

## Housing Executive: Policy Screening

### Part 1 - Policy Scoping

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy under consideration. The purpose of policy scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy, being screened. At this stage, scoping the policy will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy writer work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

#### Name of the policy

Homelessness Strategy Ending Homelessness Together 2022-2027

#### Information about the policy (General Context Statement)

The Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 is a Statutory Document which outlines how the Housing Executive intends to address homelessness within Northern Ireland over the next five years. The document has been developed in consultation with a range of relevant stakeholders and examines baseline data on homelessness in Northern Ireland along with emerging trends including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the changing nature of reasons for homelessness and projected need based on factors likely to impact on homelessness going forward.

The document will, once again, be entitled Ending Homelessness Together which reflects the ongoing need for collaboration in addressing the multiple and complex issues which lead to homelessness and which can, on occasion also prevent some clients from exiting homelessness. Key issues requiring multi agency input include, but are not limited to, the supply of social and affordable housing, health and well-being for clients, provision of support for tenancy sustainment, community integration and safety.

The strategy will be person centred, placing the client at the centre of service delivery to ensure any housing solution provided is tailored to their needs, appropriate and can be sustained in the long term.

The strategy highlights the need for evidence based policy and service development and includes a commitment to gather and analyse appropriate evidence and research. It also reflects lessons learned from the pandemic in relation to the need to be responsive to emerging issues. The strategy will therefore, be delivered via the development annually of an action plan, based on the analysis of all relevant data and evidence ensuring that services and policies delivered are reflective of current trends and meet the needs of all relevant client groups.

#### Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

This is a new strategy. The Housing (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 places a duty on the Housing Executive to formulate and publish a homelessness strategy within 5 years from the publication of the previous strategy. The most recent homelessness strategy, which covers the period from April 2017 to March 2022, was published in April 2017.

#### What is it trying to achieve? (Intended Aims/Outcomes)

The vision of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 is reflected in the vision which is “Ending Homelessness Together” reflecting the fact that it is widely accepted that homelessness, due to its complex and multiple causes, cannot be resolved by one agency but requires input from a broad spectrum of stakeholders. It is also accepted that resolving homelessness can provide outcomes not

only for the client and the Housing Executive but also for Health, Justice, Economy, Education etc. The aim of the Strategy is “Wherever possible homelessness should be prevented, if homelessness cannot be prevented it should be rare, brief and non-recurring”. To deliver this aim, there are three Objectives within the Strategy.

- Prioritise homelessness prevention;
- Address homelessness by providing settled, appropriate accommodation and support;
- Support customers to transition from homelessness into settled accommodation.

All actions within the annual action plans will be guided by the six principles of:

- Person Centred
- Evidence Based
- Partnership Working
- Expert led
- Responsive
- Innovative
- Delivering value for Money

The following enablers will ensure delivery of relevant, timely, effective and appropriate actions:

- Experiential Evidence utilising the expertise that exists and commission research, for example.
- Collaboration across all relevant sectors
- Legislation ensuring that legislation remains relevant and lobbying for review where appropriate
- Interdepartmental approach recognising that all Government departments have a role to play
- Funding seeking to ensure long term and secure funding
- Staff supporting and engaging with staff and recognizing achievement and innovation
- Process clear and easily understood processes to smooth the journey as much as possible with adequate governance arrangements.

The Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 also notes the intention to ensure alignment with other relevant Strategies including but not limited to the Supporting People Strategy, Tenancy Sustainment Strategy, Strategic Review of Temporary Accommodation Action Plan, Housing Supply Strategy etc.

As part of the consultation process for the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 the Housing Executive also consulted on Homeless to Home, Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation. As the Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation is included within Objective 2 of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 this equality screening will cover both documents and associated actions.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?

