

Durham County Council Equality Impact Assessment

NB: The Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) requires Durham County Council to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people from different groups. Assessing impact on equality and recording this is one of the key ways in which we can show due regard.

Section One: Description and Screening

Service/Team or Section	Regeneration and Local Services Economic Development and Housing
Lead Officer	
Title	County Durham Housing and Homelessness Strategy
MTFP Reference (if relevant)	
Cabinet Date (if relevant)	10 July 2019
Start Date	November 2018
Review Date	After consultation period

Subject of the Impact Assessment

Please give a brief description of the policy, proposal or practice as appropriate (a copy of the subject can be attached or insert a web-link):

The County Durham Housing Strategy has been developed to consider housing issues in the County and to provide a strategic framework to inform actions and investment to result in positive outcomes for housing related themes in the County. The Housing Strategy covers both the 'people' and 'place' elements of housing policy and practice in order to provide a comprehensive approach to housing issues and to support a coordinated delivery approach for housing related actions. In this context the Strategy considers issues associated with future housing needs, the existing stock in the County and support for people to keep them in their homes and to provide access to suitable accommodation.

Who are the main stakeholders? (e.g. general public, staff, members, specific clients/service users):

Anyone who lives in, works in, visits, or would like to move to County Durham may be interested in the Housing Strategy. This includes the general public, council staff, Elected Members, developers and landowners, various partners, stakeholders from various sectors and interest groups or communities, and prescribed bodies as such as neighbouring authorities and Government agencies. The Housing Strategy is a strategy for County Durham. In this context, it will be delivered in partnership, both through the formal Housing Forum and the Development and Support partnership groups as reflected on the Housing Strategy Partnership Framework, but also in discussion with County Durham residents, the private sector and other agencies as appropriate.

The overarching aims are:

Better housing support for County Durham residents

- To provide housing advice, assistance and support for older and vulnerable people
- Improve access to house

More and better homes

- Delivery of more homes to meet housing need and demand
- Maintain and improve standards across County Durham's housing stock and wider housing environment.

Screening

Is there any actual or potential negative or positive impact on the following protected characteristics?

Protected Characteristic	Negative Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure	Positive Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure
Age	N	Y
Disability	N	Y
Marriage and civil partnership (workplace only)	N	N
Pregnancy and maternity	N	?
Race (ethnicity)	N	Y
Religion or Belief	N	?
Sex (gender)	N	Y
Sexual orientation	N	Y
Transgender	N	Y

Please provide **brief** details of any potential to cause adverse impact. Record full details and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

It is not anticipated that the housing and homeless strategy will cause adverse impact.

How will this policy/proposal/practice promote our commitment to our legal responsibilities under the public sector equality duty to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
- advance equality of opportunity, and
- foster good relations between people from different groups?

The council will seek to improve the quality of our existing housing stock and the wider residential environment. In this context, localised and targeted delivery plans will be used to outline activities to support the creation and maintenance of mixed and balanced communities in consultation with local communities. There are potential positive impact across the protected characteristics especially in terms of age (younger and older people), disability and sex (both male and female).

Engagement and assessment of equality impact is very much locality specific depending on the scale of a planned development. For instance, statutory procedures dictate the remit of consultation, key consultees and those close to development, however, for larger developments there is greater need to ensure engagement is appropriate and takes consideration of all equality and diversity issues.

Evidence

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

Please **outline** your data sets and/or proposed evidence sources, highlight any gaps and say whether or not you propose to carry out consultation. Record greater detail and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

There is national, regional and local evidence available which shows that people with certain protected characteristics can face multiple barriers in employment, access to services and information, participation in decision making and in consultation. Census 2011, equality related evidence from the Integrated Needs Assessment (INA), ONS 2014, the County Durham Profile 2017, and a report by the Albert Kennedy Trust have been used in section two of this assessment.

