

Appendix 4

Islington's Accommodation Procurement Policy for Homeless Households, Private Rental Sector Offer of Accommodation Policy and Temporary Accommodation Lettings Framework: Equality and Health Analysis

Section 1: Equality analysis details

Proposed policy/decision/business plan to which this equality analysis relates
Accommodation Procurement Policy for Homeless Households, Private Rental Sector Offer of Accommodation Policy and the Temporary Accommodation Lettings Framework

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Section 2: Brief description of policy/decision/business plan

1.1 Brief description of policy/decision/business plan

This Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) forms part of the review of the EIA assessment completed on the 1st March 2023. The initial assessment examined the impacts (individual and cumulative) of a suite of new Islington Council policies, providing the framework for the use of private rented accommodation to help meet the council's duties to homeless households.

These policies included the following:

- Private Rented Sector Offers (PRSO) Policy for homeless households – the policy sets out the council's intention to make more homeless households offers of private rented accommodation to discharge its rehousing duty to them.
- Accommodation Procurement Policy for homeless households – this explains the council's temporary accommodation needs, issues in procuring temporary accommodation and the principles the council will follow when procuring rented properties, both for temporary accommodation and private rented sector offers.
- Temporary Accommodation Lettings Framework – this sets out how households will be prioritised for properties, both for temporary accommodation and private rented sector offers, in different locations.

At the point of the initial EIA, the assessment was based on the available information prior to implementation. The policies aim to increase access to affordable and suitable accommodation that meets our Good Homes Standards. The new policies:

- remove restrictions on geographical limitations for procuring good quality homes,
- Confirm an approach to offer shared temporary accommodation for singles.

Legal framework

Within this EIA assessment, the legal requirements are set out to confirm the operating parameters applicable when devising the policies. This includes the Housing Act 1996 in which local housing authorities have duties to secure suitable accommodation for homeless people with a local connection and with a priority need, as defined in the statute. Where permanent housing cannot be provided immediately, homeless households are placed in temporary accommodation. The Localism Act 2011 gave local authorities the power to discharge this main housing duty to homeless households through an offer of an assured shorthold tenancy in the private rented sector, without any requirement for applicant's prior agreement. This change effectively ended the previously direct link between Parts 6 and 7 of the Housing Act 1996 because where a suitable PRSO is made by the council, the applicant no longer has priority for social housing. Until now, the council has only offered private rented tenancies to a small number of households, and with their consent.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 also places Prevention and Relief duties on local authorities which can also include the provision to secure accommodation. The 1996 Act and supporting regulations require local authorities to place homeless households in borough wherever "reasonably practicable". Location is one of the factors that must be taken into account when considering whether temporary or permanent accommodation provided to meet any of the homelessness duties is suitable. The proposed amendments will continue to comply with the relevant legislation, government guidelines and case law.

Overall these policies are intended to ensure availability of enough suitable private sector accommodation for homeless households to allow the council to meet its duties at a cost that it can sustain and which are affordable to homeless households, against the background of an increasingly difficult market, marked by rapid increases in rent costs. Temporary accommodation already costs the council over £12 million per year, at a time when, in common with other local authorities, it faces medium-term financial pressures. This means that it cannot sustain an uncontrolled increase in costs. The policies will have the effect of off-setting the impact of continuing high numbers of homeless households presenting to the council and the loss of social rented supply.

Modelling suggests that without the policies the cost of temporary accommodation could increase by a further £500,000 in 2023/24. The policies are also intended to provide more certain and sustainable outcomes for homeless households, enabling them to secure suitable private rented housing more quickly rather than waiting in temporary accommodation for many years (and often subject to multiple moves over this time) until a social home becomes available. For other households, this approach will help free up resources that can be used to help prevent homelessness

from arising in the first place – the approach being given increased priority locally, regionally and nationally.

Details of each of the policies is given below:

Private rented sector offers (PRSO) policy

The private rented sector offers policy is needed to set out clearly and transparently how the council will use its powers under the Localism Act. The policy sets out council's policy intention to make more private rented sector offers to homeless households, where the law allows it. Homeless households might either be offered a private rented tenancy as soon as they are accepted as homeless or from their temporary accommodation – meaning they will spend less time in temporary accommodation. This will help to contain temporary accommodation costs which are described above.

