

WATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY: ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTS ON FURTHERING EQUALITY AIMS

1. Introduction

This report presents the findings of an analysis of the potential impacts of furthering Equality Aims in the Watford Homelessness Review and Strategy. The analysis aims to ensure that the review and strategy take into account the needs and aspirations of a wide range of groups and does not lead to unlawful discrimination upon any individual or group.

It should be noted that the remit of the Homelessness Review and Strategy does not encompass the full range of services available to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness in Watford. This remit consists of identifying “gaps” in provision and assessing the impact of new or expanded services in furthering equality aims. Outside the scope of the strategy, and therefore not covered by this Equality Analysis, are aspects such as the day to day running of the Housing Service, implementation of homelessness legislation, and projects set up under previous homelessness strategies.

2. Report methodology

The methodology to be used in the production of the Homelessness Review and Strategy Equality Impact Analysis is based on guidance published by Watford Borough Council. In line with this guidance, this report will assess the positive and negative impact of the proposals included within the Homelessness Review and Strategy in respect of the “protected characteristics” set out in the Equality Act 2010. These are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sex (gender)
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and civil partnership

The assessment considers the impact of the Homelessness Review and Strategy in order to:

- Identify the needs of equality groups
- Identify the positive impacts of the proposed strategy
- Identify the adverse impacts of the proposed strategy
- Identify proportionate and reasonable mitigation measures that need to be incorporated into the strategy to reduce or eradicate significant adverse impacts.

This will be established by:

- Awareness of the relevant national, regional and local legislation and policy with regard to equality issues.
- Consultation with a wide range of homelessness services who are stakeholders in the development and allocation of affordable housing for rent in Watford.

Because of the discrete level of resources for preventing and tackling homelessness, the homelessness strategy and action plan will focus upon only the most urgent and widespread homelessness causes and issues. The principles upon which high priority for resources and action have been chosen are:

- High numbers of households experiencing particular types of homelessness in Watford.
- Identified gaps in provision for particular groups.
- Identified ability of certain projects to have a high impact in preventing or tackling homelessness.
- Capacity of project leads to make progress.

The homelessness strategy action plan will be reviewed and updated annually. Each year high priority homelessness causes and issues will be included in the action plan and specific tasks will be assigned to them. The homelessness causes and issues which will be included in the action plan in 2013/2014, and which will be the subject of this analysis, will be:-

- a) Households homeless because of parental eviction.
- b) Households homeless because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy.
- c) Households in temporary accommodation.
- d) Single persons with an element of vulnerability.

Impacts have been compiled into tables in section 6 of the report, as per Watford Borough Council's guidelines, with impacts noted per group and classified as positive, neutral or negative. There is then a description of the reason for that classification and details of the proposed mitigation of the impact, if necessary.

3. Local and National policies

A variety of national legislation underpins the requirement and need to carry out an equality impact analysis for the proposed Watford Homelessness Review and Strategy. This legislation highlights how equality is increasingly recognised as a fundamental part of the policy-making process, while also requiring organisations to adopt a more proactive approach to promoting equality of opportunity across a variety of projects including those to the built environment.

The Equality Act brings together all the existing strands of equality and discrimination legislation and provides a much clearer picture of existing law, extending it to cover some anomalies in existing discrimination law, and creating a stronger set of obligations on public bodies to promote equality.

National legislation underpins Watford Borough Council's local policy which is set out in the Single Equality Scheme 2010-2013. The primary aspiration of this policy is to create and maintain a borough in which each person has an equal entitlement and access to quality services and employment opportunities, irrespective of their race, religion or belief, disability, age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, family circumstances, marital status or financial status. The policy sets out its commitment to:

- Promote the principles and practices of equality throughout the council and the borough, as well as with appropriate multi-agency partnerships.
- Implement clear internal policies and procedures to address inequality and ensure that all employees and service users are not discriminated against on the basis of race, gender, disability, age, religion and belief, gender reassignment or sexual orientation.
- Challenge when unfair discrimination and harassment is seen.
- Promote good relations between people of different races.
- Promote equality of opportunity for disabled people, and between men and women.
- Promote equality of opportunity for people of all ages, sexual orientation, religions or belief.
- Undertake effective and meaningful consultation and encourage active community participation and involvement in decisions.
- Ensure that recruitment procedures provide equality of access for all staff and local communities.
- Assess, monitor and evaluate the implementation of access for all policies through Equality Impact Assessments, making appropriate adjustments where necessary.

Consultation and this Equalities Impact Assessment are required stages of the process to ensure Watford Borough Council meets its duties under The Equality Act 2010.