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2389/2011-Census>

<http://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/article/8461/Integrated-NeedsAssessment>

http://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/media/22690/County-Durham-Profile-2017/pdf/County_Durham_Profile_2017.pdf

<https://www.akt.org.uk/2/spg330/albert-kennedy-trust-helping-young-lgbt-people/about-us.aspx>

<https://www.gingerbread.org.uk/.../publications-index/statistics>

Consultation update

The Housing and Homelessness Strategy was consulted on between the 25th January and the 8th of March 2019. This involved public events including: 22 drop-in events; members' drop ins; meetings with AAPs. A consultation plan was put in place to ensure inclusivity including specific actions for consultation with hard to reach groups.

Two officers met with the Disability Partnership Group. All support and comments were minuted and fed into the consultation. The People's Parliament was also engaged with and again the members of the group were happy with the Housing Strategy and, again, all support and comments were minuted and fed into the consultation.

The venues used were, again, the most accessible available and we aimed to cover as much of the population as possible in the publicity of the events.

As part of the consultation process a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) workshop was carried out in order to identify and assess the Housing Strategy from a related health aspect and to feed into any recommendations and subsequent modifications to the Housing Strategy. Registered Providers, Health officers, Housing Officers, and Policy officers, were amongst the attendees who informed the HIA report and analysis.

All comments made to the Housing Strategy and the council's response are set out within a Statement of Consultation which is attached at Appendix 3.

Based on feedback from our 2019 consultation the following additions have been made to the Housing Strategy:

Addition of outcome- **'Provide housing products and support to meet the needs of people with disabilities'** The Housing Strategy has established that one of the priorities are older persons, however it is recognised that, whilst there is some overlap, specialist support and housing requirements apply to a wider population than older people. The council will ensure that the housing needs of people with disabilities are met through the provision of support services, adaptations to properties and specialist housing products for those in need.

Addition of cross cutting themes-

Health and Housing Health is a cross cutting theme of our Housing Strategy because we know that the homes and the places in which people live is a key

determinant of their overall health and wellbeing - impacting their risk of illnesses, quality of life and access to appropriate support services. As such this has been recognised as a cross cutting theme through-out the housing strategy.

Rural Context The Housing Strategy has undergone a rural proofing exercise to ensure the differing needs and issues affecting residents of rural areas are taken into account. The rural context has been considered across all four of the Housing Strategy's objectives

Actions in the Action Plan have been updated and refined to take into account feedback from the consultation, which also includes: Rural Proofing report, Health Impact Assessment and this EqIA

Screening Summary

On the basis of this screening is there:	Confirm which refers (Y/N)
Evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics which will proceed to full assessment?	Y
No evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics?	

Sign Off

Lead officer sign off: Mike Allum	Date: 7.06.19
Equality and diversity team leader	Date: 7.06.19

If carrying out a full assessment please proceed to section two.

If not proceeding to full assessment please return completed screenings to your service equality representative and forward a copy to equalities@durham.gov.uk

If you are unsure of potential impact please contact the corporate research and equalities team for further advice at equalities@durham.gov.uk

Section Two: Data analysis and assessment of impact

Please provide details on impacts for people with different protected characteristics relevant to your screening findings. You need to decide if there is or likely to be a differential impact for some. Highlight the positives e.g. benefits for certain groups, advancing equality, as well as the negatives e.g. barriers for and/or exclusion of particular groups. Record the evidence you have used to support or explain your conclusions. Devise and record mitigating actions where necessary.

