

Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 - Out of Area Placement Policy

Summary of decision to be made:	Out of Area Placement Policy		
Lead Officer (job title):	Abigail Agba, Interim Head of Housing		
Date the final decision is due to be made:	19/07/2022	Date this assessment commenced:	16/02/2022
Is the decision relevant to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty?			Yes / No
Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation			Yes / No
Advance equality of opportunity			Yes / No
Foster good relations			Yes / No
If the answer is yes to any of the above, proceed with the assessment. If the answer is no, please say why and summarise any evidence:			
For each of the following characteristics, summarise any existing data, consultation activity, interpretation of the impacts and actions that can be taken to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts:			
Characteristic:	Data and consultation	Summary of impact	Actions
Disability	Sevenoaks District Housing Needs Survey 2017, Targeted Review of Local Housing Needs 2021, 2011 Census, Sevenoaks District Housing Strategy 2022 (emerging), Older Persons' Housing Needs Study 2022.	<p>People with physical disability or mental health condition and need health treatment that cannot be transferred out of area, or those with longstanding care arrangements will be given In District Priority therefore the policy will have no impact on this client group.</p> <p>People with more severe disabilities are therefore less likely than other households to have their duties discharged into the private rented sector by offer of a PRSO and are more likely to be offered supported or adapted accommodation within the council's own stock. For this reason, the policy has a neutral effect on this group</p>	
Carers	As above	Reasonable travel distances now stipulated as a factor when	

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		determining priority. This will ensure applicants experiencing unsustainable journeys to give/receive care, will have priority.	
Race	As above	None - the out of area placement policy aims to treat all applicants equally irrespective of race Ethnic minority groups are more likely to be homeless and on low income, therefore it is less likely to for them to find affordable housing solutions in the district or within 90 minutes travelling distance. This policy will have a positive impact on this client group as they will benefit from assistance from the council to help them find affordable housing solutions beyond Sevenoaks when no solution can be found in district	
Gender	As above	None - the Out of Area Placement Policy aims to treat all applicants equally irrespective of gender Female lone parents are more likely to be homeless and on low income, therefore it is less likely for them to find affordable housing solutions in District or within 90 minutes travelling distance. This policy will have a positive impact on this client group as they will benefit from assistance from the council to help them find affordable housing solutions beyond Sevenoaks when no solution can be found in district.	
Age	As above	Vulnerable children with needs that	

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		<p>cannot be met outside the district will be given In District Priority, and young homeless persons have access to a number of supported housing schemes in Kent, therefore the policy will have no impact on these client groups. People aged 65 accepted homeless those needing health treatment that cannot be transferred out of District or with longstanding care arrangements will be given In District Priority therefore the policy will have no impact on this client group.</p> <p>The placements policy has a positive impact for children who are at key stages of education enrolled at public examinations in the same school year (GCSE level or above). to prevent any disruption to educational attainment and will not be placed more than 60 mins traveling time to place of education. Households with dependent children under the age of 18, who are not due to take qualification exams in the same academic year, may be adversely affected by this policy as comparably they do not have as high education need to remain in-District. Households may find additional travel requirements and transport fares to current place of schooling. If this becomes unaffordable, a negative impact may arise meaning that an alternative school placement closer to home may have to be found. The Council will take distance to</p>	
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		schools into consideration during individual assessments however will not use this as a reason to consider the household for in-district placement. To mitigate any negative impact arising from an out of District placement, the service will be providing developed resettlement advice that will include help with aspects of travel and setting up links to support or community based amenities.	
Religion / Belief	As above	None - the out of area placement policy aims to treat all applicants equally irrespective of religion or belief. There are no perceived implications on the basis of religion or belief	
Sexual Orientation	As above	None - the out of area placement policy aims to treat all applicants equally irrespective of sexual orientation There are no perceived implications on the basis of sexuality	
Pregnancy / Maternity	As above	The Out of Area Placement Policy prioritises pregnancy and maternity as a protected characteristic.	
Marital or Civil Partnership Status	As above	The policy aims to treat all applicants equally irrespective of this status.	
Gender reassignment	As above	The out of area placement policy aims to treat all applicants equally irrespective of gender reassignment	

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<p>Summary of impacts : (to be included in committee reports)</p>	<p>Under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The impact has been analysed and does not vary between groups of people.</p> <p>The key policies within the Out of Area Placement Policy have a particularly positive impact for disabled people by ensuring a new suitability assessment and ensuring prioritisation for disabled people with the highest needs for in-district accommodation and transfer moves. Overall the impact of the policy upon homeless people with disabilities is positive; ensuring all disabled groups can now access clear guidance on the whole homeless placements process.</p> <p>Ethnic minority & female households, who are more likely to be homeless and on low income, will benefit from assistance from the council to help them find affordable housing solutions beyond Sevenoaks when no solution can be found in district.</p>			
<p>Please tick the outcome of this assessment:</p>	<p>Continue the policy</p>			
<p>Date assessment will be reviewed:</p>	<p>19/07/2023</p>			