This strategy is aimed at everyone. It seeks to prevent homelessness, provide services to those who find themselves homeless, provide support to help people sustain their tenancy and prevent repeat

homelessness and to monitor and learn from the experiences of homelessness. Therefore everyone should benefit. However, our experience to date and our understanding of this strategy would suggest that there will be particular benefits for men or women experiencing domestic abuse, disabled people who live in accommodation not suitable to their needs or with mental health issues; migrant workers or Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) households in insecure or tied accommodation, or facing racial harassment or intimidation; people facing sectarian and/or paramilitary intimidation; LGBT people experiencing harassment or intimidation and households faced with having to move to where their family support is.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Director of Housing Services

Who owns and who implements the policy?

Housing Services

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

If yes, are they:

(Please mark an 'X' where appropriate)

X	Financial
X	Legislative Housing Order 1998 (as amended)
	Other (Please Specify) :

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

(Please mark an 'X' where appropriate and detail as necessary)

X	Staff
X	Service Users, Customers
X	Other Public Sector Organisations
X	Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions
	Other (Please Specify) :

## Other policies with a bearing on this policy

### What are they?

The development of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 has been guided by key partners and a recurring theme from feedback is for the need for this strategy to align with a number of other priority strategy areas that have the potential to significantly impact on the lives of those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

### Who owns them?

#### External

- Inter-Departmental Homelessness Action Plan – The delivery of an Inter-departmental Homelessness Action Plan which aimed to address non-accommodation based issues relevant to homelessness was one of the key successes of the Homelessness Strategy 2017-22. The Housing Executive welcomes the support provided by the Department for Communities and other government departments in the delivery of the previous strategy and we are committed to continuing this collaborative approach in order to address those issues which require the support of other government agencies.
- Housing Supply Strategy – Our engagement with the sector in developing this Strategy noted housing supply as an area that will shape the success of our approach to addressing homelessness in Northern Ireland. The Housing Supply Strategy has recently been subject to a call for evidence and the Housing Executive will work with the Department for Communities as and when the Housing Supply Strategy is developed.
- Programme for Government (PfG) - The consultation on the Programme for Government draft framework closed on 22 March 2021 and the Housing Executive recognises the need to align with the final Programme for Government upon publication.
- Making Life Better 2012- 2023 - is the ten-year public health strategic framework. The framework provides direction for policies and actions to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Northern Ireland. Ending Homelessness Together 2022-27 recognises the importance of Working across sectors, implementation will focus on strengthening collaboration and coordination to deliver on shared strategic priorities.
- Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031 - The Strategy will set the future strategic direction of mental health services in Northern Ireland for the next decade. Mental ill health is one of the greatest challenges facing us today. It is accepted that the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions to everyday life have had, and continue to have, a significant impact on our population's mental health. Too many people in our communities are struggling with mental ill health, which is impacting on their life choices and outcomes. There are increasingly complex support needs associated with homelessness presentations with mental health and addictions the most prevalent. Ending Homelessness Together 2022-27 recognises the importance of working in partnership with Health and aligning our priorities at a strategic level.
- Strategic Framework for Reducing Offending 2013 – The Strategic Framework sets out how the Department of Justice will build a safer Northern Ireland through a long

term reduction in offending behaviour achieved by working in partnership within Justice and across Government to prevent individuals, particularly children and young people, becoming involved in offending behaviour in the first place, and to reduce reoffending among those who do. Research highlights the socio economic issues associated with offending behaviour of which lack of suitable accommodation is one

- Supporting Change, A Strategic Approach to Desistance 2015 - Desistance Strategy for Northern Ireland highlights ways to help stop people from offending. Accommodation is one of the seven key pathways from offending (in addition to improved attitudes; improved health; family; finance/debt; substance misuse; education/employment/training).
- Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland (March 2016) – This is a joint strategy dealing with Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland led by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) on behalf of the Northern Ireland Executive. The human cost of violence and abuse to victims and families can be enormous including physical, emotional and psychological harm, breakdown in relationships and families, and a reduction in life opportunities for individuals.

