



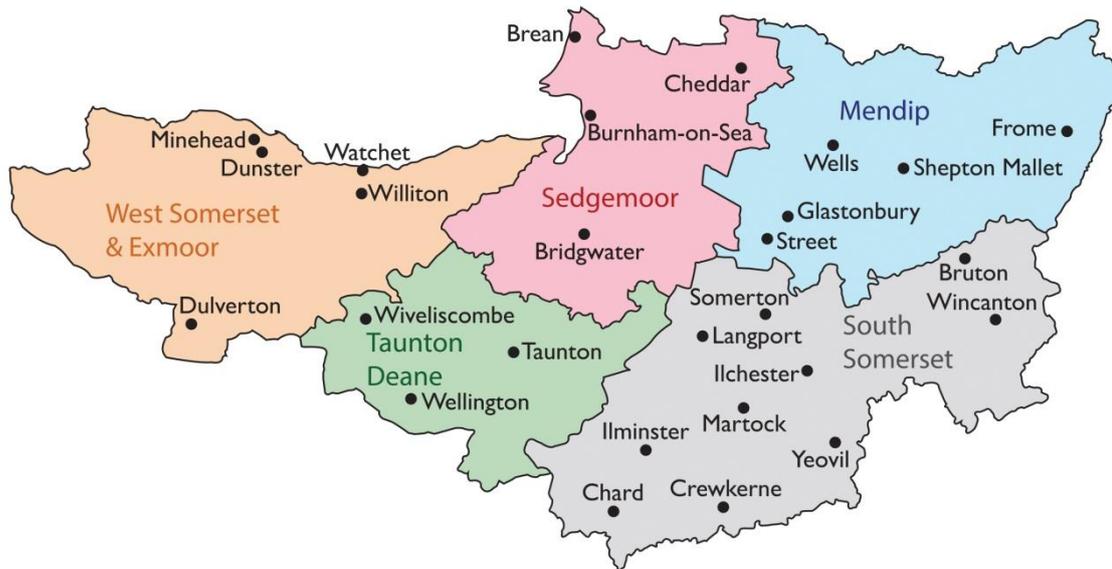
Somerset Homeless Strategy 2013-2016 Equality Analysis v1.2

1 Name of policy, strategy or project: **Somerset Homeless Strategy**

Overview of Strategy:

This Homeless Strategy for Somerset sets out the strategic aims for the five Somerset Housing Authorities for tackling homelessness over the period 2013 to 2016. The five local authorities are as follows:

- Mendip District Council
- Sedgemoor District Council
- South Somerset District Council
- Taunton Deane Borough Council
- West Somerset Council



The strategy has been developed within the context of national and local issues and identifies three goals that will drive forward the homelessness agenda in the coming years in Somerset.

The 2002 Homelessness Act placed a duty on local authorities to develop a Homeless Strategy and to renew this every five years. This is the second Somerset wide Homelessness Strategy, continuing with a sub-regional approach that provides value through shared responses to common issues and also gives a consistent focus for our partners to work with us. The previous Somerset Homeless Prevention Strategy published in 2008 and covering the period to 2011 made an important contribution to tackling homelessness in Somerset. The strategy built on the housing options model, maximising homeless prevention opportunities and contributed to an increase in homeless

preventions, a reduction in the number of homeless acceptances and a significant reduction in the use of temporary accommodation.

Whilst private rented accommodation is not always easy to access for some socially excluded groups and despite the real achievements made, challenges remain and the landscape within which homelessness services are delivered has changed considerably in the last three years. The main causes of homelessness remain the same: family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate young people; violent breakdown of relationships; and the ending of Assured Shorthold Tenancies.

We are in a time of unprecedented change with the government reducing public spending, implementing major changes to welfare benefits (in particular Housing Benefit) and ending the offer of permanent social housing tenancies for some new tenants. Changes to the allocation of social housing and to the homelessness legislation (in terms of discharge of duty into private sector accommodation) have also been made¹. Whilst the detail of some of these proposals has yet to be finalised by government² there is a consensus that they will have a significant impact on homelessness and homelessness/housing options services. At the same time, the economic outlook remains uncertain and local authorities are facing unprecedented cuts in funding and consequentially to service provision – both factors are likely to add to the pressures on housing options services.

With our customers suffering the most from experiencing homelessness, with the recognised detrimental psychological, emotional and physical health impacts that go along with the lack of a settled home, it is crucial that LA's are also mindful of the financial implications/benefits of preventing homelessness. The average cost, nationally, of accommodating a homeless household and providing re-housing services is £5,300³. It is therefore vital that we remain focused on delivering key preventative services with our diminishing resources to ensure that greater costs are not incurred for both the local authority and applicants, through the provision of temporary accommodation for accepted homeless applicants.

The new strategy seeks to build on the achievements made already within the partnership. It will address the significant new challenges which have emerged during 2011/12 and establish the goals that will both continue to enable us prevent homelessness across Somerset over the next three years as well as providing us with the means to address homelessness where prevention measures have failed. Whilst this strategy covers the period 2013-16 it is a dynamic document and we will regularly revisit and monitor both the strategy and the associated action plan, to enable us to respond flexibly to changing external and internal pressures and policies.

¹ Allocation of accommodation: Guidance for local housing authorities in England <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/2171391.pdf> and Part 7 s148/149 of Localism Act 2011 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/part/7/chapter/1/crossheading/homelessness/enacted>

² Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2012 – Consultation <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/21513539.pdf>

³ Research by Heriot Watt University (2007) found that the costs per person of successful mediation are around 9 times less expensive than providing alternate settled accommodation; home visits 3.5 times less expensive; advice on housing options 9 times less expensive; rent deposit schemes 8.5 times less; rent bond scheme 37 times less.

2 Name of person completing the analysis: **Homeless Strategy Project Group (countywide team including representatives from Shelter and CAB)**

3 Date: **5th February 2013**

4 Who has been consulted in developing the strategy?

Full Consultation has taken place on the draft strategy.
The initial draft has been drawn up by a project team consisting of representatives from the following organisations:

- Mendip District Council
- Sedgemoor District Council
- South Somerset District Council
- Taunton Deane Borough Council
- West Somerset Council
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Shelter

We have consulted with the following groups via a workshop:

| | |
|---|--|
| Bridgwater YMCA Foyer | Rethink - Goldcroft |
| Somerset IMPACT Probation team | Somerset County Council Commissioning Care and Support |
| Probation Service | Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau |
| Elim Connect's Street Level Access Program. | Stonham/Homegroup |
| Knightstone - Supported Housing | Barnabas Housing |
| Turning Point | Shelter |
| South Somerset CAB | Mendip YMCA |
| Yeovil Night Shelter | Taunton Association for the Homeless |
| Supporting You in Somerset | Royal Ashton Hotel |
| HMP Housing Officer Exeter | Yeovil Street Pastors |
| Chapter 1 | Mendip CAB |
| West Somerset Advice Bureau | |

In addition we also consulted via an online survey with Somerset NHS, Private sector landlords, Registered Providers and all of the above agencies together with members at District, and Parish level and staff at District and County level.

Ahead of consultation on the strategy we asked private landlords and registered providers for their views on key questions to gauge their views on key issues.

5 Sources of information used in this analysis
(E.g. demographic data, research from websites, results of consultations, results of equality monitoring data, complaints, customer feedback, etc)

Somerset Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Research reports as follows:

- English Housing Survey
- Communities and Local Government (CLG) department Statistics Data from Homefinder Somerset Housing Register and P1E reports⁴
- Research reports from Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
- Institute of Health Equity
- Shelter reports
- CRISIS reports

⁴ Quarterly statistical return to CLG department of central government

6. Identify the effect or potential effect of this policy on each of the diversity groups (Equality Act 2010) by considering the following questions (the list is not exhaustive but an indication of the sort of questions those involved should think about):
- Might some groups find it harder to access the service?
 - Do some groups have particular needs that are not well met by the current policy?
 - What evidence do you have for your judgement (e.g. monitoring data, information from consultation/research/feedback)?
 - Have staff/residents raised concerns/complaints?
 - Is there local or national research to suggest there could be a problem?

| Protected Group | Effect (+ive/-ive/ neutral) | Comments/Evidence |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Age | Positive | <p>The Housing Options service currently captures adequate data on age of all homeless and housing need customers. Housing legislation provides specific protection and priority for very young applicants (16 -17 year olds) and those applicants who are vulnerable as a result of age who are homeless and those looking for an allocation of social housing. We have no evidence that those in any age group are disadvantaged in their access to the service or in the housing assistance they need.⁵</p> <p>Young people have issues accessing housing from an affordability perspective. Almost 3 million people aged 20-34 were living with their parents in 2011, a 20% increase on the number in 1997. As well as rising house prices young people are experiencing higher education costs, increasing rents and a credit squeeze and the upcoming changes to welfare benefits may mean that more young people are forced to leave home by their parents in order that they can downsize. It is anticipated that by 2020 3.7 million 20-34 year olds will be living with their parents. Around 1.5 million more young people will be pushed towards the private rented</p> |

