

# Somerset Equality Impact Assessment

The [EIA guidance notes](#) will help you complete this assessment.

If you need help or advice please contact Paul Harding. [P.harding@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:P.harding@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)

**Organisation prepared for**

**Somerset West and Taunton Council**

**Version**

1

**Date Completed**

25/02/2021

**Description of what proposed change or policy is being impact assessed**

Option; OPTIONS APPRAISAL FOR DELIVERING FUTURE SINGLE ROUGH SLEEPER AND HOMELESS ACCOMMODATION IN SWT

**Evidence**

**What data/information have you used to assess how this policy/service might impact on protected groups?** Sources such as the [Office of National Statistics](#), [Somerset Intelligence Partnership](#), [Somerset's Joint Strategic Needs Analysis \(JSNA\)](#), Staff and/ or [area profiles](#), should be detailed here

SWT Draft Single Homeless Accommodation Strategy Feb 2021  
 Somerset Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy and Action Plan 2019 to 2023  
 Somerset Housing Strategy 2019 – 2023  
 Homelessness Act 2002  
 The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017  
 Crisis report “It’s no life at all” 2016  
 Crisis report “homelessness kills” 2012  
 NHS Rough Sleepers Report 2019 <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/10/rough-sleepers-in-homeless-hotspots-to-benefit-from-nhs-mental-health-outreach/>  
<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/statistics/mental-health-statistics-homelessness>  
 Public Health England – Health Matters 2020  
<https://www.homeless.org.uk/connect/blogs/2019/feb/13/making-homelessness-services-more-trans-inclusive>  
<https://www.bigissue.com/latest/black-people-are-more-than-three-times-as-likely-to-experience-homelessness/>

**Who have you consulted with to assess possible impact on protected groups?** If you have not consulted other people, please explain why?

We have undertaken detailed needs assessments with everyone accommodated at Canonsgrove and also undertaken a number of case studies which have supported much of the national evidence that exists around statistics on rough sleepers. This includes some of the following national statistics:

- Average life expectancy of a male rough sleeper is 44 and female rough sleeper 42 (compared to 80 for men and 84 for women in Taunton) (source: Public Health England – Health Matters and Somerset Intelligence website)
- 90% of rough sleeper deaths are male and 10% female (compared to 48% and 52% nationally) (Source Crisis: homelessness kills). Suicide accounts for 13% of deaths (source Public Health England)
- Nationally, 84% of rough sleepers are male and 16% female. 6% were aged 25 or younger (and 94% over 25)
- Nationally, 64% are UK nationals; 22% EU nationals and 3% non-EU nationals (Public Health England: Health Matters)
- 77% of people sleeping rough experience violence or anti-social behaviour against them (Source: Crisis: It's no life at all)
- 45% had been intimidated or threatened (Source: Crisis It's no life at all).
- 80% of rough sleepers experienced childhood trauma (Source: NHS rough sleepers report)
- 46% had physical health needs. One third nationally are not registered with a GP and homeless people access to A&E services are 8x higher than the average person. (Source: Public Health England)
- 80% of homeless people have reported poor mental health and 45% have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. (Source: Mental Health org.uk)
- Addiction is a big issue. 42% had alcohol misuse needs and 41% had drug misuse needs (Source: Public Health England).
- Nationally, 10.7% of people applying for help with homelessness were black (but only 3% of population) (Big Issue 2020).

It is worth noting that the work over the past year through providing a 'hub' model of support that brings together practitioners on mental health, addiction services, physical health, social care and other support has made a positive difference on many of the above issues locally. For example, 9% of deaths nationally are related to liver related disease (Source: Public Health England) and we have brought in Hepatitis screening and treatment. We have also registered everyone with a GP and many of the risk factors associated with rough sleeping above are removed simply through accommodating rough sleepers.

