

Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment (F&EIA) (2014)

This form provides an assessment of a policy or proposed change to see whether it promotes fairness and equality, eliminates any unintended discrimination and has positive outcomes for the population of Newport. This Impact Assessment should be used to affect policy and service planning decisions.

In Newport we focus on Fairness through the following themes: Health, Poverty, Skills and Work, Domestic Abuse and Tackling Area Based Deprivation.

Our Equalities focus is taken from the Equalities Act 2010: we consider the nine protected equalities characteristics: age, gender reassignment, disability, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation. We also consider promoting the Welsh language.

This assessment provides evidence that we have considered the General Equality Duty (below) in our decisions, to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity and
- Foster good relations

Service Area: Adult & Community Services	Head of Service: Chris Humphrey	Person responsible for the assessment: Peta Daniels	Date of Assessment: October 2015 Version (if applicable)
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1. What is the service / policy being assessed?

Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan (LCP)

2. What is the purpose of the policy/service change?

The LCP is a 3-year document, updated on an annual basis and the inclusion of an Equality Impact Assessment is a requirement of the Welsh Government. This F & EIA is for the latest version of the 3-year plan.

3. Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	Who are the customers/ service users?	If we take this decision what is the potential impact? The impact may be either positive or negative. Explain in what way they may be affected and the evidence of this	Action Plan to address issues raised What changes or practical measures would reduce adverse impact on particular groups. What changes would increase positive impacts e.g. improve access or opportunity May be revisited post consultation	Who will be responsible?	Timeframe to review
Age	Potentially all citizens of Newport aged 16+ with an assessed housing support need	Production of the LCP identifies current supply, needs and gaps in provision and priorities for development for a	The re-modelling of existing schemes for people aged 55+ based on assessed need to include people living in all tenures of accommodation. Within existing support schemes, ensuring support is	Supporting People Team and Supporting People Planning Group	Annually for inclusion in LCP

		range of client groups of all ages but also specifically for vulnerable young people aged 16 to 24, single people with support needs aged 25 to 54 and people aged 55+ with support needs.	provided based on need rather than just tenancy.		
Gender reassignment	Potentially any citizens of Newport considering/already undergoing/who have undergone gender reassignment and with an assessed housing support need	Production of the LCP identifies current supply, needs and gaps in provision and priorities for development for a range of client groups and would take gender reassignment into consideration if the need for such a support service was evidenced	Knowledge of existing services that could support people affected by gender reassignment.	Supporting People Team and Supporting People Planning Group	Annually for inclusion in LCP
Disability	Potentially all citizens of Newport aged 16+ with a physical and/or sensory disability and with an assessed housing	Production of the LCP identifies current supply, needs and gaps in provision and priorities for development	Issues around physical and sensory disabilities are identified during assessment of support needs and the most appropriate support service is allocated. Due to an increasing number of referrals for people	Supporting People Team, Supporting People Planning Group and commissioned researcher	Annually for inclusion in LCP

	support need	specifically for people with physical and sensory disabilities and support provision has recently been developed for people with sensory impairments	with physical disabilities, a research project is currently being undertaken to determine the best approach to re-modelling existing services to meet their needs		
Marriage/Civil Partnership	Potentially all citizens of Newport aged who are married/in a Civil Partnership and with an assessed housing support need	Production of the LCP identifies current supply, needs and gaps in provision and priorities for development for a range of client groups and includes all familial arrangements	The increase in floating support provision has resulted in support being provided to more couples. The development of extraCare schemes has enabled more couples to continue to live together when they can no longer manage completely independently. The reconfiguration of bedsits in sheltered schemes has also achieved the same outcome	Supporting People Team, Supporting People Planning Group and housing providers	Annually for inclusion in LCP
Pregnancy and Maternity	Potentially all female citizens of Newport aged 16 + who are pregnant and with an assessed housing support need	Production of the LCP identifies current supply, needs and gaps in provision and priorities for development for a range of client groups but also specifically for vulnerable young	Re-modelling of an existing service, based on evidence of need, to ensure continuity of support for young pregnant females. Provision of additional floating support units for young families with multiple support needs	Supporting People Team, Supporting People Planning Group	Annually for inclusion in LCP

