

Equality Impact Assessment

Introductory Information

Budget/Project name

The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy

Proposal type

- Budget
 Project

Reference number **1212**

Decision Type

- Cabinet
 Cabinet Committee (e.g. Housing Policy Committee)
 Leader
 Individual Cabinet Member
 Executive Director/Director
 Officer Decisions (Non-Key)
 Council (e.g. Budget and Housing Revenue Account)
 Regulatory Committees (e.g. Licensing Committee)

Lead Cabinet Member

Cllr Douglas Johnson

Entered on Q Tier

- Yes No

Year(s)

<input type="radio"/> 20/21	<input type="radio"/> 21/22	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2022/23	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2023/24	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2024/25	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2025/26	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2026/27
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EIA date

26/07/2022

EIA Lead

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Adele Robinson | <input type="radio"/> Ed Sexton |
| <input type="radio"/> Annemarie Johnston | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Louise Nunn |
| <input type="radio"/> Bashir Khan | <input type="radio"/> Michael Bowles |
| <input type="radio"/> Beth Storm | <input type="radio"/> Michelle Hawley |
| <input type="radio"/> Diane Owens | <input type="radio"/> Rosie May |

Person filling in this EIA form

Danielle Simmonite

Lead officer

Suzanne Allen

Lead Corporate Plan priority

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> An In-Touch Organisation | <input type="radio"/> Strong Economy | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Better Health and Wellbeing | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Tackling Inequalities |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|

Portfolio, Service and Team

Cross-Portfolio

- Yes No

Portfolio

Operational Services

Is the EIA joint with another organisation (eg NHS)?

- Yes No

Brief aim(s) of the proposal and the outcome(s) you want to achieve

The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy replaces Sheffield Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2017-2022

It sets out a vision for Sheffield City Council and where we would like to be in 5 years. It is a city-wide strategy which has been co-produced with partners and customers. It places focus on preventing people reaching crisis and getting help to them earlier. The action plan in the appendices details how agencies working collaboratively will achieve this goal.

The past two years have been extremely challenging for Sheffield. The Covid 19 pandemic has brought with it huge social and economic consequences and it has deepened the inequalities that already existed in Sheffield. Combined with the cost-of-living crisis these two factors mean that homeless presentations have been steadily rising.

We have to assume that with more economic challenges forecast, more people will be at risk of becoming homeless. Urgent action is needed across the city to change this picture

Impact

Under the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) we have to pay due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations

More information is available on the [Council website](#) including the [Community Knowledge Profiles](#).

Note the EIA should describe impact before any action/mitigation. If there are both negatives and positives, please outline these – positives will be part of any mitigation. The action plan should detail any mitigation.

Overview

Briefly describe how the proposal helps to meet the Public Sector Duty outlined above

This Strategy will focus on:

- upstreaming homelessness prevention in the city at every level
- developing a knowledgeable and well-trained workforce who are equipped to prevent homelessness
- building on a culture of partnership working and collaboration at the heart of everything we do

This will advance equality of opportunity by providing housing and support to homeless people and rough sleepers. We need to work with people throughout their lives to help them build resilience to prevent them from becoming homeless.

This will improve individuals' quality of life and provide them the support they need to move towards more independent living.

This strategy will upstream prevention and enhance support for vulnerable people. Together with partners we will provide responsive services and relevant wraparound support to enable people to gain more independence so that no-one faces homelessness.

Using our data, we will support all people who are in a Protected Characteristic group. We will address issues identified in the Sheffield Race Equality Commission Report 2022.

Impacts

Proposal has an impact on

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Health	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Transgender
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Age	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Carers
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Disability	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Voluntary/Community & Faith Sectors
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Pregnancy/Maternity	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Cohesion
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Race	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Partners
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Religion/Belief	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Poverty & Financial Inclusion
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Sex	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Armed Forces
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Other

Give details in sections below.

Health

Does the Proposal have a significant impact on health and well-being (including effects on the wider determinants of health)?

Yes No *if Yes, complete section below*

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Losing your home or being threatened with homelessness causes stress, anxiety and poor health. This proposal will bring a positive impact to people who face homelessness/ rough sleeping as it will focus on prevention and therefore reduce the number of people losing their home.

