

Second Quarterly Report (2019/2020) on the Implementation of the Equality Scheme

1.0 Compliance Issues

1.1 Equality Screening/Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA)

Screening

From 1st July – 30th September 2019 the following policies have been screened:

- Record Management Handbook & Policy Statement (Revised)
- Driving for Work & Workplace Transport (Revised replaces Car Users Policy)
- Policy & Procedures for Handling Personal Data Under GDPR & Data Protection Act 2018 (Revised)
- Management of Periodic Electrical Inspection and Testing with Replacement of Smoke/Heat Detector Heads
- Customer Support and Tenancy Sustainment Strategy 2019 – 2024 (Revised)

Screening reports are available on request.

EQIA

There were no EQIAs completed during this quarter.

1.2 Training

Safeguarding Training

Since 2010 over 200 training sessions have been completed with over 2,500 members of staff attending child safeguarding courses, adult safeguarding courses or both. In addition the Equality Unit Manager has facilitated safeguarding policy awareness sessions with 10 contractor firms and other organisations including Supporting Communities and the House Conditions Survey Team.

A further programme of safeguarding training began in September 2019 and is due to conclude in March 2020.

Equality Awareness Training

A new programme of Equality Awareness training began in October 2019 and will finish in March 2020.

Managing Suicide Risk Policy Awareness

Equality Unit staff (in partnership with Lifeline & Housing Policy staff) have been carrying out a series of Managing Suicide Risk awareness sessions across the organisation. The awareness sessions began in March/April 2019 and are due to finish in November 2019.

1.3 Access to Information and Services

Communication Support (Translation & Interpreter Services)

A total of 729 telephone based interpreting sessions were held from 1st July to 30th September 2019. The top 3 most requested languages are listed below:

- Polish
- Arabic
- Mandarin

Translation tasks totalled 98 and face to face interpreter sessions (including Sign Language) totalled 20. There were 2 requests for Audio.

1.4 Monitoring

Equality Monitoring waiting list and allocations data is available up to the 30th September 2019.

1.5 Consultation

Equality Unit staff presented the organisation's draft Disability Action Plan to the Housing Executive's Disability Forum on 5th September 2019.

The Housing Executive's 2nd full Consultative Forum on Equality for 2019/20 will take place on 23rd October 2019.

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:

- Radius 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).
- NIHE Ballinamullan, Omagh (6 units)

Serviced Sites

The NIHE currently operate 5 serviced sites situated at:

- Acorn Grove, Craigavon
- The Glen, Coalisland
- Daisyfield, L'Derry (currently closed on health and safety grounds)
- Glen Road Heights, Belfast (currently occupied by 9 families and managed under co-operation policy status pending scheme approvals)
- Legahory Close, Craigavon

An application to extend the planning approval at Legahory Close, Craigavon until February 2022 has been approved by ABC Council.

Health and safety inspections were completed on all NIHE managed Traveller sites in June 2017. All works identified at that time were completed by September 2017. Health and safety inspections continue to be completed on a weekly basis by local area staff and quarterly by NIHE health and safety teams.

Transit Sites/Emergency Halting Site

There are currently 2 operational transit sites in N.Ireland (Ballyarnett, L'Derry & The Glen Site, Coalisland). While 2 other transit sites (Glen Road Heights, Belfast & Greenbrae, and Strabane) are currently closed due to health and safety issues and are pending refurbishment or relocation.

NIHRC Investigation

The NIHE continue to engage with the NI Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) following publication of their investigation into Traveller Accommodation entitled “Out of Sight; Out of Mind”. This investigation examined the right to adequate accommodation measured against standards as set out in international human rights law.

4th Comprehensive Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment

The fieldwork for the 4th Traveller Needs assessment is currently in progress with 420 face to face interviews completed at this stage. Traveller cultural awareness training is ongoing for frontline staff and is delivered by Craigavon Traveller Support Committee.

The outcomes of the 4th Needs assessment will help inform a new Traveller accommodation programme to meet both the current and future needs of the Irish Traveller population in Northern Ireland.

The next Traveller Project Team update will be in the 2nd Quarterly Report on the Implementation of the Equality Scheme 2019/20.

2.2 Community Cohesion

The next Community Cohesion Team update will be in the 3rd Quarterly Report on the Implementation of the Equality Scheme 2019/20.

2.3 Key Documents

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

NIHE Equality Scheme

[Equality Scheme](#)

Black Minority and Ethnic (BME) and Migrant Worker Report

[Black and Minority Ethnic and Migrant Worker Mapping Update](#)

NIHE Traveller Accommodation needs Assessment

[Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment-2014-published-march-2015.pdf.aspx?ext=.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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