Another of the policy's objectives is to help improve outcomes for homeless households. Currently, they can wait for more than 3 years in temporary accommodation for social rented housing (these waits tend to be longest for households requiring two or more bedrooms). Households often have to move a number of times within temporary accommodation. The nature of temporary accommodation therefore means it can be difficult for households to settle in an area, establish local links and get on with their lives. The policy (which will be backed by a package of support for the households concerned) is intended to help ensure that the offer of a private tenancy will mean that households can move into more settled accommodation that is affordable to them more quickly, enabling them to settle in a neighbourhood, engage with local services and opportunities and plan their futures with more certainty.

The current long waits in temporary accommodation are due to a significant mismatch between the supply of social housing and demand for it, at the beginning of March 2023, there are over 15,600 households on the housing register for social housing with around 976 of these being homeless households in temporary accommodation. Only around 1,000 social rented housing units became available last year in Islington and the nature of the social housing stock available is that a proportion of this is comprised of one bedroom units, while the great majority of homeless households (84%) require two bedrooms or more.

The council seeks to maximise provision of new affordable housing in the borough, including through its ambitious new build development programme, but the scarcity and cost of sites in Islington restricts its ability to meet increasing demand in this way.

These supply and demand factors are unlikely to improve as homeless acceptances are forecast to remain high at least in the medium term (primarily as a result of changes to the benefit system, COVID19, Brexit and poverty).

Social rented supply is also likely to reduce, at least in the short term, due to a number of national policies mainly imposed by the Housing and Planning Act 2016, such as the extension of right to buy to housing association tenants

Accommodation Procurement Policy

This policy is needed to provide an action plan for procuring enough accommodation both for PRSO and for temporary accommodation and to meet housing needs for temporary accommodation and to meet housing needs for homeless households. It is also needed to set out the principles the council will follow when procuring properties. Having such clear key principles is needed because although the council will, wherever possible, seek to acquire affordable accommodation within Islington and in neighbouring boroughs, this is becoming increasingly difficult, due to the lack of properties within benefit levels and subsidy thresholds.

A key principle for the procurement of temporary accommodation is that it is affordable to the council within relevant subsidy levels, in order to help to contain temporary accommodation costs and to prevent them from rising excessively.

Another key principle is that rents need to be affordable to low income people within benefit levels as otherwise it will not be sustainable to them in the long term. Both of these considerations are likely to become increasingly pressing if private sector rents continue to rise and the tendency for landlords to let to more affluent tenants continues. They are likely to be further exacerbated by the introduction of Universal Credit which has now been fully rolled out across Islington.

The policy also sets out other factors which will determine where properties are procured – these are needed to ensure the locations are suitable for homeless households and have health, social and employment opportunities.

Temporary Accommodation Lettings Framework

This policy is designed to complement the Accommodation Procurement and PRSO policies and is needed as the amount of housing available for temporary accommodation (and for private rented sector offers) in Islington and Greater London is likely to continue to decline while costs are likely to continue to increase. Although, as set out above, the council aims to place households in or as close to Islington as possible, where sufficient affordable accommodation is not available, it will have to seek alternative accommodation further afield.

The council therefore needs to prioritise households for properties in different locations in ways that take account of their needs. The particular focus of the policy is to prioritise allocation of accommodation in or near Islington to households with the greatest need to be housed there. These locations are grouped in bands:

- Band 1: Islington and adjacent boroughs
- Band 2: Greater London
- Band 3: Further afield.

The priority categories are designed to apply to those with compelling needs to be accommodated close to Islington or within Greater London. The needs of children and disabled people and by extension those who care for them are a particular focus of the priority categories.

Alongside this, some priority is given to working households. The council will also consider individual compelling claims to be entitled to locational priority which do not fit into the defined categories, on their own merits. Further, any offer of accommodation under the homelessness legislation is subject to an individual suitability assessment. These factors provide a safety net which allows for the consideration, for example, of cultural reasons for a particular placement which may affect certain ethnic minority households.

Proposed changes

The general trend of increasing number of homeless approaches to the council has been further exasperated as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The proposed changes have been suggested in order to meet the needs of our residents while also reducing financial expenditure.

Age - Where this is referred to, it refers to a person belonging to a particular age (e.g. 32 year olds) or range of ages (e.g. 18 - 30 year olds).

Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan

Potential health impacts (positive and negative)

There are some age ranges of the lead household member makes up the majority of homeless approaches and would therefore be subject to the be affected by changes to the policy.

Previously we had reported the age range of applicants making an approach consisted of households aged between 25-44. There is no significant change in this proportion of approaches.

