

EQUALITY SCREENING

Equality Impact Assessment guidance should be considered when completing this form.

POLICY/FUNCTION/ACTIVITY	LEAD OFFICER
Housing Fraud Policy	Abigail Travers

A. What is the aim of this policy, function or activity? Why is it needed? What is it hoped to achieve and how will it be ensured it works as intended? Does it affect service users, employees or the wider community?

The aim of this policy is to set out the Council's approach to preventing, identifying and addressing housing fraud.

This policy covers the following;

- Housing applications
- Obtaining housing by deception
- Allocation of the council housing and nomination to the registered social landlord
- The right to buy
- Unlawful subletting
- Wrongly claimed succession
- Unauthorised assignment
- Key selling
- Not living in the Council's property as its principle home

This policy provides the framework for the Council to identify and address social housing tenancy fraud within the council's own housing stock. It does not extend to dealing with housing fraud in the private sector or extend to activities of the Council beyond those relating to its own housing stock.

B. . Is this policy, function or activity relevant to equality? Does the policy, function or activity relate to an area in which there are known inequalities, or where different groups have different needs or experience? Remember, it may be relevant because there are opportunities to promote equality and greater access, not just potential on the basis of adverse impacts or unlawful discrimination. The Protected Characteristics are; Sex, Age, Disability, Race, Religion and Beliefs, Sexual Orientation, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Gender Reassignment, Pregnancy and Maternity.

This policy may have an impact on protected characteristics such as age and disability if for example a vulnerable person has been living in a property unaware that it has been illegally sublet. In these cases support will be provided to those affected by fraudulent behaviour.

Overall I feel this policy will have a positive impact on social tenants as it will make sure that those who require social housing will be able to access it whilst preventing others from fraudulently obtaining it.

If the policy, function or activity is considered to be relevant to equality then a full Equality Impact Assessment may need to be carried out. If the policy function or activity does not

engage any protected characteristics then you should complete Part C below. Where Protected Characteristics are engaged, but Full Impact Assessment is not required because measures are in place or are proposed to be implemented that would mitigate the impact on those affected or would provide an opportunity to promote equalities please complete Part C.

C. If the policy, function or activity is not considered to be relevant to equality, what are the reasons for this conclusion? Alternatively, if there it is considered that there is an impact on any Protected Characteristics but that measures are in place or are proposed to be implemented please state those measures and how it/they are expected to have the desired result. What evidence has been used to make this decision? A simple statement of 'no relevance' or 'no data' is not sufficient.

This policy does not require a full EIA as the it should have a positive impact as this policy will ensure there is a clear approach to how the council deal with and investigate fraud cases. It will ensure that any tenant who defrauds the Council are dealt with appropriately to ensure the correct actions are taken.

This screening assessment will need to be referred to the Equality Group for challenge before sign-off.

Date completed:

Sign-off by senior manager: