



## Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

### Step 1

Name of Proposal

**Transfer of the Homelessness Service to Angus Health and Social Partnership**

### Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment **No**

**(B)** If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment **Yes**

Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment **No**

### Step 3

(i)Lead Directorate/Service: **Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth,  
Housing**

(ii)Are there any **relevant** statutory requirements affecting this proposal? If so, please describe.

The powers and duties of local authorities in dealing with applications made under the grounds of homelessness are set out in Part II of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 (as amended by the 2001, 2003 and 2010 Acts).

The Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, as amended up to and including the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 sets out the legal framework in which social landlords must allocate housing which includes those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

(iv)Is it a new proposal? **No** Please indicate **OR**

Is it a review of e.g. an existing budget saving, report, strategy, policy, service review, procedure or function? **Yes** Please indicate

This is a review and transfer of the Homelessness Service from Angus Council to AHSCP changing how homelessness services are delivered within Angus.

**Step 4: Which people does your proposal involve or have consequences for?**

Please indicate all which apply:

Employees	<b>Yes</b>
Job Applicants	<b>Yes</b>
Service users	<b>Yes</b>
Members of the public	<b>Yes</b>

**Step 5: List the evidence/data/research that has been used in this assessment (links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance). This could include:**

**Internal data** (e.g. customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).

Internal housing data and performance reports were used for this update along with Scottish Government returns in relation to homelessness in Scotland.

**Internal consultation** (e.g. with staff, trade unions and any other services affected).

Staff and trade unions were consulted on the proposals, as these were new posts which were created, no current employees were at risk from their current role and all staff had the opportunity to apply for these posts where they met the person specification. Other services who are involved in supporting homeless households in Angus were also consulted and invited to input into the development sessions in relation to the Transfer of the service.

**External data** (e.g. Census, equality reports, equality evidence finder, performance reports, research, available statistics)

Scottish Government Data on Homelessness

**External consultation** (e.g. partner organisations, national organisations, community groups, other councils).

**Step 6: Evidence Gaps.**

Are there any gaps in the equality information you currently hold? **Yes/No**

If yes, please state what they are, and what measures you will take to obtain the evidence you need.

**Step 7: Are there potential differential impacts on protected characteristic groups?** Please complete for each group, including details of the potential impact on those affected. Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

**Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each group. Please state the reason(s) why.**

Age

**Impact**

Positive, 30% of homeless applications in 2022/23 were from young people aged between 16 and 25. A more dedicated service will allow for more preventative approach to young people facing homeless situations in Angus.

Disability

**Impact**

Positive. A more dedicated service will allow for a more preventative approach which may see positive impacts, the new service will also be more closely aligned with other AHSCP mental health services which it is hoped will have a positive impact for homeless people suffering severe and enduring mental health concerns.

Marriage and Civil Partnership

**Impact**

Positive. Relationship breakdown continues to be the most common reason for homeless applications, 47% of applications in 2022/23 cited the breakdown of a relationship or being asked to leave family or friends' homes. Several actions have been identified through our Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) to address homelessness as a result of marriage/relationship breakdown which will support the new service when dealing with homeless applications for those facing a relationship breakdown.

Pregnancy/Maternity

**Impact**

Neutral. The service will continue to improve services to all those who become threatened with homeless or who become homeless, regardless of pregnancy and maternity.

Race - (includes Gypsy Travellers)

**Impact**

Positive. The transfer of the homelessness service aims to improve services to all those who become threatened with homeless or who become homeless, regardless of race. The Homeless, prevention and Solutions Team will ensure there are pathway plans (or agree plans as quickly as possible) to prevent homelessness for the settled population as well as those who may at higher risk of homelessness because of a protected characteristic such as migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and gypsy/travellers.

Religion or Belief

**Impact**

Positive. The transfer of the homelessness service aims to improve services to all those who become threatened with homeless or who become homeless, regardless of religion or belief. The Homeless, prevention and Solutions Team will ensure there are pathway plans (or agree plans as quickly as possible) to prevent homelessness for the settled population as well as those who may at higher risk of homelessness because of a protected characteristic such as migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

Sex

**Impact**

Positive. There are relatively equal proportions of homeless applications made from males and females (50.2% males; 49.7% females). However females are disproportionately represented in the number of applications received as a result of domestic violence. We are committed to reviewing the delivery of services aimed at preventing homelessness for women and children experiencing domestic or sexual abuse in line with the recommendations from the Change, Justice, Fairness Report, this is clearly identified in the new customer pathways which have been established.

Sexual orientation

**Impact**

Neutral. The Homelessness, Prevention and Solution will continue to aim to improve services to all those who become threatened with homeless or who become homeless, regardless of sexual orientation.

**Step 8: Consultation with any of the groups potentially affected**

If you have consulted with any group potentially affected, please give details of how this was done and what the results were.

If you have not consulted with any group potentially affected, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating action of any negative impact (Step 9)?

N/A

**Step 9: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce potentially negative impacts?**

A service level agreement is in place between Angus Council (Housing Service) and AHSCP. Quarterly review meetings will be scheduled in line with the SLA. These are currently being undertaken monthly during the initial phases of the transfer. A risk assessment is also included as part of the SLA in order to highlight risks and take immediate action should there be concerns around meeting our statutory duties in relation to homelessness. Quality assurance checks will also be undertaken on a monthly basis on homeless applications to ensure applicants are being assessed and decision being made are correct and in line with legislation and the code of guidance. The Housing regulator is also closely monitoring our service to homeless people due to the transfer of the homelessness service.

**Step 10: If a potentially negative impact has been identified, please state below the justification.**

N/A

**Step 11: In what way does this proposal contribute to any or all of the public sector equality duty to: eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics?**

The proposals advance equality because they support people who may have protected characteristics to support needs, homeless or at risk of homelessness, to access housing quickly, with the right level of support and security. All members of Angus communities irrespective of their protected characteristics will be treated fairly and free from discrimination.

**Step 12: Is there any action which could be taken to advance equalities in relation to this proposal?**

No.

**Step 13: FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY**

This step is only applicable to **strategies** which are key, high level decisions. If your proposal is **not** a strategy, please leave this Step blank, and go to Step 14.

Links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance.

**Step 13(A) What evidence do you have about any socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome in relation to this strategic issue?**

**Step 13(B) Please state if there are any gaps in socio-economic evidence for this strategy and how you will take measures to gather the evidence you need.**

**Step 13(C) Are there any potential impacts this strategy may have specifically on the undernoted groupings?** Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

**Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each grouping.**

**Low and/or No Wealth** (e.g. those with enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future).

**Impact**

**Material Deprivation** (i.e. those unable to access basic goods and services e.g. repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies).

**Impact**

**Area Deprivation** (i.e. where people live (e.g. rural areas), or where they work (e.g. accessibility of transport)).

**Impact**

**Socio-economic Background** i.e. social class including parents' education, people's employment and income.

**Impact**

**Other** – please indicate

**Step 13(D) Please state below if there are measures which could be taken to reduce socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome.**

**Step 14: What arrangements will be put in place to monitor and review the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?**

This will be reviewed through the service level agreement and monthly monitoring meetings between the Housing Service and the AHSCP

**Step 15: Where will this Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment be published?**

Angus Council Website

**Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation.** Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Claire Greenhill (Sustainable Communities). 29/08/23

Reviewed by: Lynne Warburton, Team Leader Housing. 04/09/23

Approved by: Catherine Johnson, Service Leader Housing. 06.09.23

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