4. Project background and description

Main purpose of the strategy

The Homelessness Review and Strategy sets out the Council's plans for preventing and tackling homelessness. It includes an action plan giving details of how we will work with our partners to prevent homelessness and, in cases where this is not possible, ensure the best possible outcomes for homeless people. The action plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

The main stakeholders of the policy are:

- People seeking housing or related advice
- People threatened with homelessness or who are actually homeless.
- Staff within the Council's Housing Service, Environment Services and Planning departments.
- Partner organisations and agencies.

It is Watford Borough Council's responsibility to develop and publish a homelessness strategy. Various partner agencies have agreed to share responsibility for implementing the action plan.

The definition of Homelessness

Under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 homelessness is defined as follows:
"A person is defined as homeless if he has no accommodation suitable for his occupation in the United Kingdom or elsewhere which he is entitled to occupy by virtue of an interest in it or by virtue of an order of a Court. A person is also homeless if he has accommodation but cannot secure entry to it, or it is not reasonable for him to occupy. A person is threatened with homelessness if it is likely that he will become homeless within 28 days.

The duty of local authorities to produce a Homelessness Review and Strategy

Under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 and the Homelessness Act 2002 every local authority has a duty to assist persons and households who are homeless. Under the Homelessness Act 2002 all local housing authorities must have in place a homelessness strategy which is based on all forms of homelessness in their district. It must be renewed at least every five years. The strategy must set out the local authority's plans for the prevention of homelessness and for securing that sufficient accommodation and support are or will be available for people who became homeless or are at risk of doing so. (*Homelessness Code of Guidance 2006*).

What is a Homelessness Review?

Under the Homelessness Act 2002, Homelessness Reviews are described as follows:

(1) For the purposes of the Act, "homelessness review" means a review by a local housing authority of:-

- (a) The levels, and likely future levels, of homelessness in their district.*
- (b) The activities which are carried out for any purpose linked to any this purpose, or which contribute to their achievement; and*

(c) *The resources available to the authority, the social services authority for their district, other public authorities, voluntary organisations and other persons for such activities.*

(2) *Those purpose are for:*

(a) *preventing homelessness in the district of their authority*

(b) *securing that accommodation is or will be available or people in the district who are or may become homeless.*

(c) *providing support for people in the district:*

(i) *who are or may become homeless; or*

(ii) *who have been homeless and need support to prevent them becoming homeless again.”*

What is a Homelessness Strategy?

For the purposes of the Homelessness Act 2002, “homelessness strategy” means a strategy formulated by a local housing authority for

(a) *preventing homelessness in their district;*

(b) *securing that sufficient accommodation is and will be available for people in their district who are or may become homeless;*

(c) *securing the satisfactory provision of support for people in their district:*

(i) *who are or who may become homeless;*

(ii) *who have been homeless and need support to prevent them becoming homeless again.*

A homelessness strategy may include specific objectives to be pursued, and specific action planned to be taken, in the course of the exercise of:

(a) *the functions of the authority as a local housing authority;*

(b) *the functions of the social services authority for the district.*

A homelessness strategy may also include provision relating to specific action which the authority expects to be taken:

(a) *by any public authority with functions mentioned which are capable of contributing to the achievement of any of the objectives mentioned above.*

(b) *by any voluntary organisation or other person whose activities are capable of contributing to the achievement of any of the objectives mentioned above.*

Written procedures to enable the delivery of this strategy

Homelessness legislation and the Council’s nominations policy are relevant to the implementation of the strategy. Partner organisations will have their own policies and procedures, which will also have an impact e.g. assessment policies for hostel places.

Areas of activity which are governed by discretionary powers

The Council’s homelessness duties, covering people whom the Council has a duty to rehouse, are covered by legislation. However, the homelessness strategy action plan includes a number of projects and service areas outside of this statutory duty where an element of discretion will be exercised. This

includes partnership projects where the Council has varying amounts of influence over the criteria set by other organisations. It is usual practice for the Housing Service to request regular monitoring information to ensure that any projects we have commissioned are on target and accessible to different groups within the community.

How the Strategy is associated with other Council policies and strategies

The Homelessness Review and Strategy are linked to the following existing or forthcoming Council-related policies and strategies:

- The Watford Borough Council Corporate Plan 2013-2017
- One Watford: Watford Sustainable Community Strategy
- The Watford Council Nominations Policy
- The Watford Council Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy
- The Watford Council Housing Strategy
- The Watford Tenancy Strategy 2012-2015

Contexts: national and local

Watford is a local authority area in which there is considerable demand for both market and social housing. Because a large number of households are unable to afford market housing, the demand for affordable housing, either rented or low cost home ownership, is considerable.

