

## Appendix 3: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

### Summary Equality Impact Assessment

Equality Strand	Affected?	Affected how?	Actions to mitigate impact
<b>1. Age</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	Younger residents are more at risk of homelessness than older residents.	Barnet Homes will improve the remit of the family mediation service to provide a more tailored service for younger people at risk of homelessness. A joint protocol is now in operation for 16-17 year olds at risk of homelessness between Housing Options and Family Services. Support for care leavers is provided through Family Services Onwards and Upwards team. The Council is also increasing the supply of affordable housing by using its own assets to develop more affordable housing across the borough.
<b>2. Disability</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	There is a shortage of housing in Barnet that is adapted for those with disabilities, especially for wheelchair accessibility.	The strategy has identified the need to procure more wheelchair accessible, affordable temporary accommodation to better meet housing needs. There are number of wheelchair accessible units available at the Council's Friern Barnet Hostel.
<b>3. Gender re-assignment</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stonewall found no adverse impact of gender on homelessness, and Barnet Homes does not collate data on this.	The council will aim to improve its data collection on this issue to capture more detailed information.
<b>4. Pregnancy and maternity</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In 2017/18, Barnet had 6 applicants who were pregnant and each was provided with appropriate accommodation.	Under the Homelessness Act 2002, Pregnant Women or those with children are classed as a 'priority need' group and are supported with their Homelessness Applications where appropriate by the Housing Options Team.
<b>5. Race/Ethnicity</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	Higher proportion of BAME groups applying and being accepted as homeless (63%) than in the general population (39%).	BOOST (Burnt Oak Opportunity Support Team) helps people find work which enables households to access a wider range of housing options in Barnet.
<b>6. Religion/Belief</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barnet Homes does not collect data on the religion or belief of clients submitting a homelessness application.	The council will aim to improve its data collection on this issue to capture more detailed information.
<b>7. Gender/Sex</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	The largest single homelessness priority need groups is attributed to single female applicants with a dependent child.	A range of services are offered to single parent households on a low income by the Council which include welfare and benefits advice, support through locality hubs and referrals into key agencies.
<b>8. Sexual orientation</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barnet Homes does not collect data on sexual orientation in homelessness applications.	The council will aim to improve its data collection on this issue to capture more detailed information.
<b>9. Marital Status</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	In 2017/18, over one-third of households accepted as homeless in Barnet were lone parent families, most being lone females.	The Council has set up a dedicated team to provide targeted support for singles and families. There is also discretion offered in the council's Housing

			Allocation Scheme for community contribution for eligible single parent households.
<b>10. Carers</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		The council will aim to improve its data collection on this issue to capture more detailed information.
<b>11. People with mental health issues</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	During 2017/18, there were 30 households who submitted a homelessness application with mental health being a priority of need, all of whom were suitably accommodated.	A complex mental health support worker has been recruited to provide support.
<b>12. Some families and lone parents</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	Lone parents are at a greater risk of becoming homeless.	The Welfare Reform Task Force works with lone parents through strategic use of Discretionary Housing Payment and signposting to locality hubs and other organisations as well as helping individuals get into better paid employment opportunities.
<b>13. People with a low income</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	Those on low incomes are more likely to be at risk of homelessness.	To support this group, both BOOST and the Welfare Reform Task Force offer support with claiming benefits, securing better employment and offer training on budgeting and digital support.
<b>14. Unemployed people</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>		To support this group, both BOOST and the Welfare Reform Task Force offer support with claiming benefits, securing employment and offer training on budgeting and digital support.
<b>15. Young people not in employment, education or training</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	Young people, especially NEETs, are at greater risk of becoming homeless.	BOOST is increasing the support offered to help young, unemployed individuals.

**1. Please give full explanation for how the overall assessment and outcome was decided.**

The overall impact of the strategy on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010, as well as Barnet's Fairness Agenda, is positive. The outcome of this assessment is based on the above table and the in-depth evidence base. The Homelessness Reduction Act places new duties around homelessness prevention on local authorities to provide advice and assistance at an earlier stage. Under legislation previously in place, those not deemed to be in "priority need" of assistance could only access advice and support. The Act has changed this, with anyone at risk of becoming homelessness within 56 days now provided with a housing plan and those homeless and eligible with accommodation. The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy sets out how Barnet will address changes in legislation and reduce homelessness whilst benefitting residents.