

West Lothian Council

Equality Impact Assessment Electronic Template

June 2008

1. Policy details	
Policy Title	Youth Housing & Support Service
Policy Lead Officer	Annmarie Carr
Date Relevance Assessment Conducted	17/12/2008
2. Discretion?	
YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Which groups of people do you think will be, or potentially can be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy?	
People from black and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Women and men (boys and girls)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
People with disabilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Older people, children and young people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lesbian, gay and bisexual people (including transgender people)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
People of different religions or beliefs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that this policy will, or may potentially:	
General Duties	Level of impact (high , medium or low)
Eliminate discrimination faced by particular groups	Medium
Impact upon the promotion of equality of opportunity between particular groups	High
Impact upon good relations between particular groups	High
Promote positive attitudes towards different groups	High
Increase participation of particular groups in public life	High
Overall relevance to equality	High
5. Equality impact assessment required? (<i>N.B. All high and medium policies must be impact assessed</i>)	
YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Decision rationale	
<p>The Youth Housing and Support Service is open to everyone in the West Lothian population regardless of ethnic background, disability or religious belief. As there is a potential for a wide range of users it means there is a high probability that different people will use the service meaning in turn there is a high relevance to equalities with this service.</p>	

1. Policy details	
Policy Title	Youth Housing & Support Team
Policy Lead Officer	Annmarie Carr
Others Involved	Ian Treger
Date Assessment Completed	17/12/2008
2. Results of equality relevance process	
<p>The Youth Housing and Support Service is open to everyone in the West Lothian population regardless of ethnic background, disability or religious belief. As there is a potential for a wide range of users it means in turn there is a high probability that different people will use the service meaning in turn there is a high relevance to equalities with this service.</p>	

3. Aims of the policy
<p>The Aims and Objectives of this policy are as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > To develop proactive strategies to prevent homelessness >To ensure that homeless and vulnerable young people are able to access comprehensive accommodation and support packages appropriate to individual needs >To offer young people a high standard of service >To deliver or broker services on behalf of young people >Tp promote choices for young people as far as is possible >To work with other agencies to provide as seamless a service as possible >To recognise that some young homeless people have high levels of support needs which cannot be readily met within existing accommodation and support services >To work with young people to develop independent living skills, if appropriate

>To acknowledge that young people are able to make and reject options and ensure they are aware of the consequences of their actions

>To support young people in their own accommodation

>To increasingly work in a preventative way to enhance the range of resources and options for young people

4. What data, research or other evidence has been used to inform this assessment?

>Scottish Government Statistics

>West Lothian Council's Homeless Strategy

>The Local Housing Strategy

>The Lothian Housing Needs Study

>Internal Reports (BI Broker)

5. Details of consultation and involvement

Following the completion of the initial assessment, this assessment will be issued to relevant stakeholders via the following methods:

- > Copy will be sent to the West Lothian Disability Equality Forum for comments and amendments
- > Copy will be sent to Employee Disability Forum for comments and amendments;
- > Copy will be circulated to all stakeholders and tenants involved in the assessment for comment, approval and additional recommendations
- > Copy will be sent to West Lothian Council's LGB Employee Network for comments, approval and additional recommendations
- > Assessment draft will be included on Intranet and Internet for comment and additional recommendations from members of our community and employees;
- > Comments from additional employee and community groups will be incorporated once operational. In addition to all of the above West Lothian Council will use tenants groups and current arrangements in place e.g the Tenants Panel to further consult with if deemed appropriate.

6. Impact of policy on particular groups

6.1. Disability equality

All Leaflet and Manuals advertising the Youth Housing & Support Service are available in different formats including braille and large print. The interview rooms in West Lothian Council offices have been impact assessed to ensure they are barrier free to allow access to wheelchairs etc when required. A loop system is also available when required..

Lammermuir House has had a Disability Access Audit and is currently considering changes that could happen to the building to ensure it is more wheelchair accessible.

The Green Flag system is used in Academy to advise of literacy problems of client to help ensure the service is delivered in the most appropriate way.

The Youth Housing Support Team also have a shortage of wheelchair accessible properties for their clients.

6.2. Race equality

All forms and publications used by the Youth Housing & Support team are available (upon request) in different languages so people from different ethnic backgrounds can read the strategy. When presenting homeless West Lothain have translation services available so are able to deal with applicants when English is not their first language. All information on leaflets and application forms can be given in different languages if required.

6.3. Gender equality

Statistics do not show there are more females than males using our service. However there are single sex services available for example women's aid. This service is exclusively for women fleeing domestic violence. West Lothian Council offer same sex interviews when requested.

6.4. Age equality

There is access for young adults age between 16 and 21 to see a specialised team. This is due to the vulnerability of this group.

6.5. Religion or belief equality

N/A

6.6. Sexual orientation equality

The Youth Housing & Support team is aware of possible problems but can see no issues that would effect anyone wishing to present homeless. If any problems were to come up these would be addressed on a case by case basis.

6.7. Transgender equality

The Youth Housing & Support Team is aware of possible problems but can see no issues that would effect anyone wishing to present homeless. If any problems were to come up these would be addressed on a case by case basis.

6.8. Crosscutting equality (multiple discrimination)

N/A

7. Consultation and involvement feedback**8. Monitoring and review arrangements**

Ongoing monitoring of the Youth Housing & Support Team will be through the following groups

- > Homelessness and Support User Group
- > Joint Strategy working group
- > The to be formed Council Homelessness Steering Group

9. Publication of assessment results

The impact assessment will be published externally on West Lothian Council's website. The final version of the assessment will be issued to all those involved in the consultation process.

10. Recommendations and implementation

Given all discussions, evidence, consultation and involvement issues identified through the assessment process, below are the recommendations to be taken forward by the service (pending any consultation).

- > Housing and Building Services promote services to people where English is not their first language including exploring ways of becoming involved with the user groups and forums
- > Lammermuir House should be examined to ascertain how wheelchair accessible the Youth Housing Support Team are with the possibility of installing electronic doors
- > The requirement for properties adapted for those with medical needs should be considered and addressed in the next homeless strategy

Equality impact assessment completed

