

BLACKPOOL COASTAL HOUSING EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT RECORD



Team or service area leading the assessment

Title of policy/service/function

Date assessment completed

Details of person completing record

Name

Job Title

Telephone

email

Details of person signing record off

Name

Job Title

Telephone

email

STEP 1 - Identifying The Purpose Or Aims

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Existing | X |
| New/Proposed | |
| Changing/Updated | |
- 1 What type of policy/service/function is this?
 - 2 Aim of ~~policy/service/function~~

To provide emergency housing accommodation and support to statutorily homeless clients referred by the Housing Options service and occasional BCH Emergency Transfers.
 - 3 Outline of any proposals being considered

No proposals being considered
 - 4 Why are the proposals being made – for what reason?

No proposals being considered
 - 5 What outcomes do we want to achieve?

To ensure that clients are able to access the service in an open and non-discriminatory way and receive a service which is fair to all groups or persons regardless of their age, disability, gender, ethnicity, religion or sexuality.
 - 6 Who is the ~~policy/service/function~~ intended to benefit?

Statutorily homeless clients and BCH tenants on Emergency Transfers.
 - 7 Who are the main stakeholders/customers/communities of interest?

The customers of the service are the clients who are or have resided within the accommodation. The principle stakeholder is the Housing Options team and there are numerous other stakeholders including: BCH Housing and Property Services, The Health Team for the Homeless, Sure start, Helping hands, EDT, ADS, Advocacy, Bay House, The Foyer, Stonham, Mental Health Services, Social Services Direct, Connexions, Inward House, The Place, William Lyons, Advice Link, Welfare rights, Homestart, Barnardos, Early Years, Streetlife, CDT, Drugline.
 - 8 Does the policy/service/function have any existing aims in relation to equality, social inclusion or community cohesion?

To deliver the service in line with the BCH Single Equality Scheme and the Supporting People Quality Assessment Framework standards on Fair Access, Diversity and Inclusion.
 - 9 How is the resulting policy/service/function being delivered?

The emergency housing service is currently being delivered on behalf of Blackpool Council and the intention was to impact assess the service clients receive and make improvements as necessary.

STEP 2 – Considering Existing Information & What This Tells You

10 Summarise the main data/research and performance management information in the boxes below

Data/Information

2008/9 Data on clients using the service

Ethnicity:

Ethnic Origin	Percent
White: British	97.5
White: Irish	0.8
White: Other	0.8
Asian/Asian British: Indian	0.8
Total	100.0

Gender:

Sex	Percent
Female	59.0
Male	41.0
Total	100.0

Age:

Age	Percent
16 to 17 yrs	8.2
18 to 24 yrs	27.9
25 to 31 yrs	18.0
32 to 38 yrs	14.8
39 to 45 yrs	17.2
46 to 52 yrs	5.7
53 to 59 yrs	3.3
60 to 64 yrs	2.5
65 to 69 yrs	0.8
70 to 74 yrs	0.8
75 to 79 yrs	0.0
80yrs and over	0.8
Total	100.0

Disability:

Disability	Percent
Yes	15.6
No	80.3
Don't Know	4.1
Total	100.0

Research or comparative information

Blackpool Population 2007

Blackpool North England

			West		
All Persons; All Ages	Count	142,500	6,864,300	51,092,000	
Males; All Ages	%	49.1	49	49.2	
Females; All Ages	%	50.9	51	50.8	
All Persons; Aged 0-15	%	18.3	19.1	18.9	
All Persons Aged 16-29	%	16.7	18.7	18.6	
All Persons Aged 30-44	%	20	20.7	21.7	
All Persons; Aged 45-64	%	23	22.3	21.9	
All Persons Aged 65+	%	22	19.2	18.9	
White	%	96.5	92.5	88.7	
Mixed	%	0.9	1.2	1.6	
Asian or Asian British	%	1.5	4.2	5.5	
Black or Black British	%	0.5	1	2.8	
Chinese or other Ethnic group	%	0.6	1	1.4	
Christian	Count	111,875	5,249,686	35,251,244	
Buddist	Count	236	11,794	139,046	
Hindu	Count	175	27,211	546,982	
Jewish	Count	302	27,974	257,671	
Sikh	Count	47	6,487	327,343	
Any Other	Count	329	10,625	143,811	
No Religion	Count	16,201	705,045	7,171,332	
Religion not given	Count	12,499	486,681	3,776,515	
Disability					
All People		142,283 (100%)			
With a Limiting Long Term Illness		36,184 (25.4%)			
Without a Limiting Long Term Illness		106,099 (74.6%)			

Key findings from consultation and feedback

There were no key findings from the consultation exercise or feedback from clients and stakeholders. Some minor issues were identified by staff which are addressed within the attached Action Plan. The service does not appear to discriminate against any group or section of the community.

11 What do you know about how proposals will impact on different communities?

There are no proposals to change the service as it does not discriminate on age, disability, gender, ethnicity, religion or sexuality or any other sector of the community.

STEP 3 – Assessing The Impact

- 12 Is there any evidence of higher or lower take-up by any group or community, and if so, how is this explained?

