

Equality Impact Assessment Report

Name of policy, procedure or function: Housing Strategy		
Service Area: Housing Strategy	Team Members: Eileen Mallon, Cllr. Betty Newton, Donna Dwyer, Richard Graves, Sarah Cromie	Date: 10th October 2006

Findings

The Borough Council's Housing Strategy was written in July 2005. The main purpose of the Strategy is to "Deliver improved access to good quality affordable housing and related services for the people of Charnwood" (Strategy vision statement) and also to support a sustainable and balanced community. The Strategy was developed in consultation with stakeholders including statutory and voluntary organisations as well as tenants. The Strategy was declared as Fit for Purpose by GOEM which included accessibility as some of its measuring criteria. Therefore, the Strategy document itself is robust. The main areas that came out of the Equality Impact Assessment of the Strategy are around how it is delivered and the monitoring and evaluating mechanisms that support its delivery. A Steering Group has been set up to performance manage the Strategy. Its initial meeting of the Housing Strategy Steering Group is in October. The group will look at how the Strategy is delivering its aims and objectives and look at how these will be reported back to tenants and people who took part in the consultation work on the Strategy.

The equality issues within the Strategy relate to links being made with specialist housing providers to ensure we are meeting the needs of BME and people with a variety of religious needs.

Many of these issues will also be looked at in the BME Strategy due to be presented to Cabinet in December and the Older Persons Strategy due in the new year.

Further Actions

Problem/barrier identified	Actions to overcome problem/barrier	Resources required	Responsibility	Target date
Knowledge of needs and services	Staff training in delivering the services	Corporate Training Budget	Sarah Cromie	Mar 07
Mainstream E&D from Strategy to service delivery	Draw up equality statement for delivery of the strategy	Officer Time	David Scruton	Nov 06
Drive of the Strategy to deliver the service	Use of Steering Group to drive and mainstream the Strategy to steer the service Set up initial meeting 12 th October	Officer time and support to steering group	Richard Graves	12 th October 2006

Strengthen links with specialist providers	Contact East Midlands re Rendal Street older peoples accommodation	Officer Time	Richard Graves	Nov 06
Look to future provision of specialist housing	Set up meeting with Foundation Housing to look at options for Charnwood	Officer Time	Richard Graves Paul Griffiths	Nov 06
Feedback on how the Strategy is being delivered	Develop annual report	Officer Time	Richard Graves	April 07