The Watford Homelessness Review and Strategy has been introduced against a background of major change in terms of:-

The Localism Act 2011 – The main changes introduced by this Act are:

- Local authorities will have the freedom to determine who will go on their housing register.
- Local authorities will have the flexibility to bring the homelessness duty to an end with an offer of privately rented accommodation. They will not require the household's consent for this.
- Registered providers will have the power to offer flexible tenancies to new social housing tenants. A flexible tenancy is a tenancy for a fixed term. The Localism Act states that it should not be for less than five years.

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 – this legislation introduces some major changes to the way in which benefits are paid and the level at which they are paid. The changes which have most relevance to the Watford Tenancy Strategy are:

- *Housing-related benefit cuts for under-occupation* – from April 2013 households who are benefit dependent and who are assessed as under-occupying their homes will have their housing-related benefit cut by a percentage rate set at 14% for those with one unused bedroom and 25% for those with two unused bedrooms.

- *Benefit caps* – From April 2013 a total cap will be introduced on the amount of benefits to which any individual or couple is entitled to. This may lead to a shortfall in the housing-related benefit available to meet the cost of rents.

Working with private landlords

- The Localism Act now allows local housing authorities to discharge their duty under homelessness legislation with an offer of privately rented accommodation

Single homeless people in Watford

- Watford remains a hub for services for single people in housing need. The number of single homeless people is increasing, due partly to restrictions to Local Housing Allowance for single people aged under 35. Partners report an increase in the number of homeless single women, and an increase in the number of homeless single people aged between 40 and 60.

In-migration to Watford

- Watford saw an 11.3% increase in its population between 2001 and 2011. The population is likely to continue to increase due to in-migration, potentially from London and from European Union countries.

Overcrowding

- The Census 2011 identified that there had been a trend of increased overcrowding in Watford between 2001 and 2011. This takes three main forms: one family living in overcrowded housing; a “hidden household” within a main household which is seeking its own home; and single people living within one dwelling.

“New” client groups emerging

- This may include young people leaving university with debt who are unable to afford housing costs in Watford.

5. Consultation Methods

Stakeholder consultation exercises

Two special stakeholder events on the homelessness review and strategy took place on 21 March and 4 July 2013. The homelessness review and strategy has been circulated to the following individuals and organisations:

- All Watford Borough Council’s Elected Members
- Watford Borough Council Environmental Health Team
- Watford Borough Council Housing Benefits Team
- Three Rivers Council
- Hertfordshire County Council – Accommodation Solutions Team
- Watford Community Housing Trust

- Hightown Praetorian and Churches Housing Association
- Aldywck Housing Association
- Thrive Homes
- Sanctuary Housing
- Home Group
- Origin Housing Association
- St Mungo's
- Watford Citizens Advice Bureau
- Watford Job Centre Plus
- Watford New Hope Trust
- Watford YMCA
- Watford GROW
- Herts Young Homeless
- Watford's Women's Centre
- Watford's Children's Centre

The Housing Team has responded to all recommendations made by stakeholder organisations in the consultation exercise.

Monitoring data and research

The Housing Team has compiled information on the protected characteristic groups from the following sources in order to assist the analysis:

- Housing Register figures
- Monitoring figures on households seen by the Prevention and Advice Team.
- P1E form statistics on homelessness decisions, acceptances and reasons for homelessness.
- Monitoring exercises on households in temporary accommodation.
- Monitoring figures on households using the Nightshelter and other emergency accommodation services.
- Monitoring figures on female homelessness
- A research project on households made homeless by Parental Eviction.
- A research project on households made homeless by the ending of a privately rented tenancy.
- A meeting with the Residents Focus Group at the YMCA.

6. The Impact Analysis

The assessment is being carried out on the proposed Watford Homelessness Review and Strategy. The review and strategy incorporates the aim of providing a service by which households who are actually or potentially homeless are offered appropriate assistance. The review and strategy will enable Watford Borough Council to comply with its statutory obligations under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 and the Homelessness Act 2002.

The Watford Homelessness Review and Strategy will have an impact on the following equality groups: age (younger and older), disability, pregnancy and

maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, and marriage and civil partnership. It will not have any identified impact on the following equality groups: sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

The impact analysis acknowledges how the impacts of homelessness might be negative upon protected characteristic groups. It then states how the recommendations of the Homelessness Review and Strategy and the implementation of the action plan can make the impacts positive.