Protected Characteristic: Age		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Record of evidence to support or explain your conclusions on impact.	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The strategy aims to help older people live independently for as long as possible through:</p> <p>Delivery of over 600 homes for older people. In this regard, appropriate house types include level access flats, level access bungalows, sheltered housing or extra care schemes and other housing products that can be shown to meet the specific needs of a multi-generational family.</p> <p>A minimum of 10% of homes specifically designed to meet the needs of older people as part of all future development sites; and specialist care facilities to be provided in partnership with care providers to meet the identified needs of our older people.</p> <p>Housing will be safer and more appropriate for older people. Specialist housing for older people will be supported in appropriate locations, where it is designed to meet the</p>	<p>It is recognised that the population of County Durham is already ageing and over the next few decades, there will be a 'demographic shift' with the number (and proportion) of older people increasing. In 2035 the proportion of people aged 65+ will increase by 6% to 26% from population figures in 2016 of 20%. There will be a requirement that a minimum of 10% of the housing on sites of over 10 units, in relation to their design and house type, serve to increase the housing options of older people. (<i>Data from ONS SNPP 2014</i>)</p> <p>A survey undertaken as part of the development of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment considered the housing options of older persons As set out in the chart overleaf, whilst a range of options were considered a notable proportion of older people were considering buying a property on the open market or renting from a housing association to meet their housing needs This</p>	<p>Annual review of the Housing Strategy and continued reporting and monitoring of the Housing Strategy action plan to ensure actions are delivered with consideration to each relevant protected characteristic.</p> <p>Submit Housing Strategy to Cabinet for adoption</p>

<p>particular requirements of residents.</p> <p>New housing provided for older people must be built to Building Regulations Requirement M4 (2) (accessible and adaptable dwellings).</p> <p>Potential positive impact for younger people through:</p> <p>Delivery of more homes including bringing empty homes back into use meeting housing needs and providing more affordable homes including starter homes, to buy, and selective leasing regarding PRS will benefit the whole community, and is likely to be particularly beneficial for younger people.</p> <p>As an action the Housing Strategy will enable delivery of the Council's Poverty Plan and Child Poverty Plan, within a housing context. This is through the Housing Strategy's outcome to 'Address poverty in a housing context and the impacts of welfare reform in a housing context.</p> <p>The Housing Strategy has added a further outcome has been added to Provide housing products and support to meet the needs of people with disabilities. This includes support services,</p>	<p>evidence suggests a need to continue to diversify the range of older persons' housing provision</p> <p>SHMA survey data (2018) shows that many older people want to stay in their homes with help and support. However, a range of other options were considered and a sizeable minority of people would consider other specific types of housing. This evidence suggests the need to diversify the range of older persons' housing provision. The Council is developing a 'Housing Market Position Statement' (HMPS), which brings together evidence from across the Council's planning, health and housing services. This will identify opportunities for the market to deliver products and services in our communities to meet older people's needs.</p> <p>The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG 2019) reports that, although child poverty has reduced dramatically between 1998- 2012, 30 per cent of children were still living in poverty in 2017/18 the UK. The CPAG also reports that housing is one of the costs that take the biggest toll on families' budgets.</p> <p>Based on consultation feedback the Housing Strategy has established that one of the priorities are older</p>	<p>This action will continue to be monitored by the Housing Support Group, Housing Forum, Poverty Action Steering Group, Child Poverty Action Group</p>
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<p>adaptations to properties and specialist housing. This will have a further positive impact on young people as the outcome now looks beyond support for older people.</p> <p>The HIA has Identified where the Housing Strategy can have a positive impact on younger people, older people, and children through its delivery approach. The Stock Condition Survey (2012) uses the HHSRS to evaluate properties and take into account hazards to enable the council to guard against potential risks. The Housing Strategy outlines the Private Landlord Accreditation Scheme and Selective Licensing to raise standards in the private sector, including regarding hazards, harm and security measures. This work contributes to the reduction of and protects against health harms. Examples include slips, trips and falls in the home (elderly), accidents in the home (children) and the Home Environment Assessment Tool (Safeguarding).</p> <p>The rural proofing exercise on the Housing Strategy is a cross cutting theme throughout the document. The Housing Strategy incorporates a range of measures to improve the energy efficiency of properties via a combination of advice and guidance schemes, heating</p>	<p>persons, however it is recognised that, whilst there is some overlap, specialist support and housing requirements apply to a wider population than older people. The council will ensure that the housing needs of people with disabilities are met through the provision of support services, adaptations to properties and specialist housing products for those in need.</p> <p>During the consultation a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) was carried out on the Housing Strategy. The HIA process considered the potential positive and negative implications of the Housing Strategy on health and specific populations in County Durham. The HIA process resulted in a series of recommendations for the Strategy to support health and wellbeing objectives through the County's housing policy and practice. The HIA noted the positive work already underway and identified areas for development.</p> <p>County Durham is regarded as predominantly rural. Although ninety percent of the population lives east of the A68 in 40% per cent of the geographical area of the County, around 43% of the</p>	
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<p>improvements and targeted interventions to those in most need. Younger people, older people and children will benefit from this delivery particularly vulnerable to fuel poverty and more likely to be more limited to the home</p>	<p>population are based in rural areas (Census 2011). The character of the rural areas in the county also greatly differ, from more remote rural locations in the Pennine Dales to larger villages in former coal field communities in the centre and the east of the County. Residents in rural areas can have differing housing needs to those in non-rural areas according to their differing contexts and this is reflected in the Housing Strategy. The Housing Strategy as undergone a rural proofing exercise to ensure the differing needs and issues affecting residents of rural areas are taken into account.</p>	
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Protected Characteristic: Disability		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The council and will work in partnership with other stakeholders to provide support those with complex needs.</p> <p>The council will improve access and availability of suitable accommodation and service to support people with a range of needs including learning disabilities and mental health problems to enable them to live as independently as possible</p> <p>Older disabled people will also have better access to housing and support that</p>	<p>County Durham has a percentage of working age (16-64) people classed as having a limiting long term illness or disability (LLTI) of 23.6%. This is higher than the overall figures for the North East, at 21.6%, and England and Wales, at 17.9%. (<i>ONS 2011 Census (NOMIS extract)</i>)</p>	<p>Submit Housing Strategy to Cabinet for adoption</p> <p>Annual review of the Housing Strategy and continued reporting and monitoring of the Housing Strategy action plan to ensure actions are delivered, with consideration to each relevant protected characteristic.</p> <p>Reasonable adjustments will be made for disabled</p>