#### Internal NIHE Strategies

- Supporting People Strategy – As homelessness is one of four thematic areas supported by the Supporting People programme and therefore responsible for funding a significant amount of homelessness services there is a need to ensure that the priorities of this strategy align with the Supporting People Three Year Strategic Plan and COVID-19 Recovery Plan. We will work with Supporting People to ensure alignment across both strategies and this is a commitment that is also made in the Supporting People Strategy.
- Customer Support and Tenancy Sustainment Strategy – Alignment with this Strategy is key, particularly with regards to delivering our third Objective of ‘Support customers to transition from homelessness into settled accommodation.’ There have been numerous examples of alignment between the Homelessness Strategy and Customer Support and Tenancy Sustainment Strategy since its publication in 2019 and the Housing Executive will build on this over the course of the next Homelessness Strategy and any future versions of the Customer Support and Tenancy Sustainment Strategy.
- The Way Home COVID-19 Reset Plan – The Way Home COVID-19 Reset Plan – The COVID-19 Reset Plan contains a commitment to Post COVID-19 planning & Transition to ‘new normal’. The Housing Executive will ensure that the action plans associated with the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 are reflective of any trends as we emerge from the pandemic. Going forward, the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 will also include actions to assist those who are experiencing chronic homelessness and build on the work of the Chronic Homelessness Action Plan.
- Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation – The publication of a Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation alongside the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 reflects the Housing Executive’s intention for both action plans to complement and support each other. This is evidenced by a number of shared action and we will ensure that our approach to the development of future annual action plans also reflects the shared priorities across both documents.

Additionally, the following documents are noted as having an impact in terms of homelessness.

- Reaching Rural (Rural Strategy).
- Financial Inclusion Strategy.
- Community Safety Strategy.
- Community Development Strategy.

#### Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Policy Writers should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories that evidence is required for.

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of evidence/information</b>												
Religious belief	1. Homelessness trends and analysis of all client groups:												
Political opinion	<p>In the years prior to the pandemic there was a general pattern of increasing demands around homelessness particularly around homelessness acceptances and temporary accommodation placements. In 2020/21 there was a total of 15,991 households who presented as homeless with 9,889 of these households accepted as statutorily homeless. There was also a total of 1,188 repeat homelessness presentations with such households often being the most vulnerable with significant support needs.</p> <p>While presentations and acceptances have shown a reduction over the past year the table below details the number of households to whom we owe a statutory duty and thus have entitlement to provision of temporary accommodation and furniture storage. This table highlights the continued demand for homelessness services as these households will remain entitled to temporary accommodation and/or furniture storage until such times as their duty is discharged via the allocation of a social housing tenancy or the refusal of three reasonable offers.</p> <table data-bbox="448 1456 845 1792"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>FDA Applicants Only</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mar-17</td> <td>16,356</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mar-18</td> <td>17,520</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mar-19</td> <td>19,629</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mar-20</td> <td>20,951</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mar-21</td> <td>22,217</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The reason for homelessness has changed during the pandemic, whilst the top 5 reasons remain the same, the order and proportion of these has changed. The primary reason in 2019 was accommodation not reasonable but in 2020 the primary reason for presentation is sharing breakdown /family dispute.</p>	Year	FDA Applicants Only	Mar-17	16,356	Mar-18	17,520	Mar-19	19,629	Mar-20	20,951	Mar-21	22,217
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Mar-17		16,356											
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Mar-21		22,217											
Racial group													
Age													
Marital status													
Sexual orientation													
Men and women													
Disability													
Dependants													

