

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – INITIAL SCREENING TEMPLATE (IST)

Initial screening needs to take place for all new/revised Council policies. The word ‘policy’, in this context, includes the different things that the Council does. It includes any policy, procedure or practice - both in employment and service delivery. It also includes proposals for restructuring, redundancies and changes to service provision. This stage must be completed at the earliest opportunity to determine whether it is necessary to undertake an EIA for this activity.

Name of Policy:	Vulnerable Community Strategy
Lead Officer (responsible for assessment):	Lewis Bage, Communities and Partnerships Manager
Department:	Communities and Partnerships
Others Involved in the Assessment (i.e. peer review, external challenge):	
Date Initial Screening Completed:	05.02.2018

(a) **What is the policy trying to achieve?** i.e. What is the aim/purpose of the policy? Is it affected by external drivers for change? What outcomes do we want to achieve from the policy? How will the policy be put into practice?

The East Cambridgeshire Vulnerable Community Strategy has been developed to ensure that Council services meet the needs of the most vulnerable and at risk members of our community.

An Action Plan has been formulated which sets out how the Council will meet the Needs of communities, as identified in the Vulnerable Community Strategy. The Action Plan will be reported on and reviewed annually.

(b) **Who are its main beneficiaries?** i.e. who will be affected by the policy?

This Strategy encompasses the broad spectrum of need of all vulnerable residents in East Cambridgeshire including (but not limited to):

- people with disabilities and health issues
- those who are rurally, socially or digitally isolated
- people in debt or require financial assistance
- those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- people affected by broader issues relating to social exclusion and homelessness including mental health, alcohol and substance misuse issues
- older people
- migrant workers, ethnic minority groups, refugees and asylum seekers
- the long-term unemployed and those living in poverty
- victims of and people at risk of anti-social behaviour and domestic violence
- people in need of support to access food or heat their homes
- young people moving through the care system (aged 16+)

(c) **Is this assessment informed by any information or background data?** i.e. consultations, complaints, applications received, allocations/take-up, satisfaction rates, performance indicators, access audits, census data, benchmarking, workforce profile etc.

Consultation with external organisations, service leads, councillors and research gathered from secondary sources (including other strategies and census information).

(d) Does this policy have the potential to cause a positive or negative impact on different groups in the community, on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics (please tick all that apply):

Ethnicity	x	Age	x
Gender		Religion or Belief	
Disability	x	Sexual Orientation	
Gender Reassignment		Marriage & Civil Partnership	
Pregnancy & Maternity		Caring Responsibilities	

Please explain any impact identified: i.e. What do you already know about equality impact or need? Is there any evidence that there is a higher or lower take-up by particular groups? Have there been any demographic changes or trends locally? Are there any barriers to accessing the policy or service?

The Strategy identifies a range of forecasted trends affecting groups that may be affected by the strategy including people in new communities, older people and ethnic minority groups.

(e) Does the policy affect service users or the wider community?	YES/NO/Na
(f) Does the policy have a significant effect on how services are delivered?	YES/NO/Na
(g) Will it have a significant effect on how other organisations operate?	YES/NO/Na
(h) Does it involve a significant commitment of resources?	YES/NO/Na
(i) Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities, e.g. disabled people's access to public transport etc?	YES/NO/Na

If you have answered **YES** to any of the questions above, then it is necessary to proceed with a full equality impact assessment (EIA). If the answer is **NO**, then this judgement and your response to the above questions will need to be countersigned by your Head of Service and then referred to the Council's Equal Opportunities Working Group (EOWG) for scrutiny and verification. Please forward completed and signed forms to the Principal HR Officer.

Signatures:

Completing Officer: Lewis Bage **Date:** 05.03.2018

Head of Service: _____ **Date:** _____