Many people experiencing rough sleeping / homeless people suffer with physical and mental health. By providing housing (whether social or private rented accommodation) and wrap-around support we will improve people's health and wellbeing.

This strategy is aiming to help people to become more independent and enable sustainable tenancies (support will be given when they are ready to move in or for them to transition successfully to another tenancy).

By co-operating with partners and creating more 'joined-up' ways of working people will receive the most appropriate health and social care support which ultimately enhance peoples' independence.

This proposal focusses on educating society by working with external support agencies and community groups to improve their knowledge of the signs of homelessness and support each other within the community at all stages of life.

With the knowledge and expertise of our partners we will work to reduce poverty in the city and tackle inequalities, we will actively promote maximisation of income, as people and their needs will be at the forefront of everything we do.

Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment being completed

Yes No

Please attach health impact assessment as a supporting document below.

Public Health Leads has signed off the health impact(s) of this EIA

Yes No

Health Lead

Age

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

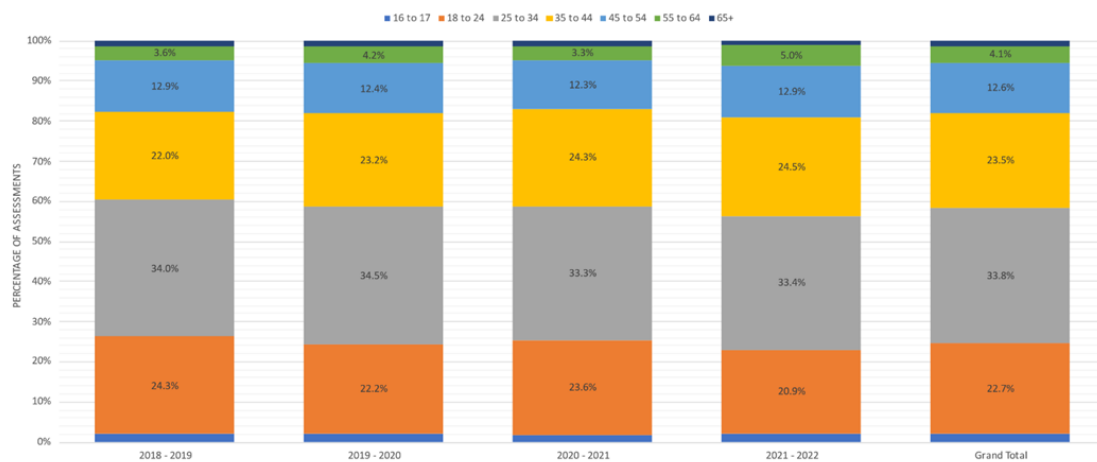
None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Our data shows that the age group who are predominately found homeless are between 25-34, equally followed by the age group 34-44 and 18-24. It is rare to get anyone homeless over 65. Those within the age 18-44 are therefore more likely to benefit from this strategy due to them being more likely to be at risk of homelessness.

1.3: Number of homeless assessments by the age of main applicant.

The most common age band at initial assessment is 25– 34 years of age, which accounts for 33.8% of all assessments. The age profile has remained broadly static across the past 4 fiscal years.



Source: SCC Homelessness Data between 01/04/2018 to 31/03/2022

FOUR YEARS

Disability

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

By co-operating with partners and creating more 'joined-up' ways of working people will receive the most appropriate health and social care support which ultimately enhances peoples' independence. This proposal will ensure that our responses to people are flexible and person centred.

We will improve web offer and communications campaign and ensure that information is provided in alternative formats accessible by all.

We will ensure that people with disabilities are re-housed or offered (social or private) accommodation with relevant adaptations and necessary wrap-around support.

We have anticipated a positive impact on rough sleepers who often have the most complex needs, including poor physical and mental health, history of trauma and are often isolated from society. We will secure dedicated accommodation and relevant support will be put in place to enable individuals feel safe and secure.