AGE																										
PRIORITY GROUP WITHIN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY	HOW THE IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS, RELATED LEGISLATION AND THE HOMELESSNESS SERVICE MIGHT BE NEGATIVE	MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY NECESSARY TO FACILITATE POSITIVE IMPACTS.																								
General information	<p><u>Homeless applicants accepted for assistance 2012-2013 – heads of households</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Aged 16-24 years old</td> <td>39.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 25-44 years old</td> <td>49.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 45-59 years old</td> <td>9.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 60-64 years old</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 65-74 years old</td> <td>1.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 75+ years old</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Population of Watford aged 16 and over, Census 2011</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Aged 16-24 years old</td> <td>13.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 25-44 years old</td> <td>42.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 45-59 years old</td> <td>22.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 60-64 years old</td> <td>5.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 65-74 years old</td> <td>8.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 75+ years old</td> <td>7.5%</td> </tr> </table>	Aged 16-24 years old	39.6%	Aged 25-44 years old	49.4%	Aged 45-59 years old	9.7%	Aged 60-64 years old	-	Aged 65-74 years old	1.3%	Aged 75+ years old	-	Aged 16-24 years old	13.8%	Aged 25-44 years old	42.6%	Aged 45-59 years old	22.5%	Aged 60-64 years old	5.6%	Aged 65-74 years old	8.0%	Aged 75+ years old	7.5%	<p>Younger people are definitely more highly represented in the persons and households accepted for assistance under homelessness legislation.</p> <p>Older people are very under-represented among the homelessness population. Therefore older people will not be the focus of specific measures within the homelessness review and strategy. Measures to provide housing and services for older people will be included in the main housing strategy.</p>
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Households homeless because of parental eviction.	<p>Young people feature disproportionately highly among households who are homeless. The biggest reason for homelessness in Watford is young people being asked to leave the family home by their parents.</p> <p>A research project into 102 households accepted as homeless because of parent eviction between January 2011 and December 2012 found the age distribution to be as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>16-19 years old</td> <td>21.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20-24 years old</td> <td>37.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25-29 years old</td> <td>26.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30-34 years old</td> <td>5.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35-39 years old</td> <td>5.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40-44 years old</td> <td>2.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Age not known</td> <td>1.4%</td> </tr> </table>	16-19 years old	21.7%	20-24 years old	37.0%	25-29 years old	26.1%	30-34 years old	5.8%	35-39 years old	5.1%	40-44 years old	2.9%	Age not known	1.4%	<p>Measures which aim to facilitate positive impact upon young people are:</p> <p>Task 1: Herts Young Homeless Schools Project. Task 2: Implementation of the HARI protocol Task 4: Review of the Housing Advice Offer Task 5: Home visits programme Task 8: Training and employment opportunities with Job Centre Plus Task 12: Defining a new Private Rented Sector Offer Task 16: Introduce an Emergency Fund with Watford Credit Union.</p>										
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<p>Households homeless because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy</p>	<p>Younger people also feature disproportionately highly among households who have become homeless because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy.</p> <p>A research project into 31 households accepted for assistance because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy between 2010 and 2010 found the age distribution to be as follows:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="491 593 928 898"> <tr> <td>16-17 years old</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18-19 years old</td> <td>2.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20-24 years old</td> <td>13.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25-29 years old</td> <td>13.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30-34 years old</td> <td>28.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35-39 years old</td> <td>15.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40-44 years old</td> <td>21.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45-49 years old</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50-54 years old</td> <td>6.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>55+ years old</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	16-17 years old	-	18-19 years old	2.2%	20-24 years old	13.0%	25-29 years old	13.0%	30-34 years old	28.3%	35-39 years old	15.2%	40-44 years old	21.7%	45-49 years old	-	50-54 years old	6.5%	55+ years old	-	<p>Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon young people are:</p> <p>Task 2: Implementation of the HARI Protocol. Task 3: Prevention of illegal eviction Task 4: Review of the Housing Advice Offer Task 5: Home Visits Programme Task 12: Defining a new Private Rented Sector Offer. Task 16: Pilot Emergency Fund with Watford Credit Union.</p>
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<p>Households in temporary accommodation</p>	<p>As young people are very highly represented among the homeless population, they are also highly represented among residents of temporary accommodation for homeless families.</p>	<p>Measures which aim to facilitate positive impacts upon young people are:</p> <p>Task 2: Implementation of the HARI protocol Task 8: Training and employment opportunities with Job Centre Plus. Task 11: Expand portfolio of good standard temporary accommodation options. Task 16: Pilot Emergency Fund with Watford Credit Union.</p>																				
<p>Single persons with an element of vulnerability</p>	<p>A lot of younger people may have a high degree of vulnerability, especially young people with learning disabilities, young people with physical disabilities and young people who have been in local authority care. They may have been asked to leave home by their parents. Often do not have priority need.</p> <p>Single people can be affected by the Local Housing Allowance rate restrictions in the private rented sector – the amount of LHA capped at single room rate.</p>	<p>Measures which aim to facilitate positive impacts upon young people are:</p> <p>Task 1: Implementation of the HARI Protocol. Task 4: Review of the Housing Advice Offer. Task 6: Single Homelessness Project implementation. Task 7: Hospital Discharge Protocol. Task 8: Training and employment opportunities with Job Centre Plus. Task 9: Herts Young Homeless Dual Diagnosis Project. Task 10: Re-launch of the Prevention of Single Homelessness Group (PoSH). Task 13: New housing options for single females without</p>																				

