

Title of proposed EIA	HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND REDUCTION GRANT FUNDING, FOR VULNERABLE RENTERS
Reference No	EQUA777
EA is in support of	Amended Service
Review Frequency	No preference
Date of first review	06/06/2022
Directorate	Neighbourhoods
Division	City Housing
Service Area	Housing Solutions and Support
Responsible Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Debbie Parkes
Quality Control Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Karen Huxtable
Accountable Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Stephen Philpott
Purpose of proposal	To obtain Cabinet approval to accept the allocation of funding offered by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for the financial year of 2021-22
Data sources	relevant reports/strategies
Please include any other sources of data	Birmingham Homelessness Strategy 2017 Council Plan 2018-2022 Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 Housing Birmingham Partnership Strategy Gov.uk/data

ASSESS THE IMPACT AGAINST THE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Protected characteristic: Age

Age details:

Service Users / Stakeholders

No negative impact of this proposal has been identified. The acceptance of this funding will strengthen the assistance available to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness irrespective of age.

Young people are most disadvantaged by the housing market, are likely to have low income and can be regarded as high risk. There are 4118 young people facing homelessness in this city most of whom have been made homeless from the family home.

Protected characteristic: Disability

Disability details:

Service Users / Stakeholders

No negative impact of this proposal has been identified. 15% of all households owed a homelessness duty in England have physical ill health or disability. The extra funding will ensure that these vulnerable households can be supported to stay in their homes rather than face eviction.

The links between homelessness and health inequalities are stark. Although there have been improvements in the health of the general population, the health of homeless people remains unacceptably poor.

Being homeless has a significant negative impact on health, resulting in homeless people having some of the worst health issues in the city. Homeless people are more vulnerable to illness, poor mental health, and drug and alcohol problems. They are also more likely than the general population to have multiple and complex physical and mental health needs. Homeless households experience health inequalities with higher morbidity and mortality than the rest of the population. Tackling and preventing homelessness will therefore contribute to reducing health inequalities.

Physical health problems in homeless people are 2-3 times more common than in the general population. People who are homeless or living in poor quality accommodation can often suffer worse health than those in settled accommodation due to their physical surroundings.

Protected characteristic: Sex

Gender details:

Service Users / Stakeholders

No negative impact of this proposal has been identified.

It is recognised that the majority of people sleeping rough in Birmingham are male and aged over 25. Working with partners our aim is to support this group to be able to access accommodation by providing rent deposits and rent in advance to secure accommodation.

Women's housing needs and their access to safe and adequate housing are intimately linked to underlying systemic and structural gender inequalities, in particular violence against women and women's economic inequality. Many studies

have shown gender-based violence to be one of the most significant factors impeding women's ability to secure and maintain suitable housing; that safe and appropriate housing is one of the most crucial forms of support for women experiencing domestic abuse; and that women's loss of safe and secure housing can lead to further experiences of violence

Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment

Gender reassignment details:

Service Users / Stakeholders

No negative impact of this proposal has been identified. The extra funding will ensure that these vulnerable households can be supported to stay in their homes rather than face eviction and to be supported into accommodation.

A quarter of trans people (25 per cent) have experienced homelessness LGBT in Britain - Trans Report is Stonewall's new research, based on research with 871 trans and non-binary people by YouGov and highlighting the profound levels of discrimination and hate crime faced by trans people in Britain today.

One in four (25 per cent) were discriminated against when looking for a house or flat to rent or buy in the last year. One in five non-binary people (20 per cent) have experienced discrimination while looking for a new home.

Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership

Not Applicable

Marriage and civil partnership details:

Protected characteristics: Pregnancy and Maternity

Service Users / Stakeholders

Pregnancy and maternity details:

No negative impact of this proposal has been identified. The acceptance of this grant will strengthen the assistance available to prevent pregnant women becoming homeless.

Pregnant women has a priority need for accommodation under the main homelessness duty.

Protected characteristics: Race

Service Users / Stakeholders

Race details:

No negative impact of this proposal has been identified.

Ethnic minority households are around three times more likely to become statutorily homeless than are the majority White population. In every region in England, ethnic minority households are over-represented amongst those accepted as homeless by local housing authorities.

Between April 2019 and March 2020:

- Black people are disproportionately affected by homelessness with 1 in 23 black households becoming homeless or threatened with homelessness, versus 1 in 83 households from all other ethnicities combined.
- 11% of homeless people applying for help are black even though black people make up 3% of households in England.
- A quarter (24%) of people making homelessness applications to local councils are from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups, even though they make up just over a tenth (11%) of all households in England.
- A person who is Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) becomes homeless or threatened with homelessness every eight minutes.

Protected characteristics: Religion or Beliefs

Not Applicable

Religion or beliefs details:

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation

Not Applicable

Sexual orientation details:

Socio-economic impacts

Birmingham suffers from high levels of multiple deprivation. The scale of deprivation in the City reveals that Birmingham is:

- The 6th most deprived authority nationally;
- The most deprived authority in the West Midlands metropolitan area;
- The most deprived of all the greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP local authorities;
- The third most deprived of the Core Cities after Liverpool and Manchester.

□ Just under 40% of the population live in areas described as in the most deprived 10% in the country;

□ Almost a third of all children in Birmingham experience child poverty.

Homelessness both causes and is caused by many aspects of poverty, including financial pressures and unemployment. Birmingham is ranked the most deprived city for numbers of people who are income or employment deprived – this is largely influenced by the size of the authority compared to other major cities.

Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.

None

Please indicate whether a full impact assessment is recommended

NO

What data has been collected to facilitate the assessment of this policy/proposal?

Government Statistics

Shelter Data

Service Level Data

The main finding conclude that those with a protected characteristic are more likely to experience homelessness and therefore are more likely to be helped by this funding to prevent homelessness.

Consultation analysis

Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics.	None
Could the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact?	No
How will the effect(s) of this policy/proposal on equality be monitored?	All individuals accessing this grant funding will have had a full Housing Needs Assessment, and we will be able to profile the percentage of households where homelessness has been prevented
What data is required in the future?	None
Are there any adverse impacts on any particular group(s)	No
If yes, please explain your reasons for going ahead.	
Initial equality impact assessment of your proposal	
Consulted People or Groups	
Informed People or Groups	
Summary and evidence of findings from your EIA	This grant will provide an opportunity to intervene, prevent and tackle homelessness for the people of Birmingham by developing an effective tailored response to individual needs and protected characteristics.

QUALITY CONTROL SECTION

Submit to the Quality Control Officer for reviewing?	No
Quality Control Officer comments	
Decision by Quality Control Officer	Proceed for final approval
Submit draft to Accountable Officer?	Yes
Decision by Accountable Officer	Approve
Date approved / rejected by the Accountable Officer	18/11/2021
Reasons for approval or rejection	
Please print and save a PDF copy for your records	Yes

Content Type: Item

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