Conversely, those aged over 65 are under-represented and so less likely to be directly affected. Households with children (or expecting a first child) are disproportionately represented among accepted homeless households (85%).

The proposed changes will positively benefit single residents aged between 18-35, as they will have greater access to a supply of accommodation that the council can offer. Conversely the council will be exercising the discharge of duty ability across all age ranges through the offer of one suitable offer.

Age - Children

The EIA identifies children will potentially be negatively affected if they need to move outside of Islington London. This is due to the potential requirement to start new schools, which can be disruptive particularly if they are at key exam stages. The policy and legislation however requires children taking exams not to be placed where this would affect their ability to attend schools. This also includes those attending specialist schools.

Age – Older people

Older people eligible for sheltered housing will not usually be made private rented offers. However older people could be offered temporary accommodation outside

Islington and London until this type of housing is available (although generally waits are much shorter). They may potentially be negatively impacted by this, if they have long established links to the local area and also as they are more likely to receive care and support packages which would need to be transferred.

Also they may be more likely to receive informal support, possibly from family members, which might be harder to sustain at a distance. The data shows that people in these age groups are significantly under-represented among homeless people however.

It is anticipated the good homes standard will have a positive impact upon households across all age groups as they will be able to benefit from a better standard of property.

Mitigating actions to be taken

Age – Children

Some children and families will be prioritised for in borough/adjacent borough accommodation, including:

- Households where at least one of the children has a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan, is receiving education or educational support in Islington and where it is demonstrated that a placement would be significantly detrimental to their well-being
- Households with a child where Islington Family Services has demonstrated serious concerns about the child and is working with them intensively
- Households where there is a recommendation through a joint assessment with Children's and Adult's Services
- Households which include a registered Islington Council approved foster carer who is fostering a Islington looked after child
- Households which (a) include a Islington Council approved person who is caring for a Islington looked after child, (b) include a Islington child that is subject to a Islington Special Guardianship Order or (c) have a private fostering arrangement with a carer resident in Islington where they have notified the council.

Some children and families will be prioritised for accommodation in Greater London, where a child is at their final year of Key Stage 4 (generally Year 11) or in Key Stage 5 (A levels or equivalent Level 3 vocational courses, such as BTECs, or GCSE re-sits in English and Maths) at a school or further education college in London.

Any special circumstances demonstrating a compelling need for accommodation in a certain area will be considered and this might particularly benefit children.

Resettlement support will be offered for some private rented offers. This could include help to enrol children in new schools and to find nursery places.

Support will also be offered to households moving into temporary accommodation outside London and as above this could include help to enrol children in local schools and to find nursery places.

Age – Older people

Some older households will be exempt from private rented sector offers i.e. those that are eligible for sheltered housing and disabled households needing wheelchair accessible housing.

The focus on procuring properties and with good transport connections to Islington, where possible, will help people in temporary accommodation maintain their location connections and this might be particularly important for older people.

Support will also be offered to households moving into temporary accommodation outside London and this could involve help to transfer any care and support packages.

All residents placed in temporary accommodation or placed in private accommodation provided by the council will have a suitability assessment completed which will help to identify any of the above.

Disability - A person has a disability if s/he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Only a small proportion of accepted homeless households have members needing a wheel chair adapted property or a level access property.

Overall, less than 1% of homeless households have members with a physical disability which impacts on the type of properties needed.

During the same period, the total applicants approaching with mental health or a learning disability is similar with 1%. This data relates to the main applicant and therefore it is likely that household members could be under reported. This is also reflected in the data as the majority of the applicants with mental health or learning disability are single applicants.

It is anticipated the good homes standard will have a positive impact upon households who have a disability as they will be able to benefit from a better standard of property.

Mitigating actions to be taken

We have reviewed the suitability assessment process to ensure all placements have a robust assessment completed when placed in temporary accommodation or placed in private accommodation provided by the council.

This will help to ensure any of the policy has been fully implemented and reduce unintended consequences of unsuitable placements. This must be audited at regular intervals.

The private rented sector offers policy excludes some disabled households who wouldn't be able to manage a private rented tenancy (for example, those who may

have care and support needs or a mental health condition which prevents them from managing a tenancy) and disabled households with members needing wheelchair accessible housing.