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
	<p>As part of the development of annual action plans, the analysis of waiting list information will be carried out in order to identify any cultural, religious or racial disparities that may have implications for the Homelessness Strategy 2022-17 and Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation.</p> <p>2. Allocations patterns and housing market analysis:</p> <p>The Homelessness Strategy recognises the impact that allocations patterns and housing market have on the wider challenges associated with homelessness. Allocations patterns and housing market analysis will be considered as part of the implementation of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27.</p> <p>3. Ongoing liaison and consultations with representative groups</p> <p>The Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 was developed following extensive consultation and engagement with practitioners to identify key issues that should be addressed.</p> <p>Consultation included:</p> <p>A thorough pre-consultation exercise which involved a series of workshops with the Central Homelessness Forum. The Central Homelessness Forum includes representation from a range of statutory and voluntary agencies who work within the homelessness sector.</p> <p>Consultation with Local Area Groups. These groups have multi-agency representation. This engagement included a number of workshops held on 14th and 19th May 2021 which were attended by over 70 representatives from across the sector. This ensured the strategic experience of the Central Homelessness Forum was complemented by the operational experience from the Local Area Groups.</p> <p>Individual meetings have been held with a number of organisations in order to ensure that the person centred approach outlined in the strategy will meet the needs of groups across Northern Ireland. These organisations represented a range of client groups and included organisations such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Ireland Youth Forum;</li> <li>• The Rainbow Project;</li> <li>• Horn of Africa People’s Aid Northern Ireland;</li> <li>• Northern Ireland Racial Equality Commission;</li> <li>• Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People; and</li> <li>• Northern Ireland Migrant Centre</li> </ul>

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
	<p>These meetings were supported by engagement with the Rural Unit in the development of the Rural Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Accommodation based issues identified during the pre-consultation have been taken forward by the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 whereas the non-accommodation based issues will be prioritised and addressed through the Inter-departmental Homelessness Action Plan.</p> <p>The draft Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 was subject to a public consultation which commenced on 2nd November 2021 and closed on 25th January 2022. Over the course of this consultation the Housing Executive received a total of 30 written responses. In addition, the Housing Executive facilitated a number of online consultation events which included a presentation and workshops for consultees to express their opinions on the vision, aim, principles, objectives and enablers of the draft Homelessness Strategy 2022-27. These events were well attended by a wide range of internal and external stakeholders, with representation from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors.</p> <p>If any issues do arise as the Homelessness Strategy progresses, these issues will be escalated to the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group and the Central Homelessness Forum. The Equality Department will be notified of any relevant issues brought forward to these groups and the Homelessness Strategy team will engage with the Equality team as and when necessary.</p> <p>4. Reference Documents used in formulating strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• THE IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS ON HEALTH A GUIDE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES, Local Government Association (2017)</li> <li>• Crisis Policy Briefing: Introduction to Homelessness &amp; Housing, Crisis (2010)</li> <li>• Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2017-22, Northern Ireland Housing Executive (2017)</li> <li>• The Way Home Homelessness response to COVID-19, Housing Executive (2020)</li> <li>• The COVID Decade: understanding the long-term societal impacts of COVID-19, The British Academy (2021)</li> <li>• Coproduction and service user involvement, National Council for Voluntary Organisations (2019)</li> <li>• Co-Production – working together to improve homelessness services - Overview of key ideas and principles, Homeless Link (2017)</li> <li>• Homelessness Service User Journeys, Housing Executive (2021)</li> </ul>



Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customer Support and Tenancy Sustainment Strategy, Northern Ireland Housing Executive (2019)</li> <li>• Chronic Homelessness Action Plan, Northern Ireland Housing Executive (2020)</li> <li>• Strategic Review of Temporary Accommodation, Housing Executive – research project carried out by Campbell Tickell (2020)</li> <li>• Working strategically with Local Authorities to end homelessness - Guidance for voluntary sector organisations in England, Homeless Link (2020)</li> <li>• The Role of Day Services in delivering support to those experiencing Chronic Homelessness, Housing Executive – project completed by Ruth Flood Associates (2021)</li> <li>• Homelessness Strategy Annual Progress Reports, Housing Executive (2018 onwards)</li> </ul>

### Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision?

Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories that are affected.

