



Please refer to Ryedale District Council's Single Equality Scheme 2010-2013 when completing Equality Impact Assessments.

Policy/Strategy/Service Owner	Housing Services Manager
Name of policy, strategy, function or service being assessed	Homelessness Strategy
New policy/function/service or review of an existing one?	Review of Existing Strategy
This issue date:	March 2015
Review date (if applicable):	March 2020
Assessors:	<i>Jo Marriott , Lorraine Gould</i>

Stage 1 – Identifying the aims and objectives of the policy, strategy, function or service

1.1 Aim(s)

The aim of this strategy is to increase homelessness prevention across Ryedale with early intervention key. The Council will strive to ensure that it provides and maintains current services to meet the housing and support needs of people facing the potential loss of their home.

1.2 Objectives

- *To meet the Council's statutory duty to produce a homelessness review and strategy once every five years.*
- *To present a full picture of the reasons for homelessness in the district and the groups of people most likely to become homeless.*
- *To set out a plan for working with stakeholders.*
- *To maximise resources for preventing and tackling homelessness and to present a case for increasing resources.*
- *To prioritise resources for the groups most in need of assistance.*
- *To decrease the number of households applying for assistance under homelessness legislation.*
- *To decrease the number of households living in temporary accommodation and ensure the availability of good quality temporary accommodation.*
- *To use resources more effectively. For to only use expensive bed and breakfast accommodation in an emergency and allow greater use of more cost-effective housing*

options such as the private rented sector.

- *To produce better outcomes for homeless households, enabling them to live in accommodation suitable for their needs with appropriate support if required.*
- *To increase the supply of affordable housing*
- *To decrease the incidents of young people's homelessness*
- *To improve access and promote awareness of existing support services in order to prevent homelessness*

1.3 Scope

- People/households entitled to assistance under homelessness legislation.
- People/households unintentionally homeless but without priority need.
- People/households most susceptible to becoming homeless. The action plan is structured around objectives for each of the following groups:- tenants of the private rented sector, young families, young people, victims of domestic violence, ex offenders, ex service personnel, residents in temporary accommodation, people with special needs including learning disabilities and physical disabilities, single people who are non-priority homeless, gypsies and travellers, foreign nationals, speakers of languages other than English, LGBT community, older people, black minority ethnic people

1.4 Other policies, strategies, functions or services linked to or affected

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- Ryedale Housing Strategy
- Choice-based lettings Allocations Policy
- Ryedale Private Sector Housing Strategy
- Ryedale Empty Homes Strategy
- The Local Plan
- The Corporate Business Plan
- North Yorkshire Homelessness Strategy
- North Yorkshire, York and East Riding Housing Strategy
- Yorkshire Housing Tenancy Strategy
- All local Policies and Strategies agreed at the North Yorkshire County Homeless Group

1.6 Stakeholders

- *Homeless and potentially homeless households,*
- *The Housing Options Team*
- *The Private Sector Housing Team*
- *The Housing Benefit Team*
- *Adult Social Care*
- *Children's Social Care*
- *Community Mental Health Team*
- *Youth Services*
- *Yorkshire Housing Choice Based Letting Team*
- *Yorkshire Housing Neighbourhood Team*
- *Other Registered providers*
- *North Yorkshire Police*
- *North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue*
- *The National Probation Service*
- *Ryedale Citizen's Advice Bureau*
- *Stonham Homestay*
- *Foundation*
- *Domestic Abuse Services*
- *Making Safe Scheme*

- Ryedale YMCA
- Derwent Lodge
- Private Landlords
- Members of Ryedale Homelessness Forum
- North Yorkshire Horizons
- Compass Reach
- Children's Centre
- York and North Yorkshire NHS Foundation Trust
- Developing Stronger Families Group
- Horton Housing Gateway
- Safer Ryedale
- Hope Central
- Ryedale Foodbank
- Salvation Army
- NYCC local education authority

1.7 Methods of measuring progress against objectives

Progress will be measured against targets set in the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan and will be reviewed by the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group quarterly.

Stage 2 – Considering the relevant data and information

	Source (plus link if electronic)	Brief description
2.1	<i>Public web site – Ryedale in Statistics</i>	<i>Demographic make-up of the area</i>
	<i>P1E</i>	Homelessness statistics produced by the Housing Options Team and collated by central government showing number of homelessness people in the Ryedale area and number of people whose homelessness has been prevented. Detailed information is collated regarding the circumstances leading to homelessness and household composition including ethnicity
	<i>Results of consultation with Housing Options Clients</i>	Analysis of client surveys of people who have been advised by the Housing Options Team
	<i>Results of consultation with clients who have been accommodated in temporary accommodation</i>	Analysis of client surveys of people who have been accommodated in temporary accommodation
	<i>Results of stakeholder survey</i>	A partner consultation event was held, hosted by the Housing Options Team and attendees were encouraged to suggest ideas about new ways of providing services in the area, gaps in services locally and what they felt priorities should be for homelessness services
	<i>Results of consultation with residents of Supported Accommodation</i>	Analysis of client surveys completed by residents of Derwent Lodge