There is evidence that Ethnic groups other than White, do not take up the service. Non white ethnic groups such as Black/Black British, Chinese, Asian/Asian British made up 3.5% of the local population however only 0.8% of clients using the service in 2008/9. This could be due to the low percentage of non white groups residing in Blackpool and possibly cultural differences which mean non white groups are less likely to approach the local authority for assistance at a time of crisis.

There is a disproportionate take up of the service by the younger age groups, however this would be expected given the statutory homeless criteria which focuses on those with children.

Only 15.6% of clients using the service have a disability compared to 25.4% of the local population. There are a limited number of rooms available within the service for those clients with a mobility problem requiring adapted facilities. Housing Options may therefore place such clients in alternative accommodation.

- 13 Does the geography or demography of service users reveal anything?

The majority of clients are white and within the younger age groups.

- 14 Do any rules or requirements prevent any groups or communities from using or accessing the service?

Clients are referred by the Housing Options service and must meet the criteria of being statutorily homeless. In addition, any clients identified as 'high risk' due to their behaviour (eg. A history of violent convictions) via a risk assessment process would not be accepted. No specific groups or communities are excluded.

- 15 Does the way the service is delivered, or the policy, create any additional barriers for any groups of disabled people (Duties arising out of DDA 1995)

Some sites are not accessible to wheelchair users. Disabled facilities are only available at one site and are not fully compliant with DDA regulations.

- 16 Does the way the service is delivered, or the policy, create any additional barriers for any other groups or communities, for example. Due to limited income or because of the time during the week when the service is available?

Communal bathing and toilet facilities may negatively impact upon certain cultural/religious practises.

- 17 Do any of these limitations amount to unlawful discrimination?

Yes

No

If 'Yes' please explain (referring to legislation) in the box below.

These limitations may amount to indirect discrimination.

- 18 If 'No' do they amount to differential impact which should be addressed?

Yes

No

If 'Yes' please give details below

Communal bathing and toilet facilities may negatively impact upon certain cultural/religious practises.

- 19 If the impact or effects are adverse for any community or group, can they be defended in order to provide equality for another community or group under legislation or policy?

Yes

No

If 'Yes' please give details below

20 Do you have enough information to make a judgment?

Yes

No

If 'No' what information do you required about which groups or communities?

21 Is it possible to get the information quickly and easily or is it recommended that the collection of such information be included as an action for the action plan that will be developed? Please detail below.

STEP 4 – Dealing With Adverse Or Unlawful Impact

- 22 What can be done to Improve the policy/service/function or any proposals in order to reduce or remove any adverse impact or effects identified.

Self contained accommodation would improve the service significantly. The current review of the service by Blackpool Council is looking to address this.

There may be barriers due to language problems however Language Line and literature in alternative formats are available. Interpreters also available if required when being admitted into the accommodation to explain the licence agreement, H and S forms, Housing Benefit forms etc.

- 23 What would be needed to be able to do this? Are the resources likely to be available?

Significant resources will be required to provide self contained accommodation. It is unclear at this point in the review whether such resources will be available.

- 24 What other support or changes would be necessary to carry out these actions?

An impact assessment of any new service would be required to ensure the new accommodation is fit for purpose and meets the needs of all groups.

STEP 5 – Consulting Those Affected For Their Views

- 25 Please outline the steps taken to test out your findings and possible courses of action below.

Clients from each diversity strand were consulted individually on their experience of the service and whether they felt the service discriminated against them or anyone else in any way.

A 12 week stakeholder consultation exercise was also carried out by publicising an explanatory document and questionnaire requesting feedback. This was emailed directly to all stakeholders and published on the BCH and BBC websites.

- 26 What feedback or responses have you received to the findings and possible courses of action? Please give details below.

No responses were received to the stakeholder questionnaire.

Client feedback on the service focused mainly on the issue of self contained facilities with other comments being around equipment provided, facilities and staffing.

- 27 If you have not been able to carry out any consultation what are your plans to do so?

N/A

- 28 If you are impact assessing some proposals, what steps have been taken to ensure that stakeholders have been able to voice their opinions on the proposals or the need for change?

N/A

STEP 6 – Action Planning

Issues/adverse impact identified	Proposed action/objectives to deal with adverse impact	Target/Measures	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicate whether agreed
Communal bathrooms and toilets could negatively impact upon certain religious practises.	Full service review currently in progress with Blackpool Council to address the need for self contained accommodation.	To provide self contained emergency accommodation	Report including recommendations currently being drafted	BCH SMT Supported Housing Manager Blackpool Council	
Accommodation is not DDA compliant	Full service review currently in progress with Blackpool Council to address the need for DDA compliant accommodation.	To provide DDA complaint accommodation	Report including recommendations currently being drafted	BCH SMT Supported Housing Manager Blackpool Council	
Investigate low response to stakeholder consultation exercise.	Contact stakeholders for feedback on lack of response to questionnaire.	To improve responses to future consultation exercises.	2010	Supported Housing Manager	

STEP 7 – Arrangements For Monitoring & Review

Agreed action	Monitoring arrangements	Timeframe	Responsibility	Which plan added to
BCH Senior management attending Hostel review meetings regularly to agree a way forward.	Will be included in Emergency Housing Team Plan and reviewed quarterly	Not known	BCH SMT Supported Housing Manager	Emergency Housing Team Plan