

Fourth Quarterly Report (2018/2019) on the Implementation of the Equality Scheme

1.0 Compliance Issues

1.1 Equality Screening/Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA)

Screening

From 1st January – 31st March 2019 the following policies have been screened:

- Supporting People Plan 2019 – 20 & Strategic Intent 2020 – 23.
- Pilot of the Reduction in Formal Office Opening Hours in the NIHE Local Office in Larne.
- Managing Suicide Risk.
- Prisoner Protocols.
- Volunteering & Fundraising Policy (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 has facilitated safeguarding policy awareness sessions with 10 contractor firms and other organisations including Supporting Communities and the House Conditions Survey Team.

A new programme of safeguarding training began in October 2018 and will conclude in April 2019. 6 safeguarding sessions were held from the period of the 1st January 2019 to the 31st March 2019.

Equality Awareness Training

A new programme of Equality Awareness training began in October 2018 and will conclude in April 2019. A total of 9 training sessions were held during the 1st January 2019 to the 31st March 2019.

1.3 Access to Information and Services

Communication Support (Translation & Interpreter Services)

A total of 912 telephone based interpreting sessions were held from 1st January to 31st March 2019. The top 3 most requested languages are listed below:

- Polish
- Arabic
- Romanian

Translation tasks totalled 86 and face to face interpreter sessions (including Sign Language) totalled 22. There were five requests for Large Print, two for Audio and two for Braille.

1.4 Monitoring

Equality Monitoring waiting list and allocations data is available up to the 31st March 2019.

1.5 Consultation

At the NIHE's full Consultative Forum on Equality on 10th October 2018 it was agreed to pilot having two full meetings of the Forum in 2019 instead of four Steering Group meetings. The meeting of the full Forum in 2019 is due to take place on 17th May 2019.

1.6 Managing Suicide Risk

A Managing Suicide Risk Policy & Procedures was developed by the Housing Executive's Equality Unit and rolled out across the organisation in February 2019. As part of the roll out a programme of awareness sessions (in partnership with Lifeline) to all offices has been arranged over the next few months.

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).
- 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 closed on health and safety grounds)
- 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, 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.

At the March 2018 Board meeting the Director of Regional Services tabled a report giving an overview of the NIHRC report. The 3rd Roundtable discussion was attended by NIHE officials in the Migrant Centre in Derry where a 12 month progress update was provided. The last roundtable discussion is scheduled for June 2019.

4th Comprehensive Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment

The fieldwork for the 4th Traveller Needs assessment is due to commence 18/19th April 2019 with the initial pilot exercise programmed for the Glen site Coalisland. A Traveller cultural awareness programme was completed on 12th April 2019 courtesy of Craigavon Traveller Support Committee which involved both the research group and their fieldworkers.

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.

2.2 Community Cohesion

The next Community Cohesion update will be in the 1st 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

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

18th Annual Report to the Equality Commission

[18th Annual Progress Report to the Equality Commission 2017-2018](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/18th-annual-report-to-the-equality-commission-2017-2018)

Black Minority and Ethnic (BME) and Migrant Worker Report

https://www.nihe.gov.uk/bme_migrant_worker_mapping_report_2016.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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