⁵ See paragraph 8.4 of Somerset Homelessness Strategy 2013-16 for evidence and details. In addition no specific age related complaints have been received and the Pathway to Independence support pathway provides specific support for young homeless people.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <p>sector in 2020 reflecting the growing problems of accessing home ownership and the social rented sector. Locally the age group 17-44 has the highest number of homeless acceptances. The Somerset Homeless Strategy 2013-16 sets out the actions that the Somerset local Authority partners propose to take to mitigate some of these issues (resources do not allow for all issues to be addressed).</p> <p>Those under the age of 25 face particular challenges and our strategy focuses particular help on this group specifically action points 5, 10 and 16.</p> <p>The P1E statistics⁶ show the majority of homeless acceptances come from the 25 to 44 age group and again our strategy is focused on helping this group by the provision of more private sector rented accommodation given the availability in the social rented sector. In addition in many areas we have opened up schemes that were primarily focussed on the under 25s so that they include under 35s to take account of changes to welfare benefits. The Somerset Homelessness Strategy 2013-16 sets out the nature of the challenges facing the 25-44 age group and the actions that the Local Authority partners propose to take to address some of these issues (resources do not allow for all issues to be addressed).</p> <p>Over 50's applicants may face issues with social landlords that have age restrictions on certain types of property It is important to note that there still is no protection from age discrimination with respect to premises. This is because it is government policy to allow landlords to continue to be able to target accommodation at particular age groups. This can impact on the availability of supported/sheltered accommodation as landlords use age restrictions when letting this. Further discussions with landlords to ensure that they are aware of the issues this causes to those applicants that require support but are failing the age criteria test set by landlords.</p> <p>In addition older people may also be disproportionately affected by the need to downsize as a result of welfare benefit reforms so it will be important that we continue to keep all age</p> |
|--|--|--|

⁶ Quarterly statistical return to CLG department of central government

| | | |
|------------|----------|---|
| | | <p>groups fully informed of their options.</p> <p>The Pathway to Independence (P2I) has been commissioned by Somerset County Council in conjunction with the 5 Local Authorities to target support for young people 16 to 25 including those leaving care.</p> |
| Disability | Positive | <p>Research done in 2009 by the Equality and Human Rights Commission indicates that disabled people have higher unemployment rates compared with the total working-age population and as such they may be more at risk of incurring rent arrears.⁷ A lack of resources can mean that often disabled people are living in unsuitable housing. We offer aids and adaptations grants and disabled facilities grants to adapt existing properties where this is appropriate. Please check Equality Act in relation to this point as changes have been put in place.</p> <p>Depending on the disability there may be a shortage of accessible housing for some disabled people, leading to a lack of choice and inappropriate housing when applicants present as homeless or for advice on their housing options. There are also issues in matching the correct adaptations on properties to applicant's disabilities. These issues are being addressed by the Homefinder Somerset Monitoring Board that oversees the operation of the Homefinder Somerset Allocations policy.</p> <p>The inability to access the opportunity to work, restricts the independence of disabled people and means that instances of poverty, social exclusion and isolation among disabled people is higher than average, with many disabled people restricted to certain local areas</p> <p>The strategy seeks to address the issues faced by people with disabilities wishing to access housing options services by improving links to mental health teams and working with other agencies where appropriate to deliver joined up services for disabled applicants.</p> <p>Any information provided will be in accessible formats wherever possible and affordable to aid access for people with disabilities.</p> |

⁷ See http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/disability_skills_and_employment.pdf table 2.4 and table 2.5

