

Third Quarterly Report (2017/2018) on the Implementation of the Equality Scheme

1.0 Compliance Issues

1.1 Equality Screening/Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA)

Screening

From 1st October 2017 – 31st December 2017 the following policies have been screened:

- Customer Excellence Strategy
- Asset Management Strategy

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 Equality Unit staff have facilitated safeguarding policy awareness sessions with 10 contractor firms, Supporting Communities N.I. (SCNI) and the House Conditions Survey Team.

A new programme of safeguarding training began in September 2017 and 4 courses were held between 1st October – 31st December 2017.

Equality Awareness Training

A new programme of Equality Awareness training began in September 2017 and 7 training sessions were held between 1st October – 31st December 2017.

1.3 Access to Information and Services

Communication Support (Translation & Interpreter Services)

A total of 673 telephone based interpreting sessions were held from 1st October to 31st December 2017. The top 3 most requested languages are listed below:

- Polish
- Slovak
- Arabic

Translation tasks totalled 45 and face to face interpreter sessions (including Sign Language) totalled 15.

1.4 Monitoring

Equality Monitoring waiting list and allocations data is available up to the 31st December 2017.

1.5 Consultation

The NIHE's annual full Consultative Forum on Equality was held on 11th October 2017.

2.0 Key Equality/Good Relations Programme

2.1 Traveller Project Team:

The next update of the Traveller Project Team will be in the 4th Quarterly Report 2017/18.

2.2 Community Cohesion

Flags, emblems, sectional symbols - Re-imaging

Communities are continuing to develop re-imaging projects with NIHE support in West Belfast and Shankill, Omagh, Derry/L'Derry, Ballybeen, Newtownabbey, North Down, Larne, Ballyclare, Coleraine, Mid Ulster 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.

Phase 3 of the programme has commenced and Area Managers have been approached to identify their business needs for the next 26 BRIC2 areas. A list of these areas will be included in the next Community Cohesion update.

Together Building a United Community (TBUC) Shared Housing

A programme of 10 TBUC shared neighbourhood schemes in social housing is being supported by TBUC strategy. 5 of the 10 TBUC developments are completed (Felden in Newtownabbey, Global Crescent and Ballynavoy Close in Belfast, Burn Road in Cookstown and Manse Court in Saintfield).

A further 5 are onsite (Embankment in Belfast, Market Road in Ballymena, Antrim Road in Ballynahinch, Dromore Street in Banbridge and Main Street in Dundrum)

Further funding to support the development of shared housing has been made available, with the potential for 200 units per annum. Currently a further 3 developments are onsite (Laurelhill Coleraine, Carland Road Dungannon and Garvaghy Avenue Portglenone).

Interfaces

Interface Normalisation Policy

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

Following on from the successful interface removal work at the Ardoyne Road, planning approval for the Woodvale area has been approved.

Communities in Transition

Areas at Risk

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. The Cohesion team continue to work across all areas to promote and support race relation programmes.

Strategic Cohesion Forum

The Strategic Cohesion forum continues to work together in 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

17th Annual Report to the Equality Commission

https://www.nihe.gov.uk/seventeenth_annual_progress_report_to_the_equality_commission.pdf

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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