

Second Quarterly Report (2016/2017) on the Implementation of the Equality Scheme

1.0 Compliance Issues

1.1 Equality Screening/Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA)

Screening

From 1st July 2016 – 30th September 2016 the following policies have been screened:

- Homelessness Strategy
- Landlord Services Redesign (Revised Policy)
- Private Sector Improvement Services – New Ways of Working (Revised Policy)
- Housing Executive 2016/17 Budget Submission (Revised Policy)

EQIA

There were no EQIAs completed during this quarter.

1.2 Training

Safeguarding Training

Our Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults training packages have been combined into one course. Training of all staff has been completed with refresher courses ongoing. Since 2010 over 4700 participants have attended safeguarding courses.

1.3 Access to Information and Services

Communication Support (Translation & Interpreter Services)

A total of 598 telephone based interpreting sessions were held from 1st July 2016 to 30th September 2016. The top 3 most requested languages are listed below:

- Polish
- Slovak
- Romanian

Translation tasks totalled 57 and face to face interpreter sessions totalled 10. The communication support budget is also funding an bi – lingual interpreter for a weekly housing clinic in the NIHE's office in Newry. Between July 2016 and September 2016 a total of 91 interpreter sessions were held at the clinic.

1.4 Monitoring

Equality Monitoring waiting list and allocations data is available up to the 30th September 2016.

1.5 Consultation

Planning for the Housing Executive's Full Consultative Forum on Equality was ongoing during the summer months with the full forum due to take place on the 19th October 2016.

2.0 Key Equality/Good Relations Programme

2.1 Traveller Project Team:

The following update provides a brief synopsis of the Housing Executive's accommodation strategy for Traveller families across Northern Ireland.

Group Housing:

- FOLD Housing Association, Omagh (8 units) and Magherafelt (6 units).

- Clanmil Housing Association, Glen Road, Belfast (6 units) and Father Cullen Park, Bessbrook (6 Units).
- APEX Housing Association, Monagh Road Belfast (21 Units) and Labre Park, L'Derry (10 units).

Serviced Sites

The NIHE currently operate 6 serviced sites situated at:

- Acorn Grove, Craigavon
- The Glen, Coalisland
- Daisyfield, L'Derry
- Glen Road Heights, Belfast
- Greenbrae, Strabane
- Glen Road, Belfast- SLA with Clanmil HA

The NIHE has been granted planning approval for an additional 12 unit serviced site at Burnside, Craigavon which will be subject to additional consultation at a more local level involving all key stakeholders.

Transit Sites/Emergency Halting Site

- The site at Rathenraw Antrim has recently been vacated and the lands have been restored to their original state. NIHE still await the outcome of an appeal to the Planning Appeals Committee in relation to the original application in tandem with an appeal against an enforcement notice served by Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council on the same site.
- An application to extend the planning approval at Legahory Close, Craigavon will be submitted shortly beyond the current agreement of February 2017. Existing transit sites include Glen Road Heights, Belfast, The Glen Coalisland and Ballyarnett, Derry

3rd Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment

Traveller accommodation needs assessments are carried out on a 5 year basis. The findings of the 3rd Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment are available on the NIHE web site. A new 3 year rolling programme has commenced for the period 2015-18

2.2 Community Cohesion

Community Cohesion Strategy

The Community Cohesion Strategy 2015-2020 was launched on 19th February 2016.

Flags, emblems, sectional symbols - Re-imaging

Communities are continuing to develop re-imaging projects with NIHE support. The NIHE has been working in Shankill estate, Village, Clonard, Twaddel, Omagh, Derry, Ballybeen, Newtownabbey, Larne, Ballyclare and East Belfast.

Segregation/Integration

Building Relationships in Communities 2 (BRIC2) programme

6 Good Relations Officers are delivering the BRIC 2 Programme in the Housing Executive's 13 areas.

26 BRIC2 areas have been identified and grass roots delivery of bespoke good relations plans have been implemented in each area. Phase 2 of the programme has commenced and Good Relations Officers are currently scoping for new areas.

Together Building a United Community (TBUC) Shared Housing

A programme of 10 TBUC shared neighbourhood schemes in social housing is being supported by OFMDFM TBUC strategy and NIHE are currently working with the Department for Communities to develop further projects to support shared new build and existing NIHE estates.

Interfaces

Interface Normalisation Policy

Funding has been secured from Department of Justice (DOJ) via OFMDFM's TBUC strategy to deliver the Housing Executive's interface action plan.

The Housing Executive continues to deliver the 'normalisation programme' in conjunction with the DOJ providing alternative security work to NIHE and private properties at interfaces locations where walls are being re-modelled.

The Housing Executive has been working in partnership with the local community to redesign 2 walls in North Belfast.

- Site 1 Crumlin Road (Ardoyne side): on site February 2016 with a regeneration programme for Crumlin Road being launched on the 24th June 2016.
- Site 2 Crumlin Road wall at the top of Columbia and Rosebank Street:

The Housing Executive consulted with the community from the Woodvale side of the road 24th February 2015 to present the regeneration programme for Crumlin Road. There has been a series of workshops with young people, older people and local politicians to determine the way forward. This has resulted in the development of an action group to take projects and plans forward with the support of the Area Office.

The Interface project at Woodvale is planning to start in the new year.

Communities in Transition

Areas at Risk

The Areas at Risk programme was established in 2006 to identify and intervene in areas at risk of slipping into a spiral of decline. The Community Cohesion Unit is co-ordinating and delivering the programme in North Belfast (Greater Whitewell and Glenbank).

Race Relations

Race Relations continues to be a key theme of the Housing Executive's work in community cohesion which is in line with the organisation's Race Relations Policy and Action Plan initiated in 2005.

Strategic Cohesion Forum

The purpose of the Strategic Cohesion forum is to work together as a partnership, to influence, shape and inform the Housing Executives Community Cohesion Strategy and Policies.

<http://www.nihe.gov.uk/news-new-cohesion-forum>

2.4 Key Documents

The following documents can be viewed and downloaded by accessing the links below:

NIHE Equality Scheme

http://www.nihe.gov.uk/equality_scheme.pdf

16th Annual Report to the Equality Commission

http://www.nihe.gov.uk/sixteenth_annual_progress_report_to_the_equality_commission.pdf

Mapping Foreign Nationals Living in N.I. 2016 Update (formerly known as the Black Minority and Ethnic (BME) and Migrant Worker Report Update)

http://www.nihe.gov.uk/foreign_national_mapping_report.pdf

NIHE Traveller Accommodation needs Assessment

http://www.nihe.gov.uk/traveller_accommodation_needs_assessment_2014_published_march_2015.pdf

If you require any further information on any of topics discussed in this report or if you require the report in an alternative format please contact:

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