

Fourth Quarterly Report (2022/2023) 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 2023 the following policies have been screened:

- Housing Executive Rent Increase
- Electrical Safety Policy
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Policy
- Requisition Proposal with Tenancy for Leasehold Properties
- Land Asset Management (LAM) Strategy
- Overtime Policy & Procedures
- Health & Wellbeing Policy
- Standby & Call Out Policy

Screening reports are available on request.

EQIA

There were no EQIAs completed during this quarter.

1.2 Training

Safeguarding Training

There were 6 Safeguarding training courses held during 1st January – 31st March 2023 as part of the induction programme for new employees.

Equality Awareness Training

There were 8 Equality Awareness training courses held during 1st January – 31st March 2023.

1.3 Access to Information and Services

Communication Support (Translation & Interpreter Services)

A total of 1,962 telephone based interpreting sessions were held from 1st January to 31st March 2023. The top 3 most requested languages are listed below:

- Arabic
- Polish
- Somali

Translation tasks totalled 85 and face to face interpreter sessions (including Sign Language) totalled 45. There were 12 requests for alternative formats and 63 calls were made using the Video Relay Service (VRS).

1.4 Monitoring

Equality Monitoring waiting list and allocations data is available up to the 31st March 2023.

1.5 Consultation

The Housing Executive's full Consultative Forum on Equality was held on 5th April 2022. The topics discussed included an update on the new Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) function in the Housing Executive, the EDI Steering group and Work Streams, the 5 year review of the Equality Scheme and the role of the Financial Inclusion Team. The next meeting is scheduled for 4th October 2023.

2.0 Key Equality/Good Relations Programmes

2.1 Community Cohesion Team:

The next Community Cohesion Team update will be in the 1st Quarterly Report 2023/24.

2.2 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.

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

(Services 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 and pending decommissioning)
 - Glen Road Heights, Belfast (Closed and pending decommissioning)
- The improvement of amenity units at An Tearmann, Coalisland is due to go on site immanently. There has been a delay due to complications with the scheme. These are in the process of being resolved through engagement between the residents on site, NIHE, the consultant and the contractor.
 - A full review of all NIHE owned sites is nearing completion. Two sites (Glen Road Heights, Belfast and Daisyfield, Derry/Londonderry) have been decommissioned and passed to placeshaping to determine future use while Greenbrae, Strabane will remain closed pending vesting for A5. An alternate site will be sought in Belfast and Strabane based on need. The only outstanding review is 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:

- The Glen Coalisland
- 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 to deliver a 5 pitched serviced site. Work continues to progress this scheme with completion scheduled for 2024/25.

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. It is anticipated a redevelopment scheme will commence in 2023/24. The Irish Traveller Policy Unit has set up a Working Group including support group representatives to work with Irish Travellers in the development of the site. The preferred option will meet current design standards and the requirements of the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council to issue a licence of site worthiness.

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 4 objectives and 12 key actions which will guide the Housing Executive's strategic direction on the provision of accommodation for Irish Travellers.

Implementation has commenced on Year two of the Strategy as follows:

1. The Housing Executive commissioned research to develop an Accommodation Needs Assessment model to determine need for Irish Traveller specific accommodation. The literature review has been completed and the researcher is due to present findings to support groups/Irish Travellers in June 2023.
2. Terms of Reference for the joint project to determine demand for transit living in Ireland research has been drafted.
3. Two Irish Travellers Accommodation Fora have been held.
4. A review of Floating Support provision to Irish Travellers has resulted in a draft report being produced in April 2022. The report was brought to the Housing Executive's Irish Travellers Joint Divisional meeting and recommendations were made. The report is currently being finalised.
5. A draft housing policy for allocations to service and group housing sites is progressing.

2.3 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](#)

Black Minority and Ethnic (BME) and Migrant Worker Report

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

4th Comprehensive Irish Traveller Accommodation Survey

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

[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 contact:

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Relay UK (Formerly Text Relay): 18001 03448 920 900

Video Relay Service (VRS): [Lets Connect Using Sign Video](#)

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