		dependants. Task 14: Watford New Hope Trust – Street Outreach Work Task 16: Pilot Emergency Fund with Watford Credit Union.
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DISABILITY		
PRIORITY GROUP WITHIN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY	HOW THE IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS, RELATED LEGISLATION AND THE HOMELESSNESS SERVICE MIGHT BE NEGATIVE	MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY NECESSARY TO FACILITATE POSITIVE IMPACTS.
General information	<p>According to the Census 2011:</p> <p>~ In April 2011 7.6% of the population of Watford (6,831 persons) had a disability which limited their day to day activities a little.</p> <p>~ In April 2011 6.0% of the population of Watford (5,469 persons) had a disability which limited their day to day activities at lot.</p> <p>Between April 2008 and March 2013 the following totals of disabled people were deemed to have priority need and were accepted for assistance under homelessness legislation:</p> <p>Physical disability = 26 persons Mental disability = 17 persons</p>	
Households homeless because of parental eviction.	Households in these priority groups usually have children. These households can contain members who are suffering from a physical or mental disability, adults or children.	Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon disabled people:
Households homeless because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy.		Task 12: Defining a new Private Rented Sector. This task will aim to procure a broader range of privately rented accommodation for households in housing need, including accommodation which is suitable for households with a form of disability..
Households in temporary accommodation.	Disabled people with physical disabilities often require housing which is specially adapted for their needs.	<p>Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon disabled people:</p> <p>Task 11: Expand portfolio of good standard temporary accommodation. This task will aim to procure a broader range of temporary accommodation for households in housing need, including accommodation which</p>

		is suitable for households with a form of disability.
Single persons with an element of vulnerability.	<p>A high proportion of homeless households consists of single person households.</p> <p>People with mental health issues may find it more difficult to find new accommodation if their tenancy ends</p> <p>People with a physical disability may experience difficulty in funding accommodation which is suitable for their needs.</p> <p>Disabled people in housing need may be less able to gain employment which enables them to fully cover the cost of Affordable Rents. Flexible and part-time working is often the most appropriate form of employment for this customer group.</p>	<p>Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon disabled people are:</p> <p>Task 6: Single Homelessness Project implementation in order to provide good quality accessible accommodation.</p> <p>Task 7: Hospital Discharge Protocol.</p> <p>Task 8: Training and employment opportunities with Job Centre Plus.</p> <p>Task 9: Herts Young Homeless Dual Diagnosis Project.</p> <p>Task 14: Watford New Hope Trust – Street Outreach Work</p>

PREGNANCY AND MATERNITY		
PRIORITY GROUP WITHIN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY	HOW THE IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS, RELATED LEGISLATION AND THE HOMELESSNESS SERVICE MIGHT BE NEGATIVE	MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY NECESSARY TO FACILITATE POSITIVE IMPACTS.
Households homeless because of parental eviction.	<p>A high proportion of households in these priority groups are households which contain a pregnant member and/or have children.</p> <p>There is high demand for an increased supply of larger family-sized homes in Watford. The Census 2011 has shown that there has been a significant rise in the number of children aged up to the age of four years between 2001 and 2011.</p>	<p>Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon households affected by pregnancy and maternity are:</p> <p>Task 1: Implementation of the HARI Protocol. This includes actions by registered providers.</p> <p>Task 11: Expand portfolio of good standard temporary accommodation options.</p> <p>Task 12: Define a new Private Rented Sector Offer.</p>
Households homeless because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy.		
Households in temporary accommodation.		
Single persons with an element of vulnerability.	No assessed implications.	

