

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

1.0 Compliance Issues

1.1 Equality Screening/Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) Screening

Screening

From 1st October 2016 – 31st December 2016 the following policies were screened:

Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021

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 4,800 participants have attended safeguarding courses.

1.3 Access to Information and Services

Communication Support (Translation & Interpreter Services)

A total of 697 telephone based interpreting sessions were held from 1st October 2016 to 31st December 2016. The top 3 most requested languages are listed below:

- Lithuanian
- Polish
- Slovak

Translation tasks totalled 56 and face to face interpreter sessions totalled 11.

1.4 Monitoring

Equality Monitoring waiting list and allocations data is available up to the 31st December 2016.

1.5 Consultation

The Housing Executive's Full Consultative Forum on Equality was held on the 19th October 2016.

2.0 Key Equality/Good Relations Programme

2.1 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 the Village South Belfast, Twaddle, 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 Area Managers have identified business needs for the next 26 BRIC 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.

2.2 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 interface 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 is due to start in 2017.

2.3 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.

Strategic Cohesion Forum

The purpose of the Strategic Cohesion forum is to work together as a partnership, to influence, shape and inform the Housing Executive's 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:

Tony Steed (Equality Unit Manager),

5th Floor, Housing Centre,

2 Adelaide Street,

Belfast,

BT2 8BP

Tel: 028 9598 2556

Textphone: 18001 03448 920 900

Email: tony.steed@nihe.gov.uk