

Diversity impact assessment

Appendix 2

TITLE <i>Name / description of the issue being assessed</i>	Proposed Housing Strategy 2018 to 2022
DATE <i>Date the DIA is completed</i>	05 06 2018
LEAD OFFICER <i>Name, title and dept of person responsible for carrying out the DIA.</i>	Chris Giles, Housing Strategy and Partnerships Manager, Strategic Housing Services

1 Summary description of the proposed change

- *What is the change to policy / service / new project that is being proposed?*
- *How does it compare with the current situation?*

The Housing Strategy 2018- 2022 will replace the Housing Strategy 2015-2018.

The Priorities in the 2015-18 strategy were;

1. Increase the supply of suitable and affordable homes
2. Improve the quality of homes, environment and people's lives
3. Promoting sustainability by supporting people within their community
4. Improve the flexibility of accommodation

The new priorities would be to;

1. Deliver homes that meet the identified needs of Medway residents
2. Improve the quality of homes and people's lives
3. Ensure people can access housing and services to keep them independent

The priorities in the previous and proposed strategy are similar and have been reworded as part of the move towards a shorter and easier to read strategy. Priorities 3 and 4 in the 2015-2018 strategy have been amalgamated to make priority 3 in the draft 2018-2022 strategy. Many services are required by statute and the council is obliged to carry out some functions in the ways described in the guidance.

We intend to increase the supply of housing in the same ways as the previous strategy and also by the council Housing Company. We will improve the quality of homes in the same ways as before and also work with partner organisations to provide more help to owner occupiers to maintain their home. There will be significant changes to the way that some types of housing related support are funded nationally. The strategy will help us assess current needs and work with partner organisations to ensure services are appropriate and focused.

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2 Summary of evidence used to support this assessment

- *Eg: Feedback from consultation, performance information, service user records etc.*
- *Eg: Comparison of service user profile with Medway Community Profile*

A stakeholder event was held in October 2017. To begin partners identified that partnership working is working well; appropriate data sharing has improved; more specialist accommodation is being built; tenant and landlord accreditation and landlord forums are informing people of their rights and responsibilities and almost all temporary accommodation is being provided within Medway.

Secondly we sought stakeholders views on the ideal service and this included a good housing mix with different types of hoes and a mix of tenures; sharing successes and good practice; the need for excellent infrastructure to support the regeneration of Medway.

Finally we asked what our priorities should be and feedback included working to create sustainable communities with energy efficient homes; using the home improvement agency to support a wider range of residents; providing information for all about services. We used the feedback from partners, and research on ways to address matters, to draft an action plan towards achieving out priorities.

Data on private sector housing work but also the lack of info on the private sector and so the need for a housing conditions survey.

Data on housing related support. There is no single measure of disability. The Census question in 2011 focused on asking people if they had a Limiting Long Term Illness (LLTI), the results show that 16.4% of Medway residents have a disability / LLTI. Residents can refer themselves for an assessment. The occupational health team give advice, support, and minor adaptation and equipment. They refer residents requiring major adaptations to the adaptations and assistance team that run the disabled facilities grants service. .An average of 128 disabled facilities grants have been awarded each year for the last 3 years, with an average cost of £9,000.

Our consultation was responded to by the following participants (where relevant fields were completed)

Gender: 6 Males, 13 females

Age group: 16-24 1, 25-34 4, 35-44 2, 45-54 4, 55-64 5, 65-74 2, 75+ 1

Ethnic group: White – English, Welsh, Scottish, NI 14, Any other white background 5, blank 4

Self reported long-standing health problem or disability
Yes 6, no 14

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3 What is the likely impact of the proposed change?

Is it likely to :

- Adversely impact on one or more of the protected characteristic groups?
- Advance equality of opportunity for one or more of the protected characteristic groups?
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't?

(insert ✓ in one or more boxes)

Protected characteristic groups	Adverse impact	Advance equality	Foster good relations
Age		✓	
Disabilty		✓	
Gender reassignment			
Marriage/civil partnership			
Pregnancy/maternity			
Race			
Religion/belief			
Sex			
Sexual orientation			
Other (eg low income groups)		✓	

4 Summary of the likely impacts

- Who will be affected?
- How will they be affected?

Increased provision is planned for extra care schemes. This will allow older residents , and those with care needs, to live with greater independence with care and support available when required.

Work in partnership between Housing and Children's services will ensure we continue to address the housing needs of care leavers.

Residents with disabilities will continue to be able to access means tested disabled facilities grants to provide major adaptations to enable them to access their home and use the bathing and cooking facilities. This helps residents with disabilities, those who live with and/or care for people with disabilities.

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People with low incomes are more likely to benefit from affordable housing. They are also likely to have a no or a low contribution towards the disabled facilities grant.

5 What actions can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impacts, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations?

- Are there alternative providers?
- What alternative ways can the Council provide the service?
- Can demand for services be managed differently?

There are no adverse impacts envisaged through adoption of the Draft Housing Strategy.

6 Action plan

- Actions to mitigate adverse impact, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations and/or obtain new evidence

Action	Lead	Deadline or review date

7 Recommendation

The recommendation by the lead officer should be stated below. This may be:

- to proceed with the change, implementing the Action Plan if appropriate
- consider alternatives
- gather further evidence

If the recommendation is to proceed with the change and there are no actions that can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impact, it is important to state why.

It is recommended that the change is implemented as the updated Housing Strategy has no recognised adverse impacts and will support Medway Council in ensuring housing and related services meet the needs of Medway residents.

8 Authorisation

The authorising officer is consenting that:

- the recommendation can be implemented
- sufficient evidence has been obtained and appropriate mitigation is planned
- the Action Plan will be incorporated into the relevant Service Plan and monitored

Assistant Director

Date

Contact your Performance and Intelligence hub for advice on completing this assessment
 RCC: phone 2443 email: annamarie.lawrence@medway.gov.uk
 C&A: (Children's Social Care) contact your normal P&I contact
 C&A (all other areas): phone 4013 email: chrismckenzie@medway.gov.uk
 BSD: phone 2472/1490 email: corppi@medway.gov.uk
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