RACE																																
PRIORITY GROUP WITHIN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY	HOW THE IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS, RELATED LEGISLATION AND THE HOMELESSNESS SERVICE MIGHT BE NEGATIVE	MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY NECESSARY TO FACILITATE THE POSITIVE IMPACTS.																														
General Information	<p>People from minority ethnic groups are more widely represented in the homelessness population than the Watford population as a whole.</p> <p><u>Homeless applicants 2012-2013</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>White British</td><td>54.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>White Irish</td><td>1.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>White Other</td><td>9.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>Black African-Caribbean</td><td>18.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>Asian</td><td>9.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>Mixed Race</td><td>4.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>0.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>Not stated</td><td>0.7%</td></tr> </table> <p><u>Population of Watford, Census 2011</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>White British</td><td>73.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>White Irish</td><td>2.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>White Other</td><td>5.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Black African-Caribbean</td><td>6.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Asian</td><td>8.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Mixed Race</td><td>3.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>0.6%</td></tr> </table>	White British	54.5%	White Irish	1.9%	White Other	9.1%	Black African-Caribbean	18.8%	Asian	9.7%	Mixed Race	4.5%	Other	0.7%	Not stated	0.7%	White British	73.3%	White Irish	2.5%	White Other	5.5%	Black African-Caribbean	6.4%	Asian	8.4%	Mixed Race	3.4%	Other	0.6%	<p>Further research needs to be carried out to assess and analyse the breakdown of household types within each ethnic group. Among homeless households accepted for assistance there is notable over-representation among the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black African-Caribbean • White Other
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White Other	9.1%																															
Black African-Caribbean	18.8%																															
Asian	9.7%																															
Mixed Race	4.5%																															
Other	0.7%																															
Not stated	0.7%																															
White British	73.3%																															
White Irish	2.5%																															
White Other	5.5%																															
Black African-Caribbean	6.4%																															
Asian	8.4%																															
Mixed Race	3.4%																															
Other	0.6%																															
Households homeless because of parental eviction.	<p>It is usual practice for some households from particular ethnic groups to have larger families. These larger families usually require homes with three or four bedrooms</p>	<p>Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon all ethnic groups are:</p> <p>Task 12: Define a new Private Rented Sector Offer. This will involve attempts to procure larger homes.</p>																														
Households homeless because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy.																																
Households in temporary accommodation.	<p>It is usual practice for some households from particular ethnic groups to have larger families. These larger families usually require homes with three or four bedrooms.</p>	<p>Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon all ethnic groups are:</p> <p>Task 11: Expand portfolio of good standard temporary accommodation options.</p>																														
Single persons with an element of vulnerability.	<p>At present there is no specific information on how the impact of homelessness, related legislation and the homelessness service might be negative upon single persons from any particular ethnic groups who have an element of vulnerability.</p>	<p>Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon all ethnic groups are:</p> <p>Task 4: Review of the Housing Advice Offer.</p>																														

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RELIGION AND BELIEF																				
PRIORITY GROUP WITHIN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY	HOW THE IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS, RELATED LEGISLATION AND THE HOMELESSNESS SERVICE MIGHT BE NEGATIVE	MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY NECESSARY TO FACILITATE POSITIVE IMPACTS.																		
General information	<p>According to the Census 2011, the percentages of the population in each religious group was as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Christian</td> <td>54.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buddhist</td> <td>0.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hindu</td> <td>4.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jewish</td> <td>1.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muslim</td> <td>9.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sikh</td> <td>0.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>0.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>None</td> <td>21.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not stated</td> <td>6.7%</td> </tr> </table>	Christian	54.1%	Buddhist	0.7%	Hindu	4.8%	Jewish	1.1%	Muslim	9.9%	Sikh	0.6%	Other	0.5%	None	21.4%	Not stated	6.7%	When people apply for assistance as homeless they are not asked to state their religious belief. For this reason we are not able to make a detailed judgement about impact of the homelessness strategy on different religious groups.
Christian	54.1%																			
Buddhist	0.7%																			
Hindu	4.8%																			
Jewish	1.1%																			
Muslim	9.9%																			
Sikh	0.6%																			
Other	0.5%																			
None	21.4%																			
Not stated	6.7%																			
Households homeless because of parental eviction.	<p>From the Census information, it is reasonable to conclude that improvements to services and ensuring that they are made accessible to the whole community will bring benefits to a wide range of faith groups in Watford.</p> <p>It is sometimes practice for households from particular religious groups to have larger families. These larger families usually require homes with three or four bedrooms which are in very high demand.</p> <p>Some religious groups are not able to pay interest on loans which might be available for expenses such as rent deposits or rent in advance.</p>	Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon members of different religious groups are:																		
Households homeless because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy.		Task 4: Review of the Housing Advice Offer.																		
Households in temporary accommodation.		<p>Task 11: Expand portfolio of good standard temporary accommodation options.</p> <p>Task 12: Defining a new Private Rented Sector Offer.</p> <p>A measure has not yet been devised for this issue.</p>																		
Single persons with an element of vulnerability	At present there is no specific information on how the impact of homelessness, related legislation and the homelessness service might be negative upon single persons from any particular religious groups who have an element of vulnerability.	<p>Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon members of religious groups are:</p> <p>Task 4: Review of the Housing Advice Offer.</p>																		