| | | |
|---------------------|---------|--|
| | | <p>Disabled access to social housing properties can be difficult because of age restrictions set by registered providers. This needs to be addressed with those registered providers. We also need to ensure that properties are developed with disabled people in mind so that there is greater choice of accommodation.</p> <p>Temporary accommodation that is suitable for disabled applicants can be hard to find at short notice – our strategy seeks to address this issue via action point 9 in the Homeless Strategy. Closer working with occupational therapists can also help with this so that they are aware of the limitations on available temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Access to interview rooms within some local authority buildings can be difficult for those with physical disabilities housing options staff will continue to feed in to property reviews for the need for accessible interview rooms and reception facilities.</p> <p>We have developed a protocol with the community mental health team to ensure that those being discharged from mental health care are known to housing options team members ahead of their discharge to ensure that adequate accommodation can be found for them. This protocol should also help to ensure improved working relationships with the mental health team.</p> |
| Gender Reassignment | Neutral | <p>Transgendered people may be particularly at risk of housing crisis and homelessness arising from transphobic reactions Hate Crime and harassment by family, neighbours and members of their local community.</p> <p>Trans- gendered people may fear disclosing their identity to housing officers for fear that they will not be treated with dignity and respect. The result can be that they do not receive the housing services that they need or receive a service inappropriate to their needs.</p> <p>These issues are addressed to a degree in the Homeless Strategy and local authority staff has received equality training to make them aware of all relevant issues.</p> <p>However further work may be needed to ensure that private interview facilities are available in all partners to ensure that privacy can be assured for gender reassigned applicants.</p> <p>.</p> |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|--|
| Marriage and Civil Partnership | Neutral | <p>There is little evidence at present that marriage/civil partnership impacts upon availability of or access to housing options advice or that housing advice can affect marriage/civil partnership (though not comments in Sexual orientation section below regarding those entering civil partnerships.</p> <p>Applicants are not disadvantaged by either being married/ in a civil partnership or not when accessing affordable housing in terms of the housing register, mutual exchange or homelessness /homeless prevention services. Registered civil partners have the same rights as married heterosexual spouses in relation to property and tenancy rights</p> |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | Neutral | <p>Since 1 April 2004 it has been unlawful for local authorities to house families with children and pregnant women in bed and breakfast accommodation for more than six weeks, which has put increased pressure on the housing system. Applicants that are pregnant are prioritised depending on their housing needs and circumstances already within current policies/strategies. This will continue within this homelessness strategy.</p> <p>Vulnerable adults that are pregnant would be provided (depending on their needs) with support services via the various pathway commissioning projects.</p> <p>The review of temporary accommodation will also highlight any issues for pregnant applicants or those that have just given birth.</p> |
| Race | Neutral | <p>A review of the national evidence base on BME housing [Harrison and Phillips, ODPM, 2003] identified some general differences between the <i>average</i> positions of particular ethnic populations as follows.</p> <p>It found that the Indian populations when compared to the White population are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More likely to be owner occupiers; • Less likely to have lower incomes; • More likely to be over crowded; • More likely to live in poor housing and poor living conditions; • More dissatisfied with their home; and • More likely to want to move. |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | <p>The report found that the Pakistani and Bangladeshi population are particularly disadvantaged and when compared to the White population are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less likely to be owner occupiers; • More likely to have lower incomes; • Particularly likely to be overcrowded, live in poor housing and living conditions; and • Particularly dissatisfied with their home and to want to move. <p>The review found that the Black population are relatively disadvantaged compared with the White and Indian population, but less disadvantaged than the Pakistani or Bangladeshi population. Compared to Whites the Black population are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Least likely to be owner occupiers; • Have lower average income than non BME; • More likely to be overcrowded, live in poor housing and poor living conditions; and • More likely to be dissatisfied with home and to want to move. <p>In their review Harrison and Phillips argue that “The separation of groups living in different localities in itself is not necessarily a bad thing. It is the continuing association between BME segregation and deprivation that is problematic”. The extent of this association is strongest in respect of the Pakistani and Bangladeshi population. For example, research of Muslim housing experiences [Sellick, Housing Corporation 2004] found that housing stress is much greater in these households, with 42% of all Muslim children (and 56% of Bangladeshi children) living in overcrowded homes compared to 12 % of all children. It is the association of segregation, deprivation and poor housing that can be seen as most likely to damage community cohesion.⁸ The cost of housing often prohibits families from being able to access the type or size of accommodation required; given the larger size of families (due to multi-generational living) in some BME communities, overcrowding and poor housing conditions</p> |
|--|--|---|

