

COMMUNITY AND HOUSING

Equality Impact Initial Assessment Form

Division	Community and Housing / Housing Division
Name of assessor	Angela Chu Housing Strategy Manager
Date of assessment	7th October 2015
Title function/policy/service to be assessed	Homeless Placement Policy

1. Describe the aims / objectives and purpose of the function or policy.	To provide a more transparent and accountable system for placing homeless households out of borough through the development of this policy, as a consequence of the Nzolameso Judgement, and in response to the increasing difficulties for the council to find affordable accommodation in the private rented sector to place homeless households.
2. Are there any other functions, policies or services, which might be linked with this one	This policy is linked to Merton's Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy, and to the strategic objective of finding housing solutions for homeless households through the private rented sector by increasing access to the sector.
3. Who will benefit from this policy / service /function	1) Households who have made a homelessness application and needing temporary accommodation while awaiting a decision. 2) Homeless households to whom the council has accepted a duty to rehouse. 3) Homeless households with No Recourse to Public Funds.
4. Who was consulted	There was no consultation

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neither	Reason / Comment / Evidence
Age			✓	<p>Vulnerable children with needs that cannot be met outside the borough will be given In Borough Priority, and young homeless persons have access to a number of supported housing schemes in borough, therefore the policy will have no impact on these client groups.</p> <p>People aged 65 and over make up about 4% of accepted homeless cases. Those needing health treatment that cannot be transferred out of borough or with longstanding care arrangements will be given In Borough Priority therefore the policy</p>

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				will have no impact on this client group.
Disability			✓	People with physical disability or mental health condition and need health treatment that cannot be transferred out of borough, or those with longstanding care arrangements will be given In Borough Priority therefore the policy will have no impact on this client group.
Gender	✓			Female lone parents are more likely to be homeless and on low income, therefore it is less likely to for them to find affordable housing solutions in borough or within 90 minutes travelling distance. This policy will have a positive impact on this client group as they will benefit from assistance from the council to help them find affordable housing solutions beyond Merton when no solution can be found in borough.
Race	✓			Ethnic minority groups are more likely to be homeless and on low income, therefore it is less likely to for them to find affordable housing solutions in borough or within 90 minutes travelling distance. This policy will have a positive impact on this client group as they will benefit from assistance from the council to help them find affordable housing solutions beyond Merton when no solution can be found in borough.
Religion / belief			✓	There are no perceived implications on the basis of religion or belief.
Sexuality			✓	There are no perceived implications on the basis of sexuality.
Please give a brief description of how this policy benefits the equality target groups identified in the above table, i.e. promotes equality?		Ethnic minority & female households, who are more likely to be homeless and on low income, will benefit from assistance from the council to help them find affordable housing solutions beyond Merton when no solution can be found in borough.		
If there is a negative impact on any equality target group, is the impact intended or legal? <i>If no,</i>		N/A		

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<i>then full Equality Impact Assessment should be completed.</i>	
What actions could be taken to amend the policy/service to minimise the low negative impact?	Review the impact of this policy in 12 months, by analysing data and findings.
If there is no evidence that the policy/service promotes equality, equal opportunities or improves relations within equality target groups, what amendments could be made to achieve this?	N/A

Recommendation

Full Equality Impact Assessment required: No

The department to review the policy after 12 months of implementation.

Signed by Manager of assessor

Equality Group scrutiny date 07/10/2015

Equality group recommendation

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