

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 Strategic Housing Service

The key function of the service is to produce a housing strategy which identifies the key issues facing the area and the actions to be taken to tackle these issues. The Housing Strategy for 2005-2009 (under review) has three main priorities:

- Improving the supply of and access to affordable housing (through enabling and development work to secure general needs housing and supported housing for vulnerable people)
- Creating new supported housing services for vulnerable people (by developing new schemes and securing funding)
- Remedying poor housing conditions (Housing Renewal Policy covered under Private Sector Housing EIA)

The service prioritises rural areas, older people, people with physical disabilities and mental illness and aims to provide homes which are designed for the needs of the particular client.

2. Executive Summary

There is a need to develop future housing policies to improve provision for older people and people with disabilities.

Information produced by the service needs to be improved and better used to enhance service delivery and impact.

Domestic violence data and services delivered in partnership in the area should be reviewed to identify the need for further intervention.

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. The future housing strategy should focus more on the needs of the growing elderly population and people with disabilities
2. Make better use of available information on the characteristics and needs of customers, particularly when developing initiatives to support vulnerable older people
3. Avoid segregation, promote integration and access to services when planning housing schemes
4. Limited understanding of whether the needs of all those fleeing domestic violence are being met
5. Limited access to information for service users

5. Conclusion

1. a) Include a policy in the new Single Conversation Investment Plan (future housing strategy) requiring all new publicly funded housing schemes on accessible sites to include homes built to the 'Life Time Homes' Standard
b) Seek to incorporate policy relating to Lifetime Homes into the emerging Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Joint Core Strategy
2. Produce overall annual assessment of the housing needs of vulnerable people (as defined by Home Options) for use in evaluating the impact of existing services and developing new services, and, consult with key agencies and local equalities groups to identify any gaps
3. a) Include a policy in the Single Conversation Investment Plan to encourage all publicly funded housing schemes on accessible sites to exceed the Building for Life Standard
b) Seek to incorporate policy relating to Building for Life into the emerging Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Joint Core Strategy
4. Work with other partners in Derbyshire providing Domestic Violence services to review the extent of need, available data, local provision and promotion of available services and identify any further partnership actions required
5. Update and improve information available on the website to include details of planned housing developments; affordability; homelessness and local need at ward level

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.