<p>specifically meets their needs.</p> <p>The Housing Strategy has added a further outcome has been added to Provide housing products and support to meet the needs of people with disabilities. This includes support services, adaptations to properties and specialist housing. This will have a further positive impact on disabled people as the outcome now looks beyond support for older people.</p> <p>The HIA has Identified where the Housing Strategy can have a positive impact on people with disabilities through: New housing provision will include appropriate housing for older and vulnerable people, which includes specific needs such as accessibility, multi-generational family. New housing for disabled people and older people will be accessible and adaptable, according to Building Regulation Requirements M4(2). The Housing Strategy will continue to drive energy efficient improvements of properties to ensure County</p>	<p>Based on consultation feedback the Housing Strategy has established that one of the priorities are older persons, however it is recognised that, whilst there is some overlap, specialist support and housing requirements apply to a wider population than older people. The council will ensure that the housing needs of people with disabilities are met through the provision of support services, adaptations to properties and specialist housing products for those in need.</p> <p>During the consultation a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) was carried out on the Housing Strategy. The HIA process considered the potential positive and negative implications of the Housing Strategy on health and specific populations in County Durham. The HIA process resulted in a series of recommendations for the Strategy to support health and wellbeing objectives through the County's housing policy and practice. The HIA noted</p>	<p>people where required. This includes an added outcome in the strategy to give specific attention to 'Provide housing products and support to meet the needs of people with disabilities' as it was recognised in the Housing Strategy that whilst there is some overlap between older persons and people with disabilities,, specialist support and housing requirements apply to a wider population than older people.</p>
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<p>Durham has a stock of warm healthy and energy efficient homes. This will further benefit disabled people who may not be able to leave their homes as easily and to improve the general wellbeing in their homes.</p> <p>The rural proofing exercise on the Housing Strategy is a cross cutting theme throughout the document. The Housing Strategy incorporates a range of measures to improve the energy efficiency of properties via a combination of advice and guidance schemes, heating improvements and targeted interventions to those in most need.</p> <p>Disabled people will benefit from this delivery as they are particularly vulnerable to fuel poverty and more likely to be more limited to the home</p>	<p>the positive work already underway and identified areas for development.</p> <p>County Durham is regarded as predominantly rural. Although ninety percent of the population lives east of the A68 in 40% per cent of the geographical area of the County, around 43% of the population are based in rural areas (Census 2011). The character of the rural areas in the county also greatly differ, from more remote rural locations in the Pennine Dales to larger villages in former coal field communities in the centre and the east of the County. Residents in rural areas can have differing housing needs to those in non-rural areas according to their differing contexts and this is reflected in the Housing Strategy. The Housing Strategy as undergone a rural proofing exercise to ensure the differing needs and issues affecting residents of rural areas are taken into account.</p>	
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Protected Characteristic: Marriage and civil partnership (workplace only)		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
		<p>Submit Housing Strategy to Cabinet for adoption</p> <p>Annual review of the Housing Strategy.</p>

