

Title of proposed EIA	Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP)
Reference No	EQUA684
EA is in support of	New Service
Review Frequency	Two Years
Date of first review	31/05/2023
Directorate	Neighbourhoods
Division	Homelessness
Service Area	Rough Sleepers
Responsible Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Stephen Philpott
Quality Control Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Leroy Pearce
Accountable Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Messenger
Purpose of proposal	Permission to bid for revenue programme paper to Cabinet
Data sources	relevant reports/strategies; relevant research
Please include any other sources of data	
ASSESS THE IMPACT AGAINST THE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS	
Protected characteristic: Age	Service Users / Stakeholders
Age details:	<p>The Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme targets the relief of rough sleeping by enabling access to accommodation and support for people who are or have been rough sleepers. It is a capital programme purchasing 1 bedroom flats in Birmingham via a Housing Association, and a revenue programme enabling support to those tenants. The criteria is rough sleepers aged 18+ who are able to sustain accommodation with support, and move away from rough sleeping. The programme builds upon the experience and success of the Housing First programme 2018-21 which has accommodated over 150 individuals who were rough sleepers in Birmingham. Rough sleepers are acknowledged as some of the most excluded of groups with a increased chance of early death, substance misuse, poor physical and mental health, disability, offending behaviour, a history of being in care including as a child, and legal issues relating to status in the country and access to benefits.</p> <p>The age profile of rough sleepers tends to be 5-10% in the age band 16-25, with the majority being 26-39, and a further 10-15% being 40+. The RSAP is open to all ages, and support is in place regardless of age, with specialist services in place for 16-25's.</p>
Protected characteristic: Disability	Service Users / Stakeholders
Disability details:	<p>The Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme targets the relief of rough sleeping by enabling access to accommodation and support for people who are or have been rough sleepers. It is a capital programme purchasing 1 bedroom flats in Birmingham via a Housing Association, and a revenue programme enabling support to those tenants. The criteria is rough sleepers aged 18+ who are able to sustain accommodation with support, and move away from rough sleeping. The programme builds upon the experience and success of the Housing First programme 2018-21 which has accommodated over 150 individuals who were rough sleepers in Birmingham. Rough sleepers are acknowledged as some of the most excluded of groups with a increased chance of early death, substance misuse, poor physical and mental health, disability, offending behaviour, a history of being in care including as a child, and legal issues relating to status in the country and access to benefits.</p> <p>Those with disabilities, both recognised and unrecognised, make up a higher proportion of rough sleepers than the general population. The RSAP does not exclude on the grounds of disability but looks at support requirements for successful accommodation outcomes. There is a partnership in place that includes social services, health, DWP professionals able to assess and secure relevant support to enable access to the RSAP</p>
Protected characteristic: Sex	Service Users / Stakeholders
Gender details:	<p>The Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme targets the relief of rough sleeping by enabling access to accommodation and support for people who are or have been rough sleepers. It is a capital programme purchasing 1 bedroom flats in Birmingham via a Housing Association, and a revenue programme enabling support to those tenants. The criteria is rough sleepers aged 18+ who are able to sustain accommodation with support, and move away from rough sleeping. The programme</p>

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Women account for around 10-20% of rough sleepers found bedded down on the streets of Birmingham, men 80-90%. With this it is recognised that women's homelessness can be more hidden and less likely to present as street sleeping. The RSAP is accessible to both men and women and is a programme committed to identification and provision for both presenting and hidden rough sleeping. The provision seeks to include choice and so secure accommodation outcomes that are suitable according to needs and wishes, regardless of personal characteristics. Linking into the rough sleeper partnership there are specialist services for women seeking to ensure particular needs are addressed, these include outreach, daycentre and emergency accommodation options.

Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment

Gender reassignment details:

Service Users / Stakeholders

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Gender reassignment is not a barrier to the programme. The programme proactively seeks to provide accommodation of choice with support required to rough sleepers.

Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership

Marriage and civil partnership details:

Service Users/ Stakeholders

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Marital status is not a factor in access to the RSAP. Whether a person is single or a couple will be part of the assessment in terms of requirements both for accommodation and support, but it is not a case for exclusion.