The Canonsgrove option appraisal seeks a solution to continue to provide wrap around support and accommodate rough sleepers into the longer term and therefore will positively affect all of the issues outlined above once delivered. These aspirations were set out in the Executive report November 2020. The report does make reference to the draft Single Homeless Accommodation Strategy which will come forward to full Council later in the year and include an Equality Impact Assessment to support the strategy and any changes in provision as a result of the strategies adoption.

Consultation in relation to the Canonsgrove option appraisal has been primarily held with providers of homeless accommodation to consider alternative models of delivering accommodation to this customer group.

## Analysis of impact on protected groups

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. Consider how this policy/service will achieve these aims. In the table below, using the evidence outlined above and your own understanding, detail what considerations and potential impacts against each of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Based on this information, make an assessment of the likely outcome, before you have implemented any mitigation.

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
<b>Age</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age needs to be defined differently for rough sleepers, as the average life expectancy is 44 (men) and 42 (women). The Options Appraisal proposes a way forward to provide accommodation and support to rough sleepers which will inevitably lead to people's life expectancy increasing.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Disability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence above shows that rough sleepers are disproportionately affected by poor physical health. The recommended option allow resources to be focused on the client group. The new accommodation supply will use the draft Single Homeless accommodation strategy to better match accommodation and individual needs including access and mobility requirements</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence suggests that homeless amongst trans people is disproportionately high, although we have not encountered this locally. Provision of more accommodation will provide greater capacity to provide safe shelter for single homeless customers including those going through gender reassignment.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific additional outcomes identified. However the recommended option provides SWT with the accommodation capacity to provide safe shelter for single homeless customers status.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific additional outcomes identified as a statutory consideration applies for women who approach the Council and are homeless and are pregnant.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Race and ethnicity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is national evidence to suggest that BAME communities are more likely to suffer from homelessness and rough sleeping. No specific additional outcomes identified. However the recommended option provides SWT with the accommodation capacity to provide safe shelter for single homeless customers regardless of their race and ethnicity</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Religion or belief</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific additional outcomes identified. However the recommended option provides SWT with the accommodation capacity to provide safe shelter for single homeless customers regardless of their religion and beliefs.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sex</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Homelessness and rough sleeping disproportionately affects men. The strategy has identified a lack of single homeless accommodation exclusively for women. The draft Single Homeless Accommodation strategy will have an opportunity to address this. However the recommended option provides SWT with the accommodation capacity to provide safe shelter for single homeless customers regardless of sex.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific additional outcomes identified. However the recommended option provides SWT with the accommodation capacity to provide safe shelter for single homeless customers regardless of their sexual orientation.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other, e.g. carers, veterans, homeless, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recommendation build on the ambitions and contribution to equality made in the Somerset Housing Strategy and the Somerset Homeless and Rough Sleeper strategy and action plan. This report reflects the sentiments of these strategies.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The draft Single Homeless Accommodation Strategy provides a framework to better match the diverse range of needs which single homeless customers have ranging from access to accommodation able to match their ability to live independently to accommodation which provides a higher level of support which will increase their opportunity to develop skills and habits which over time will help them sustain independent accommodation.</li> <li>• The Accommodation Strategy also includes consideration of provision for veterans to ensure these are catered for.</li> <li>• The recommended option for Canonsgrove will retain and focus SWT resources on the provision of accommodation and support for single homeless and not dilute energy and financial resources in accommodation which the market is able to provide.</li> </ul>			
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**Negative outcomes action plan**

Where you have ascertained that there will potentially be negative outcomes, you are required to mitigate the impact of these. Please detail below the actions that you intend to take.

Action taken/to be taken	Date	Person responsible	How will it be monitored?	Action complete
N/A	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>

**If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.**

N/A

<b>Completed by:</b>	<b>Chris Brown</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>25/02/2021</b>
<b>Signed off by:</b>	<b>James Barrah</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>25/02/2021</b>
<b>Equality Lead/Manager sign off date:</b>	<b>25/02/2021</b>
<b>To be reviewed by: (officer name)</b>	<b>Simon Lewis</b>
<b>Review date:</b>	<b>25/02/2023</b>