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	Availability of stock is often limited in the more popular areas with low turnover. Many of these areas are single identity which limits choice with many households not fully aware of the full range of housing choices available to them.
Political opinion	<p>Sectarian and/or paramilitary threats can often require an immediate or emergency response.</p> <p>The Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 and Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Action Plan will proactively endeavour to address any faith or cultural issues, particularly in relation to temporary accommodation. As part of the development of annual Action Plans the needs of specific groups in terms of faith and culture will be considered.</p>
Racial group	<p>BREXIT issues may impact on homelessness</p> <p>Racial intimidation can require immediate or emergency response</p> <p>Migrant Workers may lose eligibility during their stay in Northern Ireland</p> <p>Migrant Workers can often lose tied accommodation with no or limited notice.</p> <p>BME families in accommodation may need support to sustain their homes in a new and unfamiliar environment.</p>

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of needs/experiences/priorities</b>
	The Homelessness Strategy 2017-22 and Strategic Action Plan for Temporary will be culturally flexible in responding to the needs of specific racial groups, including but not limited to Irish Travellers. As part of the development of annual Action Plans the needs of specific groups in terms of race will be considered.
Age	Aging population impacts on housing mix requirements and/or support needs Ongoing support needs of 16/17 yr. olds Potential impact of Age discrimination law changes Prevention issues including information on Welfare reform impacts; alcohol and drug abuse including legal highs Young people (including school children) understanding their future housing needs and choices
Marital status	
Sexual orientation	Issues raised in relation to unsuitable hostel accommodation for young LGBT people.
Men and women	Male and female domestic violence victims requiring appropriate accommodation. Family breakdown generally increasing the pressure on homelessness
Disability	Increasing harassment of disabled people requiring appropriate responses Accommodation not suitable for the needs of the household
Dependants	Accommodating non family carers Severe overcrowding

## Part 2 - Screening questions

Please see guidance below for further information

### Screening questions

<b>1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none</b>		
<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of policy impact</b>	<b>Level of impact? minor/major/none</b>
Religious belief	At a strategic level trend data on waiting lists and allocations, waiting times and point's analysis (particularly at local levels) feeds into various complementary housing strategies including the	None
Political opinion		

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none		
	<p>Strategic guidelines for the Social Housing Development programme.</p> <p>The Homelessness Strategy acknowledges the many circumstances particular to Northern Ireland and, for example, we utilise expert information and guidance from many sources including NIACRO/Base 2 where religion, faith and/or political opinion may have a bearing on a specific case.</p> <p>Full and holistic housing and support needs assessment to be carried out for every client and solution tailored to the specific needs of the client. The assessment will take into consideration any religious or political issues which are significant to ensure client can sustain housing solution.</p>	
Racial group	<p>Ongoing monitoring of the strategy will allow flexibility to be responsive to emerging issues, e.g., “Brexit” and any impact they may have on racial groups.</p> <p>This strategy will ensure that staff engage with appropriate support providers relevant to the racial group of an individual/household across all three Housing Executive regions. Examples of such services include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STEP project – (South region – guidance for migrant workers in the Dungannon area)</li> <li>• Language/Communication Support for Voluntary hostels</li> <li>• STEM project</li> </ul> <p>Information on the range of support services that are provided via Supporting People funding across all regions can be found at <a href="https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Supporting-people/How-to-find-support-in-your-area">https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Supporting-people/How-to-find-support-in-your-area</a></p>	Minor
Age	<p>Holistic assessment of client need designed to ensure sustainable solution found, appropriate to the housing and support needs of the client.</p>	None