		parents/parents to be			
Race	Potentially all citizens of Newport aged 16+, of any ethnicity and with an assessed housing support need	Production of the LCP identifies current supply, needs and gaps in provision and priorities for development for a range of client groups from all races	All services are accessible to people from all races. Some services have been developed specifically for ME groups where there is clear evidence of need. All referral forms and other Supporting People forms have provision for the monitoring of ethnicity.	Supporting People Team, Supporting People Planning Group and referrers	Annually for inclusion in LCP
Religion/belief (or the absence of)	Potentially all citizens of Newport aged 16+, with any religion/belief and with an assessed housing support need	Production of the LCP identifies current supply, needs and gaps in provision and priorities for development for a range of client groups	All services are accessible to people with any religious belief. All referral forms and other Supporting People forms have provision for the monitoring of religion/belief.	Supporting People Team, Supporting People Planning Group and referrers	Annually for inclusion in LCP
Gender	Potentially all citizens of Newport aged 16+ and with an assessed housing support need	Production of the LCP identifies current supply, needs and gaps in provision and priorities for development for a range of client groups but also specifically for gender-based	The majority of services are accessible to people of any gender. Some services have been developed specifically based on gender where there is clear evidence of need, e.g. Women's Aid refuges. All referral forms and other Supporting People forms have provision for the monitoring of gender.	Supporting People Team, Supporting People Planning Group and referrers	Annually for inclusion in LCP

		schemes.			
Sexual Orientation	Potentially all citizens of Newport aged 16+ and with an assessed housing support need	Production of the LCP identifies current supply, needs and gaps in provision and priorities for development for a range of client groups	Collaborative arrangements with partner organisations, e.g. the Dyn and Triangle Projects. All referral forms and other Supporting People forms have provision for the monitoring of sexual orientation.	Supporting People Team, Supporting People Planning Group and referrers	Annually for inclusion in LCP
Welsh language	Potentially all citizens of Newport aged 16+ whose first language is Welsh and with an assessed housing support need	Production of the LCP identifies current supply, needs and gaps in provision and priorities for development for a range of client groups inclusive of all languages	Ensuring information/forms are available in Welsh on request. All referral forms and other Supporting People forms have provision for the monitoring of first language.	Supporting People Team, Supporting People Planning Group and referrers	Annually for inclusion in LCP

4. Who has the service consulted regarding the proposed change? When should new consultation take place?

NB: It is essential that service users and other interested parties are involved in the planning process at the earliest opportunity. Consultation at this stage should be along broad themes, rather than specific proposals. It is appropriate to ask what services are valued, how services could be changed and / or what could be done differently within a specific range of services. This feedback should then inform your business case proposals and the F&EIA. However, you will also have to note here the specific groups you will need to consult with once proposals are formulated and the timescales for doing so.

<p>Regional needs mapping event held with support providers and stakeholders to identify current gaps in supported housing provision Local needs mapping event held with service users to establish what is good/bad about their support service and what else could be provided.</p>

Service users and potential service users complete a questionnaire which provides information about their accommodation and housing related support needs and this information is included in the LCP. They are also consulted about the service they receive during initial and ongoing service reviews.

As part of the planning process, the LCP is subject to a period of consultation with stakeholders, service users and the general public.

The final LCP is taken to the Supporting People Planning Group and Cabinet Member for approval.

5. What evidence/data has been used to complete this F&EIA (This will include local and national guidance)

- Analysis of GNME forms returned to the Supporting People Team
- Annual mapping of current supply of supported housing in Newport and Gwent
- Project proposals submitted to the Supporting People Team for the past three years
- Previous Supporting People Operational Plans (2004 to 2011) and annual LCP updates
- Supporting People Quarterly Monitoring Questionnaire information
- NCC Homelessness data/statistics (WHO12) for 2014/15
- Stats Wales and Data Unit Wales data/statistics for 2014/15
- Latest Census information (2011) and other ONS reports
- Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (2014) information
- Regional Annual Needs Mapping day with partner agencies and local needs mapping day with service users
- Stakeholder and service user feedback from service reviews
- Information from annual reports, support provider waiting lists, referrals and statistics
- Consultation on the LCP with stakeholders and service users
- Information and statistics contained in relevant local, regional and national strategies, plans and reports
- Latest Welsh Government Supporting People programme guidance
- Corporate Unified Needs Assessment
- Public Health Wales Health Needs Assessments

6. How will the relevant groups be advised of the changes and the F&EIA?

The LCP includes a link to this F&EIA and will be available on the Supporting People webpage on Newport City Council's website.

