Physical Health issues People with underlying health conditions		X	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 70s • Pregnant women • All groups to shield 			
Other (Please Detail)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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
<p>There is a risk people who are experiencing homelessness will incur a financial burden when they are housed by the Council in emergency accommodation under its statutory obligations under the Housing Act 1996. This includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • Vulnerable adults • Families • People who are homeless • People on low incomes • People with drug and/or alcohol dependency problems • People experiencing mental ill-health 	<p>People in exceptionally vulnerable positions may experience homelessness, and as part of the Council's wider homeless prevention strategies, and statutory obligations to provide emergency accommodation, there is a financial implication in the form of rent. Rather than add to an already vulnerable situation, the Council's new emergency accommodation charging policy reduces or eliminates any financial impact for vulnerable people, reducing the impact of this risk in most cases to zero.</p>	<p>All staff will be trained on implementation of the new policy</p> <p>New information will be made available both online and in leaflet form to people in emergency accommodation</p> <p>The homelessness prevention team will provide assistance to claim relevant financial assistance</p> <p>The policy has in-built measures to protect against debt accumulation should other measure to provide assistance fail.</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
Financial support for people experiencing homelessness (positive)	Post-cabinet implementation of the policy will include staff training and awareness raising for partners and signposting organisations with the aim of ensuring vulnerable people have access to the right support.	Housing Solutions Manager	June 2023	Publication of new information and delivery of staff training.

Date of Review (If applicable) April 2024

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