	<i>Homelessness Strategy Steering Group Meetings</i>	Meetings were held with key partner agencies to inform the review of the Strategy held in 2014, this group is still in place and advises on an 'ad hoc' basis and contributes in ongoing consultation
	<i>Housing Forum Quarterly Meeting – Minutes available</i>	The Housing Forum is attended by a range of agencies working with clients in the Ryedale area with an interest in housing issues

Stage 3 – Assess the actual or likely impact on equality taking into account the protected characteristics.
<p>Protected Characteristics <i>Protected characteristics covered by:</i> <i>All forms of discrimination - Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex, Sexual Orientation</i> <i>Direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, victimisation – Marriage & Civil Partnerships</i> <i>Direct Discrimination, victimisation – Pregnancy & Maternity</i></p>
<p>We have analysed our data to understand the drivers of homelessness and to identify any client groups who may be unrepresented in order to ensure that resources are targeted accordingly. By working closely with NYCC's Supporting People Team Housing Options has ensured that specialised support services have been provided for those at risk of domestic abuse, perpetrators of domestic abuse, gypsies and travellers, young people, ex- offenders.</p> <p>We recognise that there are gaps in services and the strategy is aiming to address this e.g. we are seeking further funding in order to provide a special Housing Options worker for older people.</p>
<p>Socio-Economic <i>The Socio-economic Duty on public bodies - Ministers are considering how to implement this provision in the best way for business and for others with rights and responsibilities under the Act. Their decisions will be announced in due course. Inclusion and consideration of this category is recommended best practice.</i></p>
<p><i>The demography of Ryedale shows that there is a larger proportion of older people than nationally, some have a higher than an average income, conversely many younger people in the area and families struggle to access affordable housing. House prices locally in Ryedale are high when compared with average earnings.</i> <i>Fuel poverty affects many households in Ryedale due to the absence of main gas and expense of other forms of fuel in rural areas of the district.</i> <i>Ryedale is one of the most sparsely populated areas of Yorkshire and Humber and those on a low income are often forced to migrate to market towns where there are facilities and work opportunities, as public transport services and facilities have been cut severely in rural areas putting additional pressure on the 5 main centres of population (Malton, Norton, Pickering, Helmsley, Kirkbymoorside)..</i></p>
<p>Future Barriers <i>Will implementation of this policy/strategy/function or service potentially create any future barriers to equality.</i></p>

<p>The whole aim of this Strategy is to remove any barriers which may reduce access to services for some identified groups of the community.</p> <p>The Homelessness Strategy has taken into consideration the fact that our services are Geographically based in Malton at Ryedale House and there is lack of provision in other parts of the district. This location discriminates against members of the community who may be financially or otherwise unable to easily access the building at Ryedale House (the building itself is fully DDA compliant).</p> <p>Not all residents in the Ryedale area have access to the internet or the skills to use online services, during future reviews of the Strategy this will be a key consideration and services will be put in place in order to ensure social inclusion by offering additional assistance.</p>
<p>Consideration of Alternatives to the Proposal and Outcomes</p>
<p>This is a statutory requirement.</p>
<p>Consultation <i>Method and details of consultation, links to any relevant documentation</i></p>
<p>As above</p>
<p>List of consultees: <i>Staff Forum, Community Forum, Unions, Community Groups, Businesses etc</i></p>
<p>Residents in Temp Accommodation Staff Partner Agencies Service users Third Sector Organisations</p>
<p>Issues raised from consultation:</p>
<p>Rurality Lack of affordable housing Lack of 1 beds and shared houses for single people Work in schools to education about homelessness Welfare reform Low income households Links to health services</p>

<p>Stage 4 – Decision making & action planning</p>
<p>Overall impact of policy/strategy/function or service <i>Where equality issues have been identified, give details of justification or plans to mitigate the effects</i></p>
<p>The Homelessness Strategy has taken into consideration the fact that our services are Geographically based in Malton at Ryedale House and there is lack of provision in other parts of the district. This location discriminates against members of the community who may be financially or otherwise unable to easily access the building at Ryedale House (the building itself is fully DDA compliant).</p> <p>Not all residents in the Ryedale area have access to the internet or the skills to use online services, during future reviews of the Strategy this will be a key consideration and services will be put in place in order to ensure social inclusion by offering additional assistance.</p>

Decision
To implement future plans for improved access to services as discussed in Section 3. To follow agreed guidance as to review procedure. To continue to monitor the success of the Strategy through the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group and consultation with staff, services user and partner agencies.
Communicating the Results <i>Details of how and where this Equality Impact Assessment will be published</i>
We will inform all stakeholders of the existence of this assessment and distribute it where requested.
Contact point for questions or advice regarding the policy, strategy, function or service
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