Protected Characteristic: Pregnancy and maternity		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The rural proofing exercise on the Housing Strategy is a cross cutting theme throughout the document to ensure the differing needs and issues affecting residents of rural areas are taken into account.</p>		<p>Submit Housing Strategy to Cabinet for adoption</p> <p>Annual review of the Housing Strategy and continued reporting and monitoring of the Housing Strategy action plan to ensure actions are delivered, with consideration to each relevant protected characteristic.</p>

Protected Characteristic: Race (ethnicity)		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>Gypsy, Roma and Travellers (GRT) will benefit from maintained and improved sites and extended locations for additional pitches. The council has recently</p>	<p>County Durham has the second highest number of social pitches for the GRT community of all English authorities and over a third of all GRT pitches in the north east.</p>	<p>Submit Housing Strategy to Cabinet for adoption</p> <p>Annual review of the Housing Strategy and</p>

<p>completed a comprehensive refurbishment programme of all of sites for travellers to modern standards and have introduced modern management regimes. Ten additional pitches were created as part of this process.</p> <p>The rural proofing exercise on the Housing Strategy is a cross cutting theme throughout the document to ensure the differing needs and issues affecting residents of rural areas are taken into account.</p>	<p>The council also provides six temporary 'stop over' areas in the county which are made available for 28 days or less each year for seasonal use, also enabling GRT people to travel to popular events like Appleby Fair. The council takes responsibility for maintaining gates, fencing, grass cutting, and the access points to these areas. Refuse collection and temporary toilets are also provided to gypsies and travellers using other areas, to enable them to travel and maintain their cultural lifestyle.</p> <p>The council has also recently completed a comprehensive refurbishment programme of all of our sites to modern standards and have introduced modern management regimes. The council's GRT Site Needs Assessment concludes that for the ten year period to 2026 there will be need for additional pitches for five GRT households. However, since the base date of the assessment, an additional pitch has been granted planning permission which will accommodate two households. Furthermore, the number of new private pitches granted planning permission has averaged around five per year over the last five years.</p> <p>The GRT Site Needs Assessment considered the need for new plots and sites for travelling show people and concluded that no new plots and sites will be needed.</p>	<p>continued reporting and monitoring of the Housing Strategy action plan to ensure actions are delivered, with consideration to each relevant protected characteristic</p>
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Protected Characteristic: Religion or belief		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The provision of multi-generational housing may have a potential positive impact on religious groups that live in multi-generational households as part of their culture.</p>		<p>Submit Housing Strategy to Cabinet for adoption</p> <p>Annual review of the Housing Strategy and continued reporting and monitoring of the Housing Strategy action plan to ensure actions are delivered, with consideration to each relevant protected characteristic.</p>

