

# Dacorum BC Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Template

Policy / service / decision

Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy

## Description of what is being impact assessed

*What are the aims of the service, proposal, project? What outcomes do you want to achieve? What are the reasons for the proposal or change? Do you need to reference/consider any related projects?*

*Stakeholders; Who will be affected? Which protected characteristics is it most relevant to? Consider the public, service users, partners, staff, Members, etc*

*It is advisable to involve at least one colleague in the preparation of the assessment, dependent on likely level of impact*

Every Local Authority in England should by law have an up to date preventing homelessness strategy that sets out its plans to prevent and tackle homelessness. This is a statutory requirement as set out in Section 1(1) of the 2002 Act giving housing authorities the power to carry out a homelessness review for their district, formulate, and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of the review.

Every Local Authority is required to set out commitments for the prevention of homelessness and rough sleeping. After public and partner consultations we have set out five commitments and have outlined how this would be achieved by providing a holistic service, which is individual and tailored to each individual's needs.

The strategy will be monitored annually by the Homeless Forum, HART and Strategic Housing Service in line with the Housing Service and Business plan.

## Evidence

### What data/information have you used to assess how this policy/service/decision might impact on protected groups?

*(include relevant national/local data, research, monitoring information, service user feedback, complaints, audits, consultations, CIAs from other projects or other local authorities, etc.). You should include such information in a proportionate manner to reflect the level of impact of the policy/service/decision.*

- Equality Act 2010
- Housing Act 1996
- Housing Act 2004

- Localism Act 2011
- Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

**Who have you consulted with to assess possible impact on protected groups?** *If you have not consulted other people, please explain why? You should include such information in a proportionate manner to reflect the level of impact of the policy/service/decision.*

The Homeless & Rough Sleeping strategy was developed following multi-agency engagement with key stakeholders, staff, elected members and applicants who have lived experience of homelessness. In addition the strategy was open to consultation via our website and internal staff.

**Analysis of impact on protected groups (and others)**

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires Dacorum BC to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. Consider how this policy/service/decision will achieve these aims. Using the table below, detail what considerations and potential impacts against each of these using the evidence that you have collated and your own understanding. Based on this information, make an assessment of the likely outcome, **before** you have implemented any mitigation.

- *The PCs of Marriage and Civil Partnership and Pregnancy and Maternity should be added if their inclusion is relevant for impact assessment.*
- *Use “insert below” menu layout option to insert extra rows where relevant (e.g. extra rows for different impairments within Disability).*

Summary of impact		Negative impact / outcome	Neutral impact / outcome	Positive impact / outcome
<b>Protected group</b>	<i>What do you know? What do people tell you? Summary of data and feedback about service users and the wider community/ public. Who uses / will use the service? Who doesn't / can't and why? Feedback/complaints?</i>			

<b>Age</b>	<p>The legislation underpinning the homeless service and strategy, which includes the Homeless Reduction Act confirms requirements to local authorities to provide advice and assistance for all who are eligible (16/17 year olds and upwards). Households who are under the age of 16 are the responsibility of the County Council and the local authority are required to engage with them in such cases.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Disability (physical, intellectual, mental)</b>  <i>Refer to CIA Guidance Notes and Mental Illness &amp; Learning Disability Guide</i>	<p>The service is duty bound to provide a tailored personalised housing plan, that meets the applicants needs and includes physical, mental and sensory disability. The council has worked closely with our Housing Development team to ensure clients who are less able, have access to suitable accommodation and as such decisions have been made to increase the stock of disabled accessible temporary accommodation.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	<p>There is no requirement within the strategy to obtain data with regards to an applicants gender as part of the application process, all applicants with a homelessness or advice need, will receive assistance irrespective of gender in line with the Strategy.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Race and ethnicity</b>	<p>No barriers at all as for example if English is not first language we would always make sure interpreters are used. Personal circumstances and preference is taken into account when considering suitability of accommodation and the appropriateness such as shared facilities.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Religion or belief</b>	<p>Strategy will not discriminate against any applicant due to their religion or belief, however it may be necessary to make decisions or provision of alternative temporary accommodation to ensure that this does not prejudice an applicants religion or belief.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sex</b>	<p>All our accommodation is suitable for all sexes and in instances where an applicant is required to be placed into accommodation where they are not sharing with members of the opposite sex i.e.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	womens refuge, then such arrangements are made and are readily available.			
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	Same advice given to all our clients regardless of their sexual orientation. The service is alert to such situations where a person could be prejudiced as a result of their sexual orientation and will ensure that any such behaviour is handled in line with our zero tolerance policy and applicants are not placed at risk.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Not protected characteristics but consider other factors, e.g. carers, veterans, homeless, low income, loneliness, rurality etc.</b>	We assess each case on its own merits, in line with the relevant legislation outlined above. Where applicants received a full duty letter, the letter outlines our regard to the PSED when doing so and the duty is discharged in line with relevant policy, such as the Housing Allocation Policy which gives additional priority to veterans, and homeless applicants.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Negative impacts / outcomes action plan</b>				
Where you have ascertained that there will potentially be negative impacts / outcomes, you are required to mitigate the impact of these. Please detail below the actions that you intend to take.				
<b>Action taken/to be taken</b> <i>(copy &amp; paste the negative impact / outcome then detail action)</i>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Action complete</b>	
	Select date		<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Select date		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>If negative impacts / outcomes remain, please provide an explanation below.</b>			
<b>Completed by (all involved in CIA)</b>	<b>Cynthia Hayford – Team Leader</b> <b>Lauren Dowsett – Lead Officer</b>		

<b>Date</b>	<b>12/05/2020</b>
<b>Signed off by</b> <i>(AD from different Directorate if being presented to CMT / Cabinet)</i>	
<b>Date</b>	
<b>Entered onto CIA database - date</b>	
<b>To be reviewed by</b> (officer name)	
<b>Review date</b>	