

Template 1 - Scoping & Analysis

Name of the Service, Policy, or Strategy: Element(s) of the above being assessed.	Hampshire Home Choice (HHC) Allocations Framework
Date Screening undertaken:	<i>Review of the Allocations Framework 4th January 2013</i>
Screeners:	<i>Ian Barrett (Winchester City Council's Equality Adviser), Olu Fajuyitan (Senior Housing Needs Officer) and Elizabeth Wallington (HHC Manager)</i>
File name and location:	<i>P:\HSGSPUBLIC\HHC Elizabeth\HHC Consultation Equality Impact Assessment</i>
Question (See Advice Notes)	Answer
1. What is the main purpose of the Service, Strategy, Policy, Practice or Procedure?	East Hampshire District Council, Havant Borough Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Winchester City Council have agreed a common approach for the allocation of social housing across the four local authority areas and together operate a sub-regional choice based lettings scheme called Hampshire Home Choice.
2. List the main activities of the Service, Strategy, Policy, Practice or Procedure.	A person can apply to be registered on the HHC Housing Register. Their application will be assessed to determine if they are eligible and qualify to join HHC. Anyone who is eligible and qualifies for HHC will have their housing need assessed and be placed in the appropriate band. Social housing is advertised on a weekly bidding cycle and applicants can bid for eligible properties. The person with the highest priority due to their housing need followed by the length of time they have been registered on HHC will be offered the property. HHC is currently being reviewed and as a result a number of recommendations have been made. The assessment focussed on the impacts of the criteria for establishing a local connection and prioritising applications.

Using the table below identify who is affected by the Service, Strategy, Policy, Project, Practice or Procedure and decide if (1) they benefit from it or are disadvantaged or discriminated against by it, (2) it is promoting equality of opportunity or participation in public life, and (3) if it is promoting good relations with other groups. Give brief reasons and the evidence for your decision.

N.B. You MUST have evidence or good reasons to justify your decision. Usually this will take the form of equality monitoring information on who uses a service or is affected by a policy. If you do not have monitoring information – or do, but don't analyse it – then it is unlikely that you can complete this stage now unless you can find other evidence or good reasons to support your judgement e.g. research or Equality Assessments undertaken by other agencies. Discuss this with the Equality Adviser and agree a way forward.

' +VE' = Positive impact

' -VE' = negative impact

'N/A' = Not Applicable

PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC	SUB-GROUP	DISCRIMINATION & DISADVANTAGE			PROMOTING EQUALITY & PARTICIPATION			PROMOTING GOOD RELATIONS			REASONING & EVIDENCE
		+VE	-VE	N/A	YES	NO	N/A	YES	NO	N/A	
SEX (GENDER)	Women	✓			✓			✓			Applications are assessed based on eligibility and housing need in line with legislation and the allocations framework. The new 'local connections' criteria take account of the fact that women are more likely to need social housing, work part-time and have caring responsibilities.
	Men	✓			✓			✓			The allocations framework and criteria do not unfairly disadvantage men.
AGE YOU MAY ALTER AGE RANGES IF APPROPRIATE	Over 80	✓			✓			✓			The allocations framework has been framed to enable older applicants with a housing need to access sheltered housing even in cases where they may be an owner occupier.
	Over 65	✓			✓			✓			See above
	22-64	✓			✓			✓			Applications are assessed based on eligibility and housing need in line with legislation and the allocations framework.

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		+VE	-VE	N/A	YES	NO	N/A	YES	NO	N/A	
	16 to 21	✓			✓			✓			Eligible applicants aged 16 and 17 years are allowed onto HHC. However an offer of accommodation may only be offered subject to a joint assessment with Children's Services and the Housing Service, and a suitable guarantor being identified.
	Under 16			✓			✓				N/a
RACE YOU MAY NEED MORE DETAIL HERE E.G. A SPECIFIC ETHNIC GROUP	White British People	✓			✓			✓			Applications are assessed based on eligibility and housing need in line with legislation and the allocations framework. The new local connection criteria will not unfairly disadvantage people from other ethnic groups who are already resident in the area and those who are not can establish a local connection via work or by moving into the area and living in private rented accommodation for 12 months.
	White European or Other White People	✓			✓			✓			
	Irish People	✓			✓			✓			
	Black or Black British People	✓			✓			✓			
	Asian or Asian British People	✓			✓			✓			
	Chinese or Chinese British People	✓			✓			✓			
	Mixed Race People	✓			✓			✓			
	Gypsies/Travellers	✓			✓			✓			

PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC	SUB-GROUP	DISCRIMINATION & DISADVANTAGE			PROMOTING EQUALITY & PARTICIPATION			PROMOTING GOOD RELATIONS			REASONING & EVIDENCE
		+VE	-VE	N/A	YES	NO	N/A	YES	NO	N/A	
DISABILITY & HEALTH YOU MAY NEED MORE DETAIL HERE E.G. TYPE OF SENSORY IMPAIRMENT	People from other minority ethnic groups	✓			✓			✓			Applications are assessed based on eligibility and housing need in line with legislation and the allocations framework. The criteria recognise and prioritise disability/health problems. HHC also operates Supported Housing Panels which assesses and prioritises those applicants with additional support needs.
	Physical Impairment	✓			✓			✓			
	Sensory Impairment	✓			✓			✓			
	Long-Term Health Problem	✓			✓			✓			
	Mental Illness	✓			✓			✓			
	Learning Disability	✓			✓			✓			
	Lesbians	✓			✓			✓			
	Gay Men	✓			✓			✓			
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Bisexuals	✓			✓			✓			Applications are assessed based on eligibility and housing need in line with legislation and the allocations framework. Sexual orientation is not a relevant factor and does not affect eligibility or allocation.
RELIGION & BELIEF YOU MAY NEED MORE DETAIL HERE	Faith Groups	✓			✓			✓			Applications are assessed based on eligibility and housing need in line with legislation and the allocations

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		+VE	-VE	N/A	YES	NO	N/A	YES	NO	N/A	
E.G. A SPECIFIC FAITH/BELIEF											framework. Religion and belief is not a relevant factor and does not affect eligibility or allocation.
	Atheist, Agnostic or Other belief	✓			✓			✓			
TRANSGENDER		✓			✓			✓			HHC also operates Supported Housing Panels which assesses and prioritises those applicants with additional support needs.
	Married	✓									
MARRIAGE & CIVIL PARTNERSHIP	Civil Partners	✓									See above
	Pregnant	✓									HHC review recommends that bedroom assessments will be assessed in line with local housing allowance rules. As a result an applicant with an unborn child will not be assessed as needing a bedroom until birth takes place.
PREGNANCY & MATERNITY	On Maternity Leave	✓									See above

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		+VE	-VE	N/A	YES	NO	N/A	YES	NO	N/A	
OTHER YOU MAY ADD ADDITIONAL GROUPS HERE.	Poor Literacy &/or Numeracy	✓			✓			✓			Applicants are assisted as required to complete an application.
	Unemployed	✓			✓			✓			Applications are assessed based on eligibility and housing need in line with legislation and the allocations framework.
	Living in rural area	✓			✓			✓			HHC review recommends that village vacancies where there is not a s106 agreement in place will be allocated as priority for those with a local connection to the village.
	Low Income	✓			✓			✓			HHC review recommends that local letting plans and a sensitive lettings plan will give additional priority to those working on newbuild developments. The employment definition will include provision for those who are self-employed and who may work for an agency if they have been employed with the same company for at least 1 year.
	On Benefits	✓			✓			✓			Applications are assessed based on eligibility and

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		+VE	-VE	N/A	YES	NO	N/A	YES	NO		N/A
	Caring Responsibilities	✓			✓			✓		Under the HARAH local connection definition those with caring responsibilities may be given additional priority to secure a village vacancy.	
	People escaping Domestic violence, sexual abuse and in special programmes such as witness protection	✓			✓			✓		The allocations framework has been framed to give special provision to those that may fall within these groups.	

Now answer the following questions. The key findings should be included in any report to decision-makers and used to produce a short report on the Equality Assessment for publication, this should include any new equality information you have gathered and details of any consultations or other forms of engagement with individuals or groups of people with protected characteristics. N.B. It is a legal requirement to publish this information.

4. Have you identified any impact(s) on any group(s)?	YES [] NO [✓] <i>Summarise nature of any impact(s) – positive or negative - and what can be done to avoid or mitigate negative impacts.</i>
5. Is the Service, Strategy, Policy, Project, Practice or Procedure promoting equality of opportunity and/or participation in public life for any group(s)?	Not Applicable [] YES [✓] NO [] By providing access to social housing for local people, it helps keep families together and promotes social cohesion.

<p>6. Can it be improved to do so?</p>	<p>YES [<input type="checkbox"/>] NO [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] <i>Explain: Some changes to initial proposals were made as a result of this assessment.</i></p>
<p>7. Is the Service, Strategy, Policy, Project, Practice or Procedure promoting good relations for any group(s)?</p>	<p>Not Applicable [<input type="checkbox"/>] YES [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] NO [<input type="checkbox"/>] See Q5.</p>
<p>8. Have you gathered ny new equality information during this assessment?</p>	<p>YES [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] NO [<input type="checkbox"/>]</p>
<p>9. Have you undertaken any consultation /engagement work during this assessment?</p>	<p>YES [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] NO [<input type="checkbox"/>] <i>Send to the Equality Adviser and summarise what you did and the results in the EqA report.</i></p>

Now send this completed template for validation.