Protected Characteristic: Sex (gender)		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The Housing strategy aims to focus on housing needs of the residents of County Durham. There are potential gender impacts, for example greater numbers of single older people are female and single parent households are more likely to be headed by a woman. Also men and women present differently in homelessness situations.</p> <p>Working closely housing providers to ensure best possible availability of properties to address housing need. The council will continue to focus on raising standards in the private rented sector and</p>	<p>Over 22% of the countywide female population are over the age of 65 years compared to around 18% of the male population.</p> <p>Homelessness is more likely to affect men – around 70% of homelessness cases dealt with by the council are men.</p> <p>Gingerbread data suggests that the proportion of single parents who are women has stayed at around 90% for over 10 years.</p> <p>Analysis of homelessness data indicates an increase in single females at risk of homelessness contacting the</p>	<p>Submit Housing Strategy to Cabinet for adoption</p> <p>Annual review of the Housing Strategy and continued reporting and monitoring of the Housing Strategy action plan to ensure actions are delivered, with consideration to each relevant protected characteristic.</p>

<p>will seek greater licencing powers in order to tackle poor landlords, as well continuing engagement with Landlords and extending the Accredited Landlord Scheme for responsible landlords.</p> <p>The Housing strategy aims to ensure appropriate support for single people who are homeless or under threat of being homeless.</p> <p>The strategy will look at the availability and location of temporary accommodation across the County and how single male and female service users can access this.</p>	<p>council's Housing Solutions service. In response to this increase, a project was developed in conjunction with the 'Changing Lives' Charity, to provide accommodation for single females.</p> <p>The provision consists of 6 single furnished bedrooms with shared kitchen and bathing facilities. It also contains a safe room which caters for those in need of emergency temporary accommodation.</p> <p>An assessment of the current voids with registered providers own housing supply will also be undertaken to ensure that both we as an authority and housing associations are making their properties work for them and our client base.</p>	
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Protected Characteristic: Sexual orientation		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The council will introduce a strategic approach to seek to prevent homelessness in County Durham, increase the supply of accommodation for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.</p> <p>The council and will work in partnership with other stakeholders to provide support those with complex needs.</p>	<p>No accurate data is available about the number of lesbian, gay and bisexual people living in County Durham. However Government and Stonewall estimates state that between 5 percent and 7 percent of the population is lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB). This would amount to between 25,000 and 35,000 people in County Durham.</p> <p>People are more at risk of being homeless if they are</p>	<p>The HMPS recognises target groups for engagement and these include known community organisations which could include LGB groups e.g. engagement with Rainbow alliance.</p>

<p>The council will continue to focus on raising standards in the private rented sector and will seek greater licencing powers in order to tackle poor landlords, as well continuing engagement with landlords and extending the Accredited Landlord Scheme for responsible landlords.</p>	<p>LGBT. A report by the Albert Kennedy Trust in 2015 estimates that there are about 80,000 homeless young people and young LGBT people make up between 19-26% of them, which is in excess of their proportion in the population. The top three reason for this population being homeless were cited as family rejection, abuse in the family and aggression and violence within the family. This implies that this group will be more likely to have further complex needs.</p>	
<p>The rural proofing exercise on the Housing Strategy is a cross cutting theme throughout the document to ensure the differing needs and issues affecting residents of rural areas are taken into account.</p>	<p>If LGBT people are made homeless then improved support in the Private Rented Sector (PRS) will ensure that tenants live in a safe and secure home and are not taken advantage of. This will be coordinated with the council's approach to homelessness.</p>	

Protected Characteristic: Transgender		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>There is the potential positive impact that transgender people that are homeless or under threat of homelessness will benefit from more appropriate support for group who are homeless or under threat. Transgender people may benefit from the increase of affordable housing and measure put forward to regulate the Private Rented Sector (PRS) so that housing is safe and</p>	<p>People are more at risk of being homeless if they are Transgender. A report by the Albert Kennedy Trust in 2015 estimates that there are about 80,000 homeless young people and young LGBT people make up between 19-26% of them, which is in excess of their proportion in the population. The top three reason for this population being homeless were cited as family rejection, abuse in the family and aggression and</p>	<p>Submit Housing Strategy to Cabinet for adoption</p> <p>The HMPS recognises target groups for continued engagement and these include known community organisations which could</p>

