

FULL EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This report should be completed after a partial EIA has been carried out and you have found that:

- a. you need better or more information, and/or
- b. you have identified an adverse impact

Please complete each of the following sections and attach any evidence required to support your conclusions.

1. Terms of Reference

Derbyshire Dales District Council's Private Sector Housing Service

The District Council's Housing Renewal Policy 2006-2009 identifies eight priorities for action which summarise the private sector housing services delivered:

- Provision of affordable housing
- Providing decent homes for vulnerable people
- Addressing category 1 hazards under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System
- Removing households from fuel poverty
- Bringing empty properties and under-used properties back into use
- Dealing with local housing problems such as radon
- Adapting homes for disabled residents
- Promoting Membership of the Landlords' Accreditation Scheme

Much of the housing renewal programme is delivered through grants using funding provided by central government.

Housing enforcement work ensures homes meet the basic legal standards contained in the Housing Act 2004.

Regular engagement also takes place with owner-occupiers, tenants and landlords to ensure private sector housing is suitable for the needs of local residents.

2. Executive Summary

There is a need to improve communication by improving the website and by working with partners to open up new channels to engage more young people with the service.

Grant schemes need to be reviewed to remove the potential for inequalities wherever possible.

Regular monitoring needs to be introduced across equalities strands and services improved as a result.

3. Background and Context

The partial (desktop) EIA was completed by lead officers for the service in liaison with the District Council's Equalities Lead officer during September 2009. The initial results from this process were considered and challenged by the Housing EIA Steering Group in October and further work undertaken to complete the initial assessment.

The findings were then presented to and discussed with stakeholders representing a wide range of equalities groups and housing organisations at a joint Housing Equality Impact Assessment day in November 2009 run by the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Local Strategic Partnership.

An independent equalities profile of the area, produced by Greenfield consultants (Sept 2007) was used to help determine priorities for action.

4. Summary of Findings

1. Limited access to information, particularly outside of the Town Hall
2. Improve communication with under-represented groups to ensure all eligible beneficiaries access the service
3. Potential inequalities within individual grant schemes for particular equalities groups i.e. parents of disabled children with access rights and same sex couples
4. Lack of equalities monitoring and need for continued support to help staff better understand the needs of vulnerable people

5. Conclusion

1. a) Provide on-line access to grant enquiry forms and guidance and improve website content
b) Issue summary information to First Stop Shops at Ashbourne and Bakewell and brief staff to provide basic signposting advice
2. a) Identify partner agencies to help develop communication channels with young people and provide summary information to promote the service
b) Implement a referral system with key partners
c) Arrange annual housing forum to inform, evaluate and improve service delivery (SHARED ACTION)
3. a) Formalise arrangements with DCC Social Services for assessing the needs of parents with access to disabled children and securing funding to purchase portable equipment
b) Review Housing Renewal Policy and grant criteria to ensure same sex couples are treated equally
4. a) Add appropriate questions to grant application forms to monitor the service by equalities strands (SHARED ACTION)
b) Carry out biennial assessment of equalities training needs for staff (SHARED ACTION)

See Housing Equalities Action Plan for further details.

6. Monitoring

Actions and equalities outcomes to be monitored quarterly by Derbyshire Dales District Council's Community Services Departmental Management Team and progress to be reported bi-annually to Corporate Improvement Team.

Progress to be included in annual equalities report to the District Council and to the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak LSP Board.