**1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none**

	<p>This Strategy will ensure that staff engage with appropriate support providers relevant to the age of an individual/household across all three Housing Executive regions. Examples of such services include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action for Children (North Region Supported Lodging and Floating Support for young people at risk)</li> <li>• Age North Down and Ards (South Region floating support for young people)</li> <li>• Apex Housing Association (North Region various schemes for elderly)</li> <li>• Barnardos (Belfast Region – Support for young adults leaving residential, foster or family care.)</li> <li>• BCM Housing Support for Young People (Belfast Region – floating support for young people)</li> <li>• Flax Foyer (Belfast Region accommodation for young people)</li> <li>• MACS (South Region floating support for young people)</li> <li>• Northern Health and Social Care Trust (North Region Floating support for older people with mental health problems)</li> <li>• Simon Community (Belfast Region accommodation based service for young people)</li> <li>• Southern Health and Social Care Trust (South Region accommodation for older people)</li> <li>• Praxis Care Group (North Region scheme for young people at risk and/or leaving care)</li> <li>• Triangle (North Region floating support)</li> </ul> <p>Information on the range of support services that are provided via Supporting People funding across all regions can be found at <a href="https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-">https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-</a></p>	
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1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none		
	<a href="#">Us/Supporting-people/How-to-find-support-in-your-area</a>	
Marital status	No Impact	None
Sexual orientation	<p>Improved data gathering and data sharing protocols designed to ensure correct support solutions in place for all client groups. Staff will ensure that where appropriate a referral will be made to an appropriate advocacy or support group where further advice or assistance beyond Housing Solutions and Support may be required.</p> <p>Information on the range of support services that are provided via Supporting People funding across all regions can be found at <a href="https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Supporting-people/How-to-find-support-in-your-area">https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Supporting-people/How-to-find-support-in-your-area</a></p>	None
Men and women	<p>This Strategy specifically addresses homelessness where it is directly associated with gender. Each case will be assessed individually however we will draw on a range of services that may be able to provide advice or support for cases associated with gender. Examples of such services include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women’s Aid</li> <li>• Men’s Advisory Project</li> <li>• The Rainbow Project</li> <li>• Regina Coeli House (Belfast Region – Provides temporary accommodation for homeless women.</li> <li>• Utility Street Men’s Hostel (Belfast Region – Accommodation provider for homeless men aged 18 and over.)</li> </ul>	None
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frontline NIHE staff will pull upon the necessary Health and Support services to ensure sustainable housing and support outcome.</li> <li>• This Strategy will ensure that staff engage with appropriate support providers relevant to any individual/household with a</li> </ul>	None

**1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none**

	<p>disability across all three Housing Executive regions. Examples of such services include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apex Housing Association (North Region – various schemes for people with learning disabilities)</li> <li>• Ardkeen Supported Housing (Belfast Region – accommodation based service for people with physical or sensory disabilities)</li> <li>• Autism Initiatives (South Region – floating support for people with learning disabilities)</li> <li>• Crescent Supported Living (Belfast Region – accommodation based support for people with learning disabilities)</li> <li>• Livability (South Region - supports adults with learning disabilities through domiciliary care as well as supported living.)</li> <li>• Leonard Cheshire (South Region – accommodation and floating support for physically disabled)</li> <li>• NIAMH (South Region – accommodation for applicants with mental health vulnerabilities)</li> <li>• Southern Health and Social Care Trust (South Region – floating support for applicants with sensory impairment)</li> <li>• Triangle Housing Association (North Region – various schemes for people with learning disabilities)</li> <li>• Western Health and Social Care Trust (North Region - Supported living service available for those who have mental health issues.)</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the schemes listed above there are examples where applicants with physical disabilities are assisted in to sustainable accommodation or by preventing homelessness</p>	
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1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none		
	<p>where there are options such as adaptations which may allow an individual to remain in their property.</p> <p>Information on the range of support services that are provided via Supporting People funding across all regions can be found at <a href="https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Supporting-people/How-to-find-support-in-your-area">https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Supporting-people/How-to-find-support-in-your-area</a></p>	
Dependants	<p>Holistic assessment will ensure that all of a client's circumstances are considered and addressed where possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Strategy will ensure that staff engage with appropriate support providers relevant to the dependants within a household across all three Housing Executive regions. Examples of such services include, but are not limited to:</li> <li>• Clarendon Shelter (North Region – scheme for homeless families with support needs)</li> <li>• First Housing Aid &amp; Support Services (North Region – Shepherds View scheme to assist teenage parents)</li> <li>• Homecare (South Region – floating support)</li> <li>• NIHE (Provision of a number of hostels for homeless families with support needs)</li> <li>• Simon Community (Provides temporary accommodation across all three regions)</li> <li>• Women's Aid (Support across all three regions)</li> </ul> <p>This strategy has a significant degree of flexibility and local autonomy built into it to ensure local managers can accommodate a wide range of customer needs. This may on occasion include large or very large families and we have employed in the past and will employ innovative</p>	None