<p>landlords are 'fit or proper' persons</p> <p>The council will introduce a strategic approach to seek to prevent homelessness in County Durham, increase the supply of accommodation for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and will work in partnership with other stakeholders to provide support those with complex needs.</p> <p>The council will continue to focus on raising standards in the private rented sector and will seek greater licencing powers in order to tackle poor landlords, as well continuing engagement with landlords and extending the Accredited Landlord Scheme for responsible landlords</p> <p>The rural proofing exercise on the Housing Strategy is a cross cutting theme throughout the document to ensure the differing needs and issues affecting residents of rural areas are taken into account.</p>	<p>violence within the family. This implies that this group will be more likely to have further complex needs.</p> <p>If transgender people are made homeless then improved support in the PRS such measures will ensure that tenants live in a safe and secure home and are not taken advantage of. This will be coordinated with the council's approach to homelessness.</p>	<p>include LGBT groups.</p> <p>Provision of safe and secure single rooms that are not gender specific.</p> <p>Annual review of the Housing Strategy and continued reporting and monitoring of the Housing Strategy action plan to ensure actions are delivered, with consideration to each relevant protected characteristic.</p>
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Section Three: Conclusion and Review

Summary

Please provide a brief summary of your findings stating the main impacts, both positive and negative, across the protected characteristics.

The Housing and Homelessness Strategy aims to address future housing need across the county and has potential positive impact across all of the protected characteristics in particular for age (younger and older people), disability and sex (both male and female). We took measures to ensure consultation was inclusive, to engage with representative groups and disaggregate results where possible. Reasonable adjustments were made for people with disabilities in order to effectively participate in planning consultation. Translation and interpretation requests were considered in line with corporate policy.

This impact assessment has been updated with updated consultation feedback and has been used to inform subsequent refinement of the strategy.

Additions were made to the housing strategy to include specific outcomes regarding people with disabilities rather than over-lap with other protected characteristics (such as age). Cross cutting themes were added to the Housing Strategy to assess and address the needs of residents, including protected characteristics, in relation to 'Health and Housing' and a 'Rural Context' Actions in the Housing Strategy Action plan have been updated and refined to take into account reports, assessments and the feedback from the consultation and this EqIA.

Will this promote positive relationships between different communities? If so how?

The Housing and Homelessness Strategy is a strategy for housing across County Durham - first and foremost it is a Strategy that puts people first. New housing will be of a high quality design to meet the needs and aspirations of our families, with the right homes being delivered in the right places to support sustainable and balanced communities. The council will work within those communities most effected by long term empty properties. This will include working with property owners and landlords with the aim of bringing empty homes back into use where possible.

The council will seek to improve the quality of our existing housing stock and the wider residential environment:

- Localised and targeted delivery plans will be used to outline activities to support the creation and maintenance of mixed and balanced communities
- In consultation with local residents and where appropriate, the case will be made to secure funding for targeted demolition as part of the regeneration of communities.
- The Housing Strategy will provide a framework to capitalise on and to maximise opportunities for investment and regeneration within our communities.

Housing development will be supported by appropriate infrastructure provision to accommodate for the impact of the development on our communities, including

ensuring sufficient education and health care facilities are provided to meet community needs.
 The council will introduce a strategic approach to seek to prevent homelessness in County Durham, increase the supply of accommodation for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and will work in partnership with other stakeholders to provide support those with complex needs.

Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescales for implementation	In which plan will the action appear?
Annual Review of the Housing Strategy and Action Plan	DCC	Long	Housing Strategy
Provision of safe and secure single rooms that are not gender specific.	DCC Housing solutions.	Med-Long	Homelessness Strategy Action Plan

Review

Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken? (Y/N)	Y
When will this assessment be reviewed? Please also insert this date at the front of the template	Upon review of the Housing Strategy (TBC)

Sign Off

Lead officer sign off: Mike Allum	Date: 7.06.19
Service equality representative sign off: Equality and diversity ream leader	Date: 7.06.19

Please return the completed form to your service equality representative and forward a copy to equalities@durham.gov.uk