Protected characteristics: Pregnancy and Maternity

Pregnancy and maternity details:

Service Users / Stakeholders

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Pregnancy and maternity details may have relevance in terms of an individuals legal status as homelessness. Priority need applicants may be afforded further rights, benefiting the individual.

Protected characteristics: Race

Service Users / Stakeholders

Race details:

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People from black and minority ethnic groups present as sleeping rough at a lower rate than the general population of Birmingham. It is recognised that rough sleeping may be more hidden amongst particular minority groups. Work is done across the homeless partnership to address areas of under-representation and access to services. There is an over-representation of people sleeping rough from EU nation states, especially eastern europeans, where individuals have rights to be in the UK and to work, but without rights to benefits/public funds - this status can exclude from programmes including RSAP if there is no means to pay for rent. Also over represented are failed asylum seekers, from a range of countries, primarily African and Asian, who have the right to remain in the UK but no access to public funds. Such individuals may also be excluded from the RSAP on the basis on it not being sustainable.

Protected characteristics: Religion or Beliefs

Service Users / Stakeholders

Religion or beliefs details:

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Religion or beliefs are not a factor leading to exclusion from RSAP. The RSAP brings into access a wider range and choice of accommodation and support linked to the accommodation.

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation

Service Users / Stakeholders

Sexual orientation details:

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Recording of sexual orientation amongst rough sleepers is very low and in some part reflective of the crisis in which individuals are presenting. Sexual orientation is not a factor in excluding access to RSAP, a programme that opens additional accommodation and support options for people who sleep rough.

Socio-economic impacts

Overall the programme aims to bring around £2.5m of additional capital investment into Birmingham through the provision of additional social housing units. In addition revenue funding to provide support to in total 40 units of accommodation. This accommodation is then made available to people who are, or have a history of sleeping rough. The capital investment is in place to ensure access for 30 years and the revenue initially till March 2024. People who sleep rough are some of the most socio-economically excluded, the RSAP provides a means to address two factors in that exclusion - access to good, affordable accommodation, and access to support to make

that accommodation viable. With those components in place further support to address other factors in exclusion are made available - for example, substance misuse services, physical and mental health services. This foundation then support a process of accessing sustainable include, education, training, employment and other elements that help integration.

Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.

Please indicate whether a full impact assessment is recommended NO

What data has been collected to facilitate the assessment of this policy/proposal? National rough sleeper count data from MHCLG; Birmingham Rough Sleeper Addendum to Homelessness Prevention Strategy; Delta reporting to MHCLG; Housing First data reporting

Consultation analysis The development of the bid included consultation with Housing First Board, Homelessness Forum, Regional Homelessness Taskforce, Rough Sleeper Action Group. The loss of Housing First as a pathway for rough sleepers into accommodation was noted, and the RSAP identified as a means to address elements of this.

Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics. Non identified

Could the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact? NA

How will the effect(s) of this policy/proposal on equality be monitored? The RSAP will have a reporting requirement through to Homes England and MHCLG. This will include the access to the programme of rough sleepers and the long-term effectiveness of outcomes.

What data is required in the future? To be determined according to MHCLG reporting requirements. Likely to include applications, assessments, decisions, access, move-on and outcomes.

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

Increases access to social housing and support to some of the most excluded and vulnerable citizens through both capital and revenue investment. No negative EIA factors.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-snapshot-in-england-autumn-2020>

https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/rough-sleeping-homelessness-prevention-strategy-co/supporting_documents/Rough%20Sleeping%20Strategy%20Document%202020.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/housing-first-pilot-national-evaluation-reports>

QUALITY CONTROL SECTION

Submit to the Quality Control Officer for reviewing? No

Quality Control Officer comments This EIA has been passed to the Accountable Officer for final approval.

Decision by Quality Control Officer Proceed for final approval

Submit draft to Accountable Officer? No

Decision by Accountable Officer Approve

Date approved / rejected by the Accountable Officer 20/05/2021

Reasons for approval or rejection

Please print and save a PDF copy for your records Yes

Julie Bach

Person or Group

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