Some people with particular health problems or disabilities will be prioritised for in borough/adjacent borough accommodation, these include:

- Households where at least one member has a severe health condition or disability (including a severe mental health condition that requires intensive and specialised medical/mental health
- treatment/ aftercare that is either (a) only available in Islington or (b) where a transfer of care would create a serious risk to their safety or the sustainability of the treatment or care
- Households where at least one member is receiving support through a significant commissioned care package or package of health care options provided in Islington, where a transfer of care would create a serious risk to their safety or the sustainability of the care
- Some carers, and people being cared for, will be prioritised for in borough/adjacent borough accommodation

Resettlement support is offered to households being made private rented offers who are relocating out of London, and where needed where they are moving from Islington to another London borough. This support could include help to transfer care and support packages.

Support is also be offered to households moving into temporary accommodation outside London and as above this could include help to transfer care and support packages.

The Housing allocations scheme priorities households with physical disabilities to obtain accessible social housing. This is restricted to eligible households and therefore this will aim to meet the required need, limiting the need for a household with physical disabilities to move into private accommodation or temporary accommodation. While it is recognised the Good homes standard will generally be a positive change, there may be instances where the procurement process may involve additional amendments which would be suitable for the household. This will be processed on an individual basis.

Gender reassignment - The process of transitioning from one gender to another.

The council has begun including equalities questions about the sexual orientation and gender reassignment of the lead applicant for homeless households in the homelessness application. However, applicants can decline answering these and as this was only implemented in April 2021, it is too early to analyse any data collected.

There are no specific issues from the proposed changes which are felt could discriminate or disadvantage residents whom have undergone gender reassignment other than general matters detailed elsewhere in this report, and the significant reduction in the availability of affordable in Islington.

However that being said, transgender customers may be particularly at risk of housing crisis and homelessness arising from transphobic reaction by family, neighbours and members of the local community.

It is anticipated the Good Homes standard will have a positive impact upon households whom have undergone gender re assignment as they will be able to benefit from a better standard of property.

Mitigating actions to be taken

The focus on procuring properties in more urban areas, where their diversity as far as possible reflects that of Islington, might help to ensure there are facilities for transgender people, which may be more likely where the population is more diverse. In addition the focus on also procuring properties in areas with reasonable transport links to London might help transgender people in particular to continue to use local support services if there are fewer where they live.

Resettlement services provided to all residents placed into private and temporary accommodation to help link up with the relevant support. The Housing Needs and Strategy service has entered into a partnership with Stonewall Housing dedicated to provide support and advice to residents from the LGBTQ community. This will aim to promote the services and ensure any resident whom has gone through gender reassignment do not face any barriers to access social housing through the allocations scheme.

Marriage and civil partnership – In England and Wales marriage is no longer restricted to a union between a man and a woman but now includes a marriage between a same-sex couples. Same-sex couples can also have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must not be treated less favourably than married couples and must be treated the same as married couples on a wide range of legal matters. (Only to be considered in respect to the need to eliminate discrimination.

Our data shows that there are very little residents whom approach our service whom are married or have a civil partnership. Our current snapshot of data shows there are only 3% of households.

A joint income household will likely be able to have more disposable income. Therefore income assessments will take this into consideration when determining where an affordable property would be available in the private sector.

Lone parents are disproportionately affected by homelessness compared to their share of the population so are more likely to be affected by the policies.

The proposed changes to the policy are not likely to have an impact upon this specific group.

Pregnancy and maternity - Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection

against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.

A significant number of lead applicants from accepted households are pregnant women.

A potential move outside of the borough for a pregnant mother or mother on maternity leave may impact upon services received from the health service. This will likely require services to be transferred to the new area if moved away from the area.

Additional properties identified further afield will assist in clients being offered permanent accommodation at an earlier stage and spend less time in temporary accommodation.

In assessing the amended policies, the changes have not identified any additional direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of pregnancy or maternity.

It is anticipated the good homes standard will have a positive impact upon households with a pregnant woman or a woman on maternity leave as they will be able to benefit from a better standard of property.

Mitigating actions to be taken

Every offer of accommodation will consider the household's individual circumstances and suitability of the accommodation offered to meet their needs. Any special circumstances will be taken into account when making offers to households – taking into account if there is a compelling need for the accommodation to be in a particular location. Resettlement support will be offered to households being made private rented sector offers where they are relocating out of London and where needed when they are moving from Islington.

Support will also be offered to households moving into temporary accommodation outside London. The completion of a suitability form will be completed for all households whom move into temporary or private accommodation.

Race - Refers to the protected characteristic of Race. It refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins. N.B. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller are recognised racial groups and their needs should be considered alongside all others.