Notification of the availability of the final LCP is sent to all relevant agencies

7 How will the policy/practice make Newport more or less fair in relation to:

- Health Inequalities
- Child Poverty
- Skills and Work
- Tackling Domestic Violence
- Alcohol and Substance misuse
- Homelessness
- Armed Forces Veterans

Health Inequalities – the LCP is not primarily concerned with health issues but the provision of suitable supported accommodation/floating support will have a positive impact on the health outcomes for all eligible clients groups. The information contained in the LCP directly informs the Homeless and Vulnerable Groups Health Action Plans (HaVGHAP) which are concerned with addressing health inequalities and access to services for homeless people, people with substance misuse issues, Gypsies and Travellers, Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrant Workers, and people with mental health issues

- Child Poverty - the LCP is not primarily concerned with child poverty but the provision of suitable supported accommodation / floating support for all eligible client groups will have a positive impact on rates of child poverty and complements other Tackling Poverty programmes, e.g. Families First and Communities First
- Skills and Work - the Supporting People programme ensures that the provision of suitable floating support for all eligible client groups will have a positive impact in this area and is measured as part of the Outcomes Framework.
- Tackling domestic violence - the LCP is directly concerned with tackling domestic violence through the identification of gaps in supported housing provision and the re-modelling of services to meet changing demand.
- Alcohol and substance misuse - the LCP is directly concerned with alcohol and substance issues through the identification of gaps in supported housing provision and the re-modelling of existing services to meet demand.
- Homelessness - The LCP directly addresses homelessness as it is concerned with the provision of accommodation and floating support for homeless people with a range of support needs, identifying unmet need and proposing schemes for development or re-modelling. The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 includes specific references to the important contribution Supporting People services will make towards its successful implementation.

- Armed Forces Veterans - the LCP is not directly concerned with armed forces leavers but the provision of suitable supported accommodation/floating support services will have a positive impact for members of the community who have previously served in the armed forces.

8. How will the service/policy affect local areas of the city?

Will it have a positive or negative impact in terms of fairness and addressing local area deprivation (you will need to use spatial data available through the Newport Profile and specific Ward Profiles to address this question)?

Supported accommodation schemes are predominantly located towards the City Centre, with easy access to services and facilities. Floating support services cover the whole of the Newport area, as the service is provided in the service user's own home. Analysis of people currently on the generic floating support service shows a predominance of service users in the most deprived areas of Newport (map included in the LCP)

9. In summary, how does the changed service/policy promote good community relations (cohesion)?

The LCP shows the range of supported accommodation available through the city, both fixed and floating support which is available to people from all backgrounds and community groups etc. who have a housing-related support need. All schemes funded under the Supporting People programme that are included in the LCP are part of the Welsh Government Outcomes Framework, one of which is that "people are feeling part of the community". The LCP highlights a range of floating support services which are crucial in addressing the needs of hard-to-reach groups and those who are isolated.

10. In summary, how does the changed service/policy promote equality?

The Supporting People programme itself promotes equality of opportunity, and meeting the needs of vulnerable groups is an integral part of the programme. Regular monitoring takes place with regard to most of the protected characteristics and policies and procedures are inspected as part of the review process. The Supporting People Team and Supporting People Planning Group are mindful of ensuring a fair distribution of funding to eligible

client groups throughout the City Council area. The LCP illustrates this in both supply and needs mapping and in the sections concerned with Priorities for Development and Service Developments.

11. In summary, how does the changed service/policy eliminate discrimination?

The reduction of unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advancement of equality and opportunity, and fostering good relations are general duties and fundamental values of the Supporting People programme. The aim of the programme is to fund the support to vulnerable people from a range of client groups in order than they gain and retain independence by remaining in their own homes or securing appropriate accommodation. Supporting People programme-funded schemes deliver housing-related support but have also been shown to have wide benefits in improving health and wellbeing, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and returning people back to work, further education and training. Under the Supporting People review process, support provider's Equal Opportunities Policies are assessed for compliance with current equalities legislation and any complaints are analysed.

Completed by / Date: Peta Daniels/Nigel Stannard, 16/10/15

Signed off by / Date:  Chris Humphrey 14/12/2015