SEX (GENDER)																												
PRIORITY GROUP WITHIN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY	HOW THE IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS, RELATED LEGISLATION AND THE HOMELESSNESS SERVICE MIGHT BE NEGATIVE	MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE TENANCY STRATEGY NECESSARY TO FACILITATE POSITIVE IMPACTS																										
Households homeless because of parental eviction	<p><u>Composition of the applicant household</u> (research exercise on 102 households accepted for assistance as homeless because of parental eviction, January 2011 – December 2012)</p> <table> <tr><td>Single male</td><td>2.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>Single female + pregnant</td><td>20.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>Single female + 1 child</td><td>37.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>Single female + 2 children</td><td>2.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>Single female + 3 children</td><td>1.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>Couple + pregnant</td><td>7.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>Couple + 1 child</td><td>23.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Couple + pregnant + 1 child</td><td>2.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>Couple + 2 children</td><td>1.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>Couple + 3 children</td><td>1.0%</td></tr> </table> <p><u>Heads of applicant households</u> (research exercise on 102 households accepted for assistance as homeless because of parental eviction, January 2011 – December 2012)</p> <table> <tr><td>Single males</td><td>2.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>Single female</td><td>61.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>Couple</td><td>35.3%</td></tr> </table>	Single male	2.9%	Single female + pregnant	20.6%	Single female + 1 child	37.3%	Single female + 2 children	2.9%	Single female + 3 children	1.0%	Couple + pregnant	7.8%	Couple + 1 child	23.5%	Couple + pregnant + 1 child	2.0%	Couple + 2 children	1.0%	Couple + 3 children	1.0%	Single males	2.9%	Single female	61.8%	Couple	35.3%	<p>Females are disproportionately highly represented as heads of households who have been made homeless because of parental eviction. Therefore they will be the focus of measures to prevent and tackle homelessness among households who have become homeless because of parental eviction.</p> <p>Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact among Females are:</p> <p>Task 1: Herts Young Homelessness Schools Project Task 2: Implementation of the HARI Homelessness Protocol Task 4: Review of the Housing Advice Offer Task 5: Home Visits programme Task 8: Training and employment opportunities with Job Centre Plus. Task 12: Defining a new Private Rented Sector offer. Task 16: Pilot Emergency Fund with Watford Credit Union.</p>
Single male	2.9%																											
Single female + pregnant	20.6%																											
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Couple + pregnant + 1 child	2.0%																											
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Couple + 3 children	1.0%																											
Single males	2.9%																											
Single female	61.8%																											
Couple	35.3%																											
Households homeless because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy.	<p><u>Composition of the applicant household</u> (research exercise on 31 households accepted for assistance as homeless because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy, 2010-2012).</p> <table> <tr><td>Single male</td><td>3.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>Single female + pregnant</td><td>3.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>Single female + 1 child</td><td>32.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>Single female + 2 children</td><td>2.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>Couple + 1 child</td><td>19.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Couple + 2 children</td><td>9.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>Couple + 3 children</td><td>6.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Couple + 4 children</td><td>6.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Couple + 1 adult child + 1 child</td><td>3.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>Couple + 1 adult child + 2 children</td><td>3.2%</td></tr> </table> <p><u>Heads of applicant households</u> (research exercise on 31 households accepted for assistance</p>	Single male	3.2%	Single female + pregnant	3.2%	Single female + 1 child	32.3%	Single female + 2 children	2.9%	Couple + 1 child	19.4%	Couple + 2 children	9.7%	Couple + 3 children	6.5%	Couple + 4 children	6.5%	Couple + 1 adult child + 1 child	3.2%	Couple + 1 adult child + 2 children	3.2%	<p>Females are highly represented as heads of households who have been made homeless because of the ending of a private rented tenancy. Therefore, they will be the focus of measures to prevent and tackle homelessness among households who have become homeless because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy.</p> <p>Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact among Females are:</p> <p>Task 2: Implementation of the HARI Homelessness Protocol Task 3: Prevention of illegal eviction Task 4: Review of the Housing Advice Offer Task 5: Home Visits programme</p>						
Single male	3.2%																											
Single female + pregnant	3.2%																											
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Single female + 2 children	2.9%																											
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Couple + 4 children	6.5%																											
Couple + 1 adult child + 1 child	3.2%																											
Couple + 1 adult child + 2 children	3.2%																											