A greater proportion of homeless decisions are made for ethnic minorities and therefore the policies will have a disproportionate effect on ethnic minority households.

Islington is ethnically diverse and this is reflective in the snapshot of residents in temporary accommodation with similarity to the population of Islington.

There may also be fewer cultural facilities for some ethnic groups in locations outside London, although this would very much depend on the area where the offer was made.

Poor quality information or language problems could impact negatively. English not first language – if households are allocated a private rented home they will need to receive adequate guidance to explain the rent charged and the ability to pay.

Members of gypsy and travelling communities may be reluctant to approach the Council for help due to suspicion of official organisations.

In addition to this, a lack of understanding of homelessness in gypsy and traveller communities means that this group may not be adequately planned for.

Larger properties with three, four, five or six bedrooms are often a requirement of some racial groups and lack of availability could disadvantage some families. The additional stock anticipated from procurement work further afield will be able to meet the needs of larger families.

In assessing the amended policies, the changes have not identified any additional direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of race.

It is anticipated the Good Homes standard will have a positive impact upon households across all races as they will be able to benefit from a better standard of home.

Mitigating actions to be taken

Places will be identified for procuring properties, where their diversity as far as possible reflects that of Islington, focussing on more urban areas where there are likely to be more facilities and support networks.

This might particularly benefit households of different ethnic origins. Procurement of properties outside Islington/London will, wherever possible, be focussed on urban areas in the South East in areas with reasonable transport links to Islington – in order to help households maintain local connections. This might particularly benefit households of different ethnic origins.

Discharge into the private rented sector decisions will be monitored by ethnicity. As applicants move on in the process, progress is monitored through the iWorld Northgate housing system which enables a series of reports that monitor by relevant equality characteristics.

All literature, forms and other information is readily available in the languages most commonly used. The Service ensures that people from whatever ethnicity can compete on an equal basis; this includes Gypsy and traveller communities.

Translation services are made widely available. Islington has committed in the Homelessness Prevention and Rough sleeping strategy Action Plan to exploring factors behind BME households being over-represented as accepted homeless cases. With a better understanding it could be possible to improve prevention of homelessness in the first place.

The overall aim of this policy is to prevent homelessness and reduce the necessity for people to remain in inappropriate temporary accommodation. The delivery of the actions identified will have positive impact for BME, disabled and vulnerable, young

people and women, all of whom are over represented amongst those who are at risk of homelessness.

Religion and belief - Religion has the meaning usually given to it but belief includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief (e.g. Atheism). Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.

Homeless applicants may, for example, regularly attend a place of worship. If they are allocated a private rented sector accommodation out of the borough it may make it difficult for them to continue to attend regularly.

Whilst the detailed recording of homeless applications and housing allocations by people of different faith groups can pin point adverse trends in relation to individual faith groups, the information should be treated only as an issue for further investigation since much will depend on the respective priorities of applicants and the particular areas they are aspiring to. Therefore, close monitoring in this area is essential to identify any patterns that may arise.

Please note that religion or belief alone would not have any bearing on the ability to access services. However this could impact on a household decision to move away for the existing community.

There is no evidence of inequality taking place as a result of the council homelessness work in this area.

It is anticipated the Good Homes standard will have a positive impact upon households across all faiths as they will be able to benefit from a better standard of property.

Mitigating actions to be taken

Sex - A man or a woman.

Women are disproportionately represented among lead applicants from accepted households.

Women are also more likely to be lone parents, who are disproportionately affected by homelessness in Islington.

Women are also more likely to be carers, who can be impacted by moves away from the people they are caring for, they are also more likely to be impacted if they move outside Islington and London and have to travel greater distances to maintain that care.

People with children, and lone parents (who are more likely to be women) in particular, will potentially be negatively affected if they move outside Islington and London as they are more likely to rely on local support networks for child care arrangements.

Households with children with special educational needs, where Family Services are working with them and where children are at key exam stages could be particularly affected.

Women of a working age are less likely than men of a working age to be in employment.

Women are 8 times more likely to be a victim of domestic abuse. Therefore, obtaining accommodation further afield will enable greater choice to women whom require permanent and temporary accommodation.

In assessing the amended policies, the changes have not identified any additional direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of sex.

Women are 8 times more likely to be victims of domestic abuse. Therefore they may require specific suitable temporary accommodation. The increase in the geographical area will enable the provision of more temporary accommodation available for this client group.