⁸ Housing and Black and Minority Ethnic Communities: Review of the Evidence Base

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <p>can be a particular problem and this can in some circumstances lead to issues of homelessness.</p> <p>Some areas are experiencing population change due to migration⁹.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers have differing housing needs and a range of dwelling sizes (due to multi-generational households) and types need to be provided in both the private and social sector. Many refugees and asylum seekers face challenges relating to low or lack of income; lack of capital for a deposit; few household possessions and high forced mobility (in terms of where they are offered accommodation) which makes it difficult to establish a 'local connection'. Some kinds of temporary accommodation currently used by authorities nationally to house refugees and asylum seekers are inappropriate – especially for women and children and young people, many of whom are traumatised by their experiences – and can place them at unacceptable levels of risk on arrival. With many migrants choosing to share dwellings for cultural or financial reasons, there may be a greater need for larger accommodation although many migrants are single people seeking work. Current economic migration from abroad from poorer countries is also likely to affect housing tenure by sustaining demand for cheaper, private sector rented accommodation</p> <p>BME groups often represent a higher proportion of rough sleepers and our work with the Avon & Somerset Rough group will help to address this issue.</p> <p>Languages can be translated where possible and reasonable by using external language translation facilities.</p> <p>Gypsies and Travellers Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are legally recognised as ethnic groups, and protected from discrimination by the Race Relations Act (1976, amended 2000) and the Human Rights Act (1998).¹⁰ In terms of health and education, they are one of the most deprived groups in the Britain. Life expectancy for Gypsy and Traveller men and women is 10 years lower than the national average. Gypsy and Traveller mothers are 20 times more likely than the rest of the population to have experienced the death of a child. In 2003, less than a</p> |
|--|--|--|

⁹ See <http://www.sine.org.uk/census2011/> Latest headlines which show the movement of population and the arrival of large migrant populations in certain areas.

¹⁰ <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/key-projects/good-relations/gypsies-and-travellers-simple-solutions-for-living-together/>

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|--|
| | | <p>quarter of Gypsy and Traveller children obtained five GCSEs and A*-C grades, compared to a national average of over half.¹¹</p> <p>Research undertaken by the Human Rights and Equalities Commission highlighted in 2009 that Local Authorities might take between 16 and 27 years to provide the pitches that are needed.¹²</p> <p>Illegal pitches can have other problems including health hazards (such as contamination by vermin), decayed sewage and water fittings, poor-quality utility rooms, and failings in fire safety.</p> <p>Roadside stopping places, with no facilities and continued instability and trauma, become part of the way of life. Health deteriorates, while severe disruptions occur to access to employment opportunities</p> <p>Racism towards Gypsies and Travellers is still common, frequently overt and seen as justified.</p> <p>There are several different races and ethnicities of Gypsy and Traveller Communities within Somerset and they cannot be grouped as one. Gypsy and Traveller Communities have their own culture and therefore careful consideration must be made when allocating sites as well as being mindful of their accommodation needs. Our Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2011 sets out great detail on the needs of this community and the pitch requirements that we have. This homelessness strategy supports the delivery of the requirements set out in the GTAA where appropriate..</p> |
| Religion or Belief | Neutral | Setting the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) at 30% of the rate of private rents in the area, not having LHA for more than 4 bedrooms, and the overall benefits cap for families – may impact |

¹¹ <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/key-projects/good-relations/gypsies-and-travellers-simple-solutions-for-living-together/>

¹² http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/gt_research_report_68_exec_summary_english.pdf

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|---|
| | | harder on larger families and, therefore, disproportionately on certain religious groups who may have multi-generational families/larger family groups living in one property. |
| Sex (Gender) | Neutral/Positive | <p>Many women have to balance work and domestic responsibilities. To do this, they ideally need to be able to access employment and training opportunities close to home.</p> <p>In 2011, 7.7 million people in UK households lived alone, of which 4.3 million were aged 16 to 64. Of those in this age group, the majority (59 per cent) were male. One possible reason for this is that a higher proportion of men than women never marry by each age; 62 per cent of men aged 16 to 64 living alone have never married compared with 50 per cent of women living alone in the same age group.</p> <p>For those aged 65 or over, the pattern is reversed; at this age the majority of people living alone (69 per cent) were female. This is partly because there are more women than men in the total population aged 65 or over due to women's higher life expectancy. There are 1.7 million widowed women aged 65 or over living alone in the UK, three times the number of men. By the age of 65 over 90 per cent of women have been married, and husbands are typically older than their wives, accentuating the gap in life expectancy between husbands and wives¹³. Older women living alone are more likely to be living in poverty and provision of appropriate shared accommodation might be financially and socially beneficial for some groups. In 2011, women accounted for 92 per cent of lone parents with dependent children and men accounted for 8 per cent of lone parents with dependent children. These percentages have changed little since 2001. Women are more likely to take the main caring responsibilities for any children when relationships break down, and therefore become lone parents.¹⁴ There were nearly 2.0 million lone parents with dependent children in the UK in 2011, a figure which has grown significantly from 1.7 million in 2001. Lone parents with dependent children represented 26 per cent of all families with dependent children in 2011, an increase of two percentage points since 2001. Households where the female is the main breadwinner tend to be more reliant on social housing – local authority and housing association accommodation. This applies in particular</p> |