	<p><i>as homeless because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy, 2010-2012).</i></p> <p>Single male 3.2% Single female 48.4% Couple 48.4%</p>	<p>Task 12: Defining a new Private Rented Sector offer. Task 16: Pilot Emergency Fund with Watford Credit Union.</p>
Households in temporary accommodation	<p>Because of their high representation among heads of households accepted for assistance under homelessness legislation, Females are more highly represented among residents of temporary accommodation.</p>	<p>Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon Females are:</p> <p>Task 2: Implementation of the HARI Homelessness Protocol Task 8: Training and employment opportunities with Job Centre Plus. Task 11: Expand portfolio of good standard temporary accommodation options. Task 16: Pilot Emergency Fund with Watford Credit Union.</p>
Single persons with an element of vulnerability.	<p>Males are disproportionately highly represented among homeless single person households. This is reflected from statistics from stakeholder organisations such as the YMCA, GROW and Watford New Hope Trust.</p> <p>There is a disproportionately high level of demand for one bedroom accommodation from single males without dependants. This includes both those males who have not yet entered a relationship, or those who have been in a relationship which has now ended (it is common practice for children to remain living with their mother when a relationship ends).</p> <p>If Affordable Rents – in terms of new build and conversion – are concentrated in smaller accommodation, males are more likely to be affected.</p> <p>There is also evidence that Single Women without dependants do not have access to sufficient sources of help if they become homeless.</p>	<p>Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon Males are:</p> <p>Task 2: Implementation of the HARI Homelessness Protocol Task 4: Review of the Housing Advice Offer Task 6: Single Homelessness Project implementation. Task 7: Hospital Discharge Protocol. Task 8: Training and employment opportunities with Job Centre Plus. Task 9: Herts Young Homeless Dual Diagnosis Project. Task 10: Re-launch of the Prevention of Single Homelessness Group (PoSH). Task 13: New housing options for single females without dependants. Task 14: Watford New Hope Trust – Street Outreach Work Task 16: Pilot Emergency Fund with Watford Credit Union.</p> <p>Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon Females are:</p> <p>Task 13: New housing options for single females without dependants.</p>

MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP								
PRIORITY GROUP WITHIN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY	HOW THE IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS, RELATED LEGISLATION AND THE HOMELESSNESS SERVICE MIGHT BE NEGATIVE	MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY NECESSARY TO FACILITATE THE POSITIVE IMPACTS.						
Households homeless because of parental eviction.	<p>Heads of applicant households (<i>research exercise on 102 households accepted for assistance as homeless because of parental eviction, January 2011 – December 2012</i>)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Single male</td> <td>2.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Single female</td> <td>61.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Couple</td> <td>35.3%</td> </tr> </table>	Single male	2.9%	Single female	61.8%	Couple	35.3%	<p>Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon households affected by Marriage or Civil Partnership are:</p> <p>Task 12: Defining a new Private Rented Sector offer.</p>
Single male	2.9%							
Single female	61.8%							
Couple	35.3%							
Households homeless because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy.	<p>Heads of applicant households (<i>research exercise on 31 households accepted for assistance as homeless because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy, 2010-2012</i>).</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Single male</td> <td>3.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Single female</td> <td>48.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Couple</td> <td>48.4%</td> </tr> </table>	Single male	3.2%	Single female	48.4%	Couple	48.4%	<p>Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon households affected by Marriage or Civic Partnership are:</p> <p>Task 3: Prevention of illegal eviction Task 12: Defining a new Private Rented Sector offer.</p>
Single male	3.2%							
Single female	48.4%							
Couple	48.4%							
Households in temporary accommodation	No assessed implications							
Single persons with an element of vulnerability.	No assessed implications.							

SEXUAL ORIENTATION		
PRIORITY GROUP WITHIN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY	HOW THE IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS, RELATED LEGISLATION AND THE HOMELESSNESS SERVICE MIGHT BE NEGATIVE	MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY NECESSARY TO FACILITATE THE POSITIVE IMPACTS.
	Information on this Protected Characteristic among homeless households is not yet collected	
Households homeless because of parental eviction.	No assessed implications	

Households homeless because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy.	No assessed implications	
Households in temporary accommodation.	No assessed implications	
Single persons with an element of vulnerability.	There is anecdotal evidence that some single young people may be asked to leave the family home because of this issue.	Measures which aim to facilitate a positive impact upon persons whose housing circumstances are affected by Sexual Orientation are: Task 4: Review of the Housing Advice Offer Task 6: Single Homelessness Project implementation. Task 14: Watford New Hope Trust – Street Outreach Work

GENDER REASSIGNMENT		
PRIORITY GROUP WITHIN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY	HOW THE IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS, RELATED LEGISLATION AND THE HOMELESSNESS SERVICE MIGHT BE NEGATIVE	MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY NECESSARY TO FACILITATE THE POSITIVE IMPACTS.
General information	Information on this Protected Characteristic among homeless households is not yet collected	
Households homeless because of parental eviction.	No assessed implications	
Households homeless because of the ending of a privately rented tenancy.	No assessed implications	
Households in temporary accommodation.	No assessed implications	
Single persons with an element of vulnerability.	No assessed implications.	

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7. Conclusion

Based on local evidence of housing need, Watford Council's Homelessness Review and Strategy aims to strike an appropriate balance between overall housing needs and statutory objectives, and the needs and aspirations of those in the protected characteristics groups under the Equality Act 2010.