Mitigating actions to be taken

Some carers (who are more likely to be women) will be prioritised for in borough/adjacent borough accommodation.

Resettlement support will be offered for private rented offers which are out of London, and for moves within London where they are needed and this could include help to register children in local schools.

Support will also be offered to households moving into temporary accommodation outside London and as above this could include help to enrol children in local schools and to find nursery places.

Provision of temporary accommodation for victims of domestic abuse. Suitability assessments are completed to ensure victims of domestic abuse are removed from the areas of risk.

Sexual orientation - Whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.

It is acknowledged that data on resident's sexual orientation has the potential to be inaccurate and on-going efforts should be made to encourage such information being given at the point of application.

While many people identify as heterosexual, many people also do not in the wider community. The Government estimates that approximately 6% of the population are gay men, lesbians or bisexuals.

Members of the LBGQTQ community may face specific barriers not currently considered, and it may be that more information about this client group is needed.

Insufficient monitoring customer engagement and feedback means that it is not possible at this time to properly evaluate with any certainty what impact the service

has and whether some customers may be disadvantaged through their sexual orientation. There is a risk albeit small, that anyone in this position could be discriminated against and this could lead to an inequality in treatment.

A survey published in 2000, National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles, concluded that 5-7% of the UK population were likely to be lesbian, gay and bisexual. There is no evidence to suggest that people in these categories are likely to be disproportionately represented among those presenting themselves as homeless.

Homeless household sexual orientation information is inadequate but moves outside London may impact on the support networks and services available to Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender (LGBTQ) groups, although there is no actual evidence of this, and it would very much depend on the location of any properties offered.

ONS data (2015) indicates that areas outside London have a smaller LGBTQ population. The proportion of the LGBTQ population in London is estimated to be 2.6% compared to 1.8% in the South East and 1.2% in the East of England. There may be impacts arising from the relative lack of support and other services designed specifically for LGBTQ people in some places outside London, but again this would very much depend on the area where the offer was made.

In assessing the policies, the changes have not identified any additional direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

It is anticipated the Good Homes standard will have a positive impact upon households across all groups as they will be able to benefit from a better standard of property.

Mitigating actions to be taken

The focus on procuring properties in more urban areas, where their diversity as far as possible reflects that of Islington, might help to ensure there are facilities for people of different sexual orientations, which might be more likely where the population is more diverse. In addition the focus on also procuring properties in areas with reasonable transport links to London might help people of different sexual orientations to continue to use support services, if there are fewer where they live

The Housing Needs and Strategy service responsible for the administration of the policies, have partnered with Stonewall Housing. This will help to continually examine the practices of the policy ensuring residents from the LGBTQ community are represented. Ensuring there is access to households from this group to access the service Stonewall Housing will focus on advice and advocacy including viewings, applying for benefits, referring to other agencies for assistance. In addition to the above, Stonewall Housing will focus upon wider community and outreach work.

It is acknowledged there is not an over representation of homeless approaches from the LGBTQ community and greater work must be completed to prevent homelessness. The Housing Needs and Strategy services will employ resettlement

officers to provide a customer care to all households placed out of the borough to ensure households have someone to contact regarding any issues.

Monitoring of this sector will enable specific issues for different segments of the population to be identified and addressed.

Human Rights

There are 16 rights in the Human Rights Act. Each one is called an Article. They are all taken from the European Convention on Human Rights. The Articles are The right to life, Freedom from torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, Freedom from forced labour, Right to Liberty, Fair trial, Retrospective penalties, Privacy, Freedom of conscience, Freedom of expression, Freedom of assembly, Marriage and family, Freedom from discrimination and the First Protocol.

There are no anticipated negative impacts on Human Rights as a result of these policies.

Mitigating actions to be taken

None at this point. Will be reviewed as appropriate.

Further actions and objectives

- Ensure regular scheduled reviews and analysis of data is recorded.
- Improve our customer insight through focus group involvement and improved data collection.
- Develop appropriate early intervention and prevention measures to address any over representation.
- Develop improved understanding of why some BAME communities are disproportionately represented within homelessness services together with the development of appropriate early intervention and prevention measures to address this over representation
- Affects of the National Covid 19 pandemic on BAME, needs particular research and action in Islington, through close monitoring and work with public health.
- Ensuring households with mental health issues are able to successfully sustain a private tenancy. Resettlement service to ensure 12 month tenancy review are completed.