Pregnancy/Maternity

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

- None Low Medium High

Details of impact

We recognise that there are various issues which drive homelessness. This proposal will have a positive impact on pregnant women and families with children. Together with partners we are committed to tackling inequalities, this includes person centred wrap-around support around health education and employment and access to affordable housing whether social or private.

This proposal will focus on mediation and conflict resolution, these activities are essential to ensure relationships between family and friends are maintained. Mediation improved relationships can enable people/ pregnant young women to remain in the family home or ensure that people, pregnant young women can sustain their tenancy.

Race

Staff

- Yes No

Impact

- Positive Neutral Negative

Level

- None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Customers

- Yes No

Impact

- Positive Neutral Negative

Level

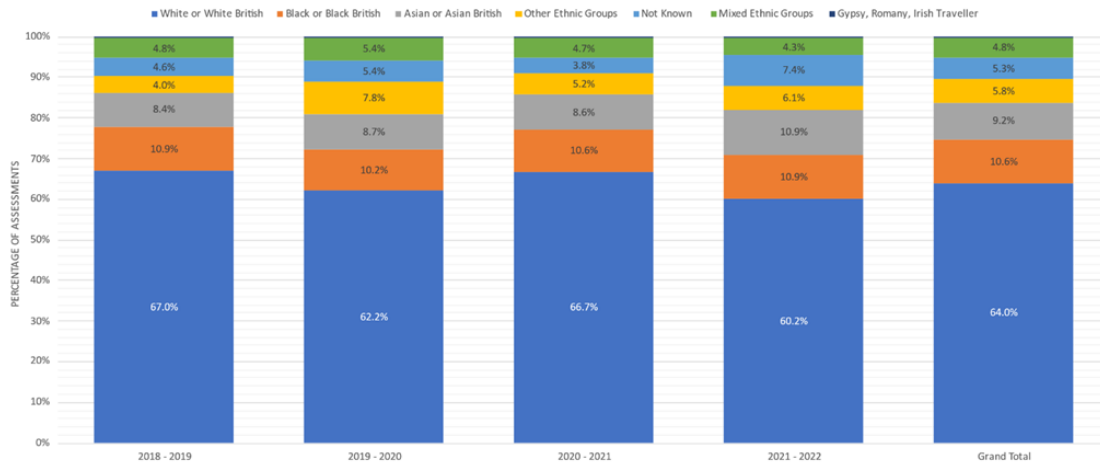
- None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Our data shows that the ethnicity group who are predominately found homeless are *White or White British* followed by *Black or Black British* and *Asian or Asian British* as per chart presented below.

1.2: Number of homeless assessments by ethnicity of main applicant.

BAMER households made up a greater proportion of total assessments in the latest financial year.



Source: SCC Homelessness Data between 01/04/2018 to 31/03/2022

FOUR YEARS

Our data tells us that there are groups of people who are disproportionately more at risk of becoming homeless. BAMER communities make up 30% of lead applicants

We know that people often experience issues early in life long before they may become roofless. Together with partners we need to work with people throughout their lives to help them build resilience to prevent them from becoming homeless.

Religion/Belief

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

This city-wide strategy has been co-produced with partners and customers. It places focus on preventing people reaching crisis and getting help to them earlier.

This plan focusses on targeted prevention. Sheffield has excellent services across the city to support customers who are facing crisis. Our workshops with customers

told us that support is needed earlier on and that our services need to be more accessible. Therefore, we will liaise with faith leaders **and the Voluntary Sector to reach more minority groups around the city.**

We will work with external support agencies, faith leaders and community groups to improve their knowledge of the signs of homelessness to assist them in supporting the community.

With the knowledge and expertise of our partners we will work to reduce poverty in the city and tackle inequalities.

Sex

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Women- Domestic abuse is the second highest reason for homelessness and it disproportionately affects women. They are therefore more likely to benefit from the prevention activities.

Rough Sleepers - The majority of rough sleepers are male. They are therefore more likely to benefit from the prevention activities due to them being more likely to be a rough sleeper.

Hidden Homeless (sofa surfing, often affects women who may be involved in sex work and so not counted within the rough sleeper headcounts)

We will work with external support agencies and community groups to improve their knowledge of the signs of homelessness and support each other within the community at all stages of life.

