

Second Quarterly Report (2025/2026) on the Implementation of the Equality Scheme

1.0 Compliance Issues

1.1 Equality Screening/Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) Screening

From 1st July 2025 – 30th September 2025 the following policies have been screened:

- Rent Assessment Scheme Temporary Accommodation

Screening reports are available on request.

EQIA

No Equality Impact Assessments were initiated.

1.2 Training

Safeguarding Training

There were 5 Safeguarding training courses held during 1st July – 30th September 2025.

Equality Awareness Training

There were 8 Equality Awareness training courses held during 1st July – 30th September 2025.

1.3 Access to Information and Services Communication Support (Translation & Interpreter Services)

A total of 6,475 telephone based interpreting sessions were held from 1st July to 30th September 2025. The top 3 most requested languages are listed below:

- Arabic
- Somali
- Tigrinya

Translation tasks totalled 72 and face to face interpreter sessions (including Sign Language) totalled 25. There were 3 requests for alternative formats and 97 calls were made using the Video Relay Service (VRS).

1.4 Monitoring

Equality Monitoring waiting list and allocations data is available up to the 30th September 2025.

1.5 Consultation

The Housing Executive's full Consultative Forum on Equality was held on 19th March 2025. The next meeting is due to be held in January 2026.

2.0 Key Equality/Good Relations Programme

2.1 Irish Traveller Project Team:

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

Irish Traveller Accommodation Strategy 2021-26

The Housing Executive's Irish Travellers Accommodation Strategy 2021-2026 was approved by the Housing Executive Board in April 2021 and was published on the Housing Executive website in July 2021. The Strategy has four objectives and 12 key actions which will guide the Housing Executive's strategic direction on the provision of accommodation for Irish Travellers.

Year five of the Strategy is underway. Key projects are as follows:

1. The Housing Executive commissioned research to develop an Accommodation Needs Assessment model to determine need for Irish Traveller specific accommodation. The final report has been completed. NIHE are working with colleagues in IT to develop an electronic system to capture data on Irish Traveller applications which will be used in the proposed Needs Assessment calculation.
2. A draft housing policy for management of serviced and group housing sites is progressing and will help inform the electronic system above.

3. Following a review of all NIHE owned Irish Traveller sites, work continued on the redevelopment of two NIHE owned Irish Traveller sites. The eight pitch Emergency Halting site at Legahory close, Craigavon will become a five pitch serviced site. The eleven pitch transit site at Ballyarnett, Derry/Londonderry will become a seven pitch serviced site. Planning applications have been submitted for both redevelopment schemes.
4. Work continues on adding two new sites, one in Belfast and one in Mid Ulster.

Group Housing:

(Specifically designed housing schemes where large extended families live together based on Traveller's shared identity.)

- 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, Derry/Londonderry/ (10 units).
- NIHE Ballinamullan, Omagh (6 units)

Serviced Sites

Serviced sites are managed accommodation with permanent bases to park caravans or erect timber framed buildings, where electricity, water and sewerage are provided and where other facilities such as communal or individual amenity units may be provided. The Housing Executive currently have serviced site/s situated at:

- Acorn Grove, Craigavon
- An Tearmann, Coalisland
- Daisyfield, Derry/Londonderry/ (currently closed)

The improvement of amenity units at An Tearmann, Coalisland has been a delayed. NIHE are working to resolve issues associated with the delay to allow the scheme to progress.

A full review of all NIHE owned sites has completed with the exception of one site; An Tearmann which will commence following completion of the improvement scheme on site.

Transit Sites/Emergency Halting Sites

(Transit sites are basic facilities where Irish Travellers may park their caravans on a temporary basis and where electricity, water and sewerage are provided.)

NIHE Transit Sites/Emergency Halting Site are as follows:

- Ballyarnett Park, Derry/Londonderry
- Legahory, Craigavon
- Greenbrae, Strabane (currently closed pending vesting)

The Irish Travellers Policy Unit submitted a review paper of the Ballyarnett Park Transit site to the Irish Traveller joint divisional meeting in September 2021. The agreed preferred option was the redevelopment of site. NIHE's Irish Traveller Policy Unit have completed a business case to gain approval for the scheme. A planning application has been submitted to Derry City and Strabane Council.

Following the completion of a Latent demand test on 24th November 2021 the review of Legahory was submitted to the NIHE Irish Traveller Joint Divisional meeting in January 2022. The meeting agreed the redevelopment of Legahory to a 5 pitched serviced site as the preferred option. Work continues to progress on this scheme with completion scheduled for 2025. Works experienced a delay due to potential decant options. This has since been resolved and a planning application has been submitted to Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council.

Following continued delays with the proposed A5 Western Transport Route, the Housing Executive are considering options to temporarily reopen Greenbrae, Strabane.

Community Cohesion

The next Community Cohesion update will be in the 3rd Quarterly Report 2025/26.

2.3 Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Steering Group and Workstreams

EDI Steering Group/EDI Workstreams

The following EDI workstream meetings were held between 1st July and 30th September 2025:

- Race workstream: July, August and September
- Disability Workstream: July and September
- LGBTQ+ Workstream: July, August and September
- Age Workstream: August and September

The EDI Steering Group is scheduled to meet again on 10th November 2025.

EDI Outreach Activity

During the summer months the EDI workstreams were involved in a series of outreach events to promote the organisation as an inclusive employer. At Belfast Pride a stall was taken at the Pride Village to promote careers and job opportunities as well as access to our services. The Housing Executive were official Friends of Belfast Mela again and the Race workstream organised our stall at the Mela Day festival on Sunday 24th August. Attendance was supported by members of the Community Cohesion, Homelessness and Energy Advice Teams.

Try a Trade in Partnership with Women's Tec

In September 2025, the Housing Executive launched the first of a series of Try a Trade events planned this year in partnership with Women's Tec. Try a Trade involves hands on experience for students in bricklaying, joinery, mechanics and tiling as well as talks on careers and gender stereotyping.

Events were held at the Women's Tec site in Belfast on 17th and 18th September. St Gerard's School and Support Services, which is a Special Education Needs (SEN) school, took part in the event on 17th September. The event was opened to all genders and female students from Trinity College and Girls Model took part in the event on 18th September. The feedback from both events was extremely positive and the next session is scheduled to take place with female students in Coleraine on 8th October.

2.4 Key Documents

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

NIHE Equality Scheme

[Housing Executive Equality Scheme](#)

NIHE Disability Action Plan

[Housing Executive Disability Action Plan](#)

Housing Executive's Annual Report to ECNI 2024/25

[Annual Progress Report to the ECNI 2024-2025](#)

4th Comprehensive Irish Traveller Accommodation Survey

[Irish Traveller Accommodation Survey 2018/19 Report and Tables](#)

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 email your request to EDISTeam@nihe.gov.uk