

Equality Impact Assessment: Sefton Homelessness Strategy 2018 - 2023

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Equality Act 2010 outlines how public bodies must have due regard to:

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this act
2. Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
3. Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

2.0 Protected Characteristics

2.1 Equality Act 2010 is clear that there are particular characteristics that are intrinsic to an individual against which it would be easy to discriminate. Section 149 (the Public Sector Equality Duty) lists the characteristics known as ‘protected characteristics’ against which we have to test for discrimination. These characteristics are gender, race/ethnicity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, age, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity and disability.

2.2 The development and publication of the Homelessness Review and Strategy is a statutory duty that must be undertaken at least every five years. The purpose of the Strategy is to inform commissioning decisions across local services focussing on the needs of residents who may need to access homeless and housing related services, and to those who are or will become service users. Much of the emphasis of the Strategy is on preventative services to mitigate the negative impacts of homelessness for the individual, their family and the wider community.

2.3 As part of the development of this Homelessness Strategy In the formulation of the Homelessness Review and this Homelessness Strategy a number of face-to-face interviews were undertaken with people who were experiencing homelessness and the Providers of Sefton’s Homelessness Services were invited to complete the Sefton Homeless Strategy 2018 – 2023 Stakeholder Consultation in March 2018.

3.0 Identifying Impacts across protected characteristics

| Protected characteristic | Recommendations/mitigating actions |
|--------------------------|--|
| Gender | <p>The review identified a high level of single male homeless applicants.</p> <p>Mitigating actions: Sefton will seek to develop a better understanding as to why there are exceptionally high levels of lone male applicants in temporary accommodation, relative the number of households with dependent children.</p> |



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| Age | <p>There were concerns raised about the availability of supported housing and housing related support for single homeless young People.</p> <p>Mitigating Actions: There were concerns raised about the availability of better support before, during and after leaving care</p> <p>Sefton provide a range of homelessness prevention activities for people leaving care, however these practices and protocols could be improved.</p> |
| Disability | <p>Whilst there was nothing of concern coming from the findings relating specifically to disability we are aware of the need to continue to ensure that our services are accessible to all members of the community</p> <p>Mitigating actions:</p> |
| Race/Ethnicity | <p>Whilst there was nothing of concern coming from the findings relating specifically to race/ethnicity we are aware of the need to continue to ensure that our services are accessible to all members of the community</p> <p>Mitigating actions:</p> |
| Religion or belief | <p>Whilst there was nothing of concern coming from the findings relating specifically to religion or belief we are aware of the need to continue to ensure that our services are accessible to all members of the community</p> <p>Mitigating actions:</p> |
| Sexual Orientation | <p>People who are more likely to experience hidden homelessness are more likely to be of a young adult, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender, and/or escaping domestic abuse</p> <p>Mitigating actions: A greater understanding of hidden homelessness needs to be developed by Sefton</p> |
| Gender Reassignment | <p>People who are more likely to experience hidden homelessness are more likely to be of a young adult, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender, and/or escaping domestic abuse</p> <p>Mitigating actions: A greater understanding of hidden homelessness needs to be developed by Sefton</p> |
| Pregnancy and maternity | <p>Whilst there was nothing of concern coming from the findings relating specifically to disability we are aware of the need to continue to ensure that our services are accessible to all members of the community</p> <p>Mitigating actions:</p> |