<b>1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none</b>		
	<p>local solutions including large single let houses or two adjacent properties to keep the family together.</p> <p>Information on the range of support services that are provided via Supporting People funding across all regions can be found at <a href="https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Supporting-people/How-to-find-support-in-your-area">https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Supporting-people/How-to-find-support-in-your-area</a></p>	

<b>2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?</b>		
<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>If Yes, provide details</b>	<b>If No, provide reasons</b>
Religious belief		<p>In these groups the policy screening team have agreed that the strategy fully accommodates the issues associated with the section 75 groups.</p> <p>In addition we have agreed to include Equality Issues as a standing item on the agenda of the Local Inter-agency Homelessness Strategy Implementation Groups. This will provide a platform for consideration of any new, changing or emerging equality issues.</p> <p>The strategy will be reactive to emerging needs of section 75 groups with the development of annual action plans. The development of these action plans will consider any new, changing or emerging equality issues arising from the Homelessness Strategy Implementation Groups.</p>
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women		
Disability		
Dependants	There is still no clear resolution of the issue where a carer may need an additional bedroom for a carer. The Homelessness Strategy however has a degree of flexibility to accommodate changing issues in the future.	



<b>3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? minor/major/none</b>		
Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact minor/major/none
Religious belief	The Homelessness Strategy does not impact directly on good relations	
Political opinion		
Racial group		

<b>4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?</b>		
Good relations category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief	The Homelessness Strategy does not impact directly on good relations	
Political opinion		
Racial group		

### Additional considerations

#### Multiple Identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?

(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

Homelessness services are delivered to households which can often be multi-layered and complex. This is addressed by each applicant household being subjected to a detailed and in-depth homeless assessment with a full and frank assessment of all the aspects of the household and those within it in the context of the realistic housing choices/options available to them.

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

#### Disability Duties:

1. Does this policy affect (or have the potential to affect) disabled people? (Please mark an 'X' where appropriate)

Yes	No
X	

2. If yes, how does this policy pay due regard to the promotion of positive attitudes towards disabled people?

Disabled people are considered at both a strategic level taking into account those generic issues associated with disability, design, harassment, appropriate accommodation, as well as the individual needs identified through the household interviews.

3. If yes, does this policy provide any opportunity for the engagement of, or participation of any stakeholder representatives? e.g. Housing Community network. (Please mark an 'X' where appropriate)

Yes	No
X	

4. If yes, what efforts have been made to encourage the participation of disabled people?

Housing Solutions and Support Teams across NI will continue with the implementation of local Homelessness Strategy Implementation Groups and will seek appropriate service user input to the development of Local Homelessness Action Plans.

**Human Rights:**

The Screening Team must consider the Human Rights "Convention Checklist" set out below. The Screening Team must be satisfied that the policy does not interfere (unless justified by a legitimate, necessary and/or proportionate aim) with any of the rights listed. On occasion, the Screening Team may require legal advice to assure the Board/CXBC of adequate consideration of Human Rights.

There are no specific Human Rights Issues.

**Additional Human Rights Conventions:**

There are many international instruments that the UK Government have made commitments to progressively realise. Some of these impact on housing policy and it is important that when we make policy that we can assure the Board that cognisance of these instruments has been observed. This is particularly important where policies affect or have the potential to affect children and young people and disabled people. The Screening Team may wish to seek additional legal advice or views of representative groups.

Monitoring:

How will this policy be monitored for equality impacts in accordance with the Housing Executive's Equality Scheme?\*

Insert

\*Guidance available from the Equality Monitoring Officer, Equality Unit.

Part 3 - Screening Team decision

Does this policy require an equality impact assessment? (Please mark an 'X' where appropriate)

Yes	No
	X

Reasons for the decision:

There are no significant equality issues that require an Equality Impact Assessment

Part 4 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by: (Please insert name below)	Position/Job Title	Date
Richard Tanswell	Homelessness Strategy Manager	05/10/21
Approved by:		
Tony Steed	Equality Unit Manager	05/10/21