

Equality Impact Assessment Template

Date: 11 January 2019

Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available)	SMBC09/02/2019 Procurement of Housing Related Support Services for Pregnant Teenagers/Teenage Parents
Directorate and Service Area	David Stevens Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing
Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA	David Stevens
Contact Details	
Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA	Justin Haywood - Commissioning Operational Manager Sheena Rafiq - Commissioner
Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed	
Date EIA completed	11 January 2019
Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA	David Stevens
Date EIA considered by Cabinet Member	

See [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance](#) for key prompts that must be addressed for all questions

**1. The purpose of the proposal or decision required
(Please provide as much information as possible)**

To authorise the commencement of re-procurement of a Housing Related Support Services for Pregnant Teenagers/Teenage Parents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to ensure that the Council continues to fulfil its statutory responsibilities

2. Evidence used/considered

The procurement of housing related support services will enable the Council to meet its statutory obligations to teenage parents by maintaining them in suitable accommodation and providing support services under Part VII of The Housing Act 1996 and 2002 (Amendment), The Leaving Care Act 2000 and 2001 (Amendment), The Children Act 1989 and the Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 and The Homelessness (Priority Need for Accommodation) (England) Order 2002.

In line with the Southwark Judgement (2009), as a Children's Services Department there are obligations to assess all homeless and vulnerable young people to determine whether support is offered under a Section 20/LAC framework or via Section 17 preventive budgets. It also places a duty on Children's Services Departments to provide accommodation to children identified as in need and resident in its area who appear to require accommodation, 16-17 year old young homeless and 16-21 care leavers.

In addition the Children Act (1989) obliges Councils to provide support to children assessed to be either In Need or in Need of Protection and the Children (Leaving Care) Act (2000) places an obligation on Councils to act as Corporate Parents to young people as they leave the care system, which will include meeting their accommodation needs, and their right to receive support, including accommodation related support and life skills, up to the age of 25 years old.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places new legal duties on Local Housing Authorities in England so that everyone (including young people aged 18-25) who is homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to

meaningful help, irrespective of their priority need status, as long as they are eligible for assistance. The Act amends part VII of the Housing Act 1996.

Relevant duties:

Care Leavers

Under the Act, all care leavers below the age of 21 will be considered as having a local connection with an area if they were looked after, accommodated or fostered there for a continuous period of at least two years. Clause 8 amends section 199 of the Housing Act 1996 Act to ensure that a young homeless care leaver, as of April 2018, has a local connection to the area of the local authority that looked after them

The prevention duty: in cases of threatened homelessness

If a local housing authority is satisfied that an applicant is threatened with homelessness and is eligible for assistance, they must take 'reasonable steps' – with reference to the applicant's assessment - to help them avoid becoming homeless.

As part of their investigations, local housing authorities must determine if an applicant has a 'priority need' for homelessness assistance. Typically, single homeless applicants will only be considered to be in 'priority need' i.e. meet the priority need criteria, as set out in Section 189 of the 'Act', if they are 'vulnerable' as a result i.e. considered significantly more vulnerable than ordinarily vulnerable. If a 'priority need' is identified, local housing authorities may have limited access to other housing options such as links with private sector landlords and financial assistance, which are considered where appropriate.

The relief duty: in cases where the applicant is homeless

Under this clause, local housing authorities must take 'reasonable steps' – with reference to the applicant's assessment – to help all homeless eligible applicants to secure accommodation for at least six months unless the applicant is referred to another local authority due to having no local connection to the authority they have applied to.

Interim accommodation duties owed to people under the existing provisions (section 188) continue to apply during this stage – the duty to provide accommodation to people who the local housing authority has reason to believe may be homeless, eligible for assistance and in priority need - pending a decision on whether the council is obliged to provide some form of longer term settled accommodation.

Care Act 2014: The service prevents, reduces and delays support and care needs in line with the Care Act.

A report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Ending Homelessness (July 2017), focusing on care leavers, prison leavers and survivors of domestic violence states that "research tells us that one third of care leavers become homeless in the first two years immediately after they leave care and 25% of all homeless people have been in care at some point in their lives. Care leavers often have multiple disadvantages and should be placed in accommodation which is suitable for their specific needs."

The current contract relating to this Service is due to expire on 31 July 2019 and no further extensions are contractually possible.

3. Consultation

There was no statutory requirement to consult as there will be no significant adverse effect on the provision of housing related support services to service users.

There are no significant equality issues arising from this report.

4. Assess likely impact

Please give an outline of the overall impact if possible.