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Sexual Orientation

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

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We will work with external support agencies, faith leaders and community groups to improve their knowledge of the signs of homelessness and support each other within the community at all stages of life.

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Transgender

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

- None Low Medium High

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Carers

Staff

- Yes No

Impact

- Positive Neutral Negative

Level

- None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Customers

- Yes No

Impact

- Positive Neutral Negative

Level

- None Low Medium High

Details of impact

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Voluntary/Community & Faith Sectors

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

We will work collaboratively with our partners to ensure customers have the best possible start to enable them to respond if a crisis occurs.

We will work with secondary schools and further education establishments so that tenancy sustainment, healthy relationships with families, friends and partners, spotting signs of domestic abuse are part of the curriculum.

We will build on our strong partnerships to improve multi agency work. We will ensure that we are working with people early and that our responses are flexible and person centred

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Cohesion

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Our data has identified areas of the city which are more affected by homelessness and we will have targeted responses for these communities.

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Partners

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Customers

Impact Page 137

Yes No Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

This city-wide strategy has been co-produced with partners and customers. It places focus on preventing people reaching crisis and getting help to them earlier.

This plan focusses on targeted prevention. Sheffield has excellent services across the city to support customers who are facing crisis. Our workshops with customers told us that support is needed earlier on and that our services need to be more accessible. We have a homelessness prevention forum and strategy steering group with representatives of all partners across to provide a joined up offer and they have all been consulted on the draft strategy.

We will work with external support agencies, faith leaders and community groups to improve their knowledge of the signs of homelessness and support each other within the community at all stages of life.

With the knowledge and expertise of our partners we will work to reduce poverty in the city and tackle inequalities

Poverty & Financial Inclusion

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Responding to the cost-of-living crisis is an overarching theme of the strategy. This will ensure homelessness is explicitly addressed in specialist services and the overall city response to poverty.

Armed Forces

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact**Customers**

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Homelessness legislation recognises some circumstances when a person has a heightened risk of homelessness. Armed Forces veterans are included within this legislation.

Although there are limited numbers in Sheffield, we will review our arrangements to improve our targeted advice and support to them. There are already excellent examples of joint working in Sheffield, and we want to build on this to be more effective by focussed on earlier prevention rather than responding to a crisis. We recognise that we will not always be able to prevent homelessness occurring and the services we offer to people at this very difficult time for them must be more effective to prevent repeated homeless applications.

We will work with external support agencies, faith leaders and community groups to improve their knowledge of the signs of homelessness and support each other within the community at all stages of life.

Other**Staff**

Yes No

Please specify

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact**Customers**

Yes No

Please specify

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None
 Low
 Medium
 High

Details of impact

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Cumulative Impact**Proposal has a cumulative impact**

Yes
 No

<input type="radio"/> Year on Year	<input type="radio"/> Across a Community of Identity/Interest
<input type="radio"/> Geographical Area	<input type="radio"/> Other

If yes, details of impact

Proposal has geographical impact across Sheffield

Yes
 No

If Yes, details of geographical impact across Sheffield

Local Partnership Area(s) impacted

All
 Specific

If Specific, name of Local Partnership Area(s) impacted

Action Plan and Supporting Evidence**Action Plan**

There is attachment regarding Action plan which will be added to this EIA

Supporting Evidence (Please detail all your evidence used to support the EIA)

Action Plan

Consultation

Consultation required

Yes No

If consultation is not required please state why

We consulted with customers and other internal and external stakeholders

Are Staff who may be affected by these proposals aware of them

Yes No

Are Customers who may be affected by these proposals aware of them

Yes No

If you have said no to either please say why

Summary of overall impact

Summary of overall impact

The homelessness prevention and rough sleeping strategy will have a positive impact on addressing equality issues.

Escalation plan

Is there a high impact in any area?

Yes No

Overall risk rating after any mitigations have been put in place

High Medium Low None

EIAs must be agreed and signed off by the Equality lead Officer in your Portfolio or corporately. EIA signed off:

Yes No

Date agreed

EIA Lead

Review Date