¹³ Families and Households 2001 to 2011 ONS http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_251357.pdf

¹⁴ Ibid

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|---|
| | | <p>to lone parent households, 60 per cent of whom live in social housing, compared to 23 per cent of other households with dependent children. The vast majority of homeless and temporary accommodation households are headed by, or include, women. Since 1 April 2004 it has been unlawful for local authorities to house families with children and pregnant women in bed and breakfast accommodation for more than six weeks, which has put increased pressure on the housing system.</p> <p>Single men are overrepresented in the rough sleeper and non-priority homeless categories both nationally and locally.¹⁵ The reasons for this are varied but may be linked to the fact that 32% of rough sleepers are prison leavers and 6% have been in the armed forces at some point in their lives.¹⁶</p> <p>The Homeless strategy supports work to reduce single non priority homelessness which should have a positive impact on this gender group together with bolstering existing support for priority homeless applicants. Action points 1,2,3,4, and 16 specifically relate to this group in the Homeless Strategy. Single men with children are presenting more often as homeless and we have had issues with landlords not accepting that single males would have such sole access to children. Further work is needed to ensure that landlords understand applicant circumstances and accommodate accordingly. With no reference to the gender of the applicant.</p> |
| Sexual Orientation | Neutral | <p>An assessment of need may be the most suitable way to determine what types of dwellings are required for these groups. Advice should be sought from organisations that support LGB people such as Stonewall Housing or the Albert Kennedy Trust. Specialist accommodation may be considered for LGB communities, especially people at risk of also being discriminated against due to age or Race. Provision for sheltered accommodation and emergency hostels should be considered for the more vulnerable members of the LGB community if thought necessary.</p> |

¹⁵ The truth about the hidden homeless – CRISIS http://www.crisis.org.uk/data/files/publications/HiddenTruthAboutHomelessness_web.pdf & CLG P1E Homelessness returns & <http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/Rough%20Sleeping%20Mar%202011.pdf>

¹⁶ <http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/Rough%20Sleeping%20Mar%202011.pdf> point 3

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <p>These issues are addressed to a degree in the Homelessness Strategy but to date these issues have not been prevalent.</p> |
|--|--|--|

7. Does the policy in its current format promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it?

The Homelessness Strategy supports the following:

- Somerset Youth Housing Strategy & Action Plan
- Housing, Health, Care and Support Strategy for Older People in Somerset
- Avon & Somerset Rough Sleepers Group Action Plan
- Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment
- Somerset Financial Inclusion
- Somerset Tenancy Strategy
- Somerset Common Allocations Policy

8. If positive effect has been identified in table 6, how can it be improved upon or maximised, either in this policy or others?

We will need to monitor any positive effects set out above before understanding how these effects can be maximised. Reports will be provided to the Strategic Housing Officers Group.

9. **Recommendations and Opportunities**

Are there changes you could reasonably introduce which would make this policy work better?

See table below

Is further research or consultation required?

| DETAIL THE ACTIONS PLANNED | | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Consider target dates, resources implications, proportionality, risk, regular monitoring and reviewing and list what the positive outcome will be. | | | | |
| Issue | Action Needed | Positive Outcome | Person Responsible | Timescale |
| Access to supported accommodation being age restricted by landlords to the over 50s group. | Landlords to adopt more flexible approach to age restrictions. This will be done via the Homefinder Somerset Monitoring board Chair | Landlords relax their age restrictions and enable an applicant with support needs to be accommodated. | Homefinder Somerset Monitoring Board | Summer 2013 |
| Disabled applicants not being able to access private interview facilities. | Provision of accessible reception areas and interview facilities for disabled applicants. | Interview rooms available that can accommodate wheelchairs. | Equality officers at each LA | Summer 2013 |
| Male applicants with custody of children may not receive same treatment as female applicants. When being considered for social housing. | Landlords to be more accepting of single male applicants with children when put forward for housing. We will raise awareness of this issue via Homefinder CBL Working Group. | That there is no discrimination by landlords when considering male applicants with custody of children | CBL Working Group | Sept 2013 |

| | |
|---|--|
| Review (Date or timeframe) | Review as and when changes are made to Homelessness strategy action plan. |
| Name of person/s completing (and involved in completing) form | Anne Harland on behalf of Homelessness Strategy Project Team |
| Date analysis completed | 5/2/13, Updated March 2013 following comments by Somerset Equality Officers Group. |
| Name (and signature) of Director/Board/Committee approval | |