There are no significant equality issues arising from this report. The commissioning of housing related support services will provide support to vulnerable young people, including those with protected characteristics. Overall, it is anticipated that the provision of housing related support services will have a positive impact on protected groups given that the Council will maintain service continuity to vulnerable young people.

Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics

4a. Use the table to show:

- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality strands (protected characteristics), that is it could disadvantage them or if there is no impact, please note the evidence and/or reasons for this.
- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relationships within equality characteristics.

Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact ✓	Negative Impact ✓	No Impact ✓	Reason and evidence (Provide details of specific groups affected even for no impact and where negative impact has been identified what mitigating actions can we take?)
Age	✓			<p>Homeless young people, especially those who are 16 and 17, are particularly vulnerable. They are likely to face additional barriers to securing accommodation from a range of factors including a lack of familial support, lack of available affordable accommodation, challenges in securing a tenancy, and changes to the welfare benefits system, which affect both them and their families.</p> <p>There are no significant equality issues arising from this report. The commissioning of housing related support services will provide support to vulnerable young people, including those with the protected characteristics. Overall, it is anticipated that the provision of housing related support services will have a positive impact on protected groups given that the Council will maintain service continuity to vulnerable young people</p>

Disability			✓	<p>There are no significant equality issues arising from this report. The commissioning of housing related support services will provide support to vulnerable young people, including those with the protected characteristics. Overall, it is anticipated that the provision of housing related support services will have a positive impact on protected groups given that the Council will maintain service continuity to vulnerable young people</p>
Gender reassignment			✓	<p>There are no significant equality issues arising from this report. The commissioning of housing related support services will provide support to vulnerable young people, including those with the protected characteristics. Overall, it is anticipated that the provision of housing related support services will have a positive impact on protected groups given that the Council will maintain service continuity to vulnerable young people</p>
Marriage and civil partnership			✓	<p>There are no significant equality issues arising from this report. The commissioning of housing related support services will provide support to vulnerable young people, including those with the protected characteristics. Overall, it is anticipated that the provision of housing related support services will have a positive impact on protected groups given that the Council will maintain service continuity to vulnerable young people</p>
Pregnancy and maternity			✓	<p>There are no significant equality issues arising from this report. The commissioning of housing related support services will provide support to vulnerable young people, including those with the protected characteristics. Overall, it is anticipated that the provision of housing related support services will have a positive impact on protected groups given that the Council will maintain service continuity to vulnerable young people</p>

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

Race			✓	<p>There are no significant equality issues arising from this report. The commissioning of housing related support services will provide support to vulnerable young people, including those with the protected characteristics. Overall, it is anticipated that the provision of housing related support services will have a positive impact on protected groups given that the Council will maintain service continuity to vulnerable young people</p>
Religion or belief			✓	<p>There are no significant equality issues arising from this report. The commissioning of housing related support services will provide support to vulnerable young people, including those with the protected characteristics. Overall, it is anticipated that the provision of housing related support services will have a positive impact on protected groups given that the Council will maintain service continuity to vulnerable young people</p>
Sex			✓	<p>There are no significant equality issues arising from this report. The commissioning of housing related support services will provide support to vulnerable young people, including those with the protected characteristics. Overall, it is anticipated that the provision of housing related support services will have a positive impact on protected groups given that the Council will maintain service continuity to vulnerable young people</p>
Sexual orientation			✓	<p>There are no significant equality issues arising from this report. The commissioning of housing related support services will provide support to vulnerable young people, including those with the protected characteristics. Overall, it is anticipated that the provision of housing related support services will have a positive impact on protected groups given that the Council will maintain service continuity to vulnerable young people</p>

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

Other				
-------	--	--	--	--

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes No

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?

6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?

7. Monitoring arrangements

The Contract(s) are monitored through the Contracts Team, to ensure contract compliance and that the service provider are working towards achieving the agreed contract specification.

8. Action planning

You may wish to use the action plan template below

Question no. (ref)	Action required	Lead officer/ person responsible	Target date	Progress

9. Publish the EIA

Where can I get additional information, advice and guidance?

In the first instance, please consult the accompanying guide “Equality Impact Assessment Guidance”

Practical advice, guidance and support

Help and advice on undertaking an EIA, using the electronic EIA toolkit or receiving training related to equalities legislation and EIAs is available to **all managers** across the council from officers within Improvement and Efficiency. The officers within in Improvement and Efficiency will also provide overview quality assurance checks on completed EIA documents.

Please contact:

Kashmir Singh - 0121 569 3828