APPENDIX 4 - The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2022

RMBC - Equality Analysis Form for Commissioning, Decommissioning, Decision making, Projects, Policies, Services, Strategies or Functions (CDDPPSSF)

Under the Equality Act 2010 Protected characteristics are Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity. Page 6 of guidance. Other areas to note see guidance appendix 1	
Name of policy, service or function. If a policy, list any associated policies:	Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 -2022
Name of service and Directorate	Housing Options, Adult Social Care, Housing and Public Health Directorate
Lead manager	Sandra Tolley, Head of Housing Options and Jill Jones Homelessness Manager
Date of Equality Analysis (EA)	19 February 2019
Names of those involved in the EA (Should include at least two other people)	Sandra Tolley, Head of Housing Options Jill Jones, Homelessness Manager Kim Firth, Homelessness Coordinator Sonia Dyson, Resettlement and Temporary Accommodation Coordinator Zaidah Ahmed, Corporate Equalities and Diversity Officer

Aim/Scope (who the Policy /Service affects and intended outcomes if known) See page 7 of guidance step 1

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 is the most significant changes to homelessness law in decades. The principles of the Act are to help more people sooner and to prevent repeat homelessness. The Council is committed to this approach and will continue to focus on homelessness prevention.

The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy sets out the Council's long term vision for addressing the root causes of homelessness, and seeks to develop a partnership approach to reducing homelessness over the next three years.

It has been developed in consultation with key partners and takes into account recent legislative changes and the impact on increased demand for homelessness services.

The intended outcomes of the Strategy are to:
- Support young people to access the right accommodation
- Ensure there is provision of appropriate support for people with complex needs
- Support victims of domestic abuse
- Provide appropriate temporary accommodation
- Prevent homelessness to reduce the impact on health
- Make it easier to access services via digital methods or outreach
- End rough sleeping
- Prevent evictions and early intervention
- Reduce the loss of private rented accommodation

APPENDIX 4 - The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2022

RMBC - Equality Analysis Form for Commissioning, Decommissioning, Decision making, Projects, Policies, Services, Strategies or Functions (CDDPPSSF)

- Reducing the number of aggressive beggars

Rotherham reflects the national trend in the number of households who have lost their home. The usage of temporary accommodation, the numbers of homeless presentations and the number of people sleeping rough continues to increase.

The financial impact of welfare reform has had a negative impact on people on low income and those that depend on benefits. Poor housing or a lack of suitable housing can have a negative impact on people's lives including their ability to maintain good health and wellbeing, educational achievement, access to support services, and employment opportunities.

It is essential that the root causes and risks relating to homelessness are identified early so the right type of support and intervention can be put in place before a person reaches the point of becoming homelessness.

The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 -2022 will aim to:

1. Support people with complex needs
2. Prevent homeless and offer rapid housing solutions to get people in urgent housing need rehoused quicker
3. Increase support for young people to prevent homelessness
4. Tackle and end rough sleeping and begging
5. Improve access to tenancy support, employment and health support services

6. Ensure there is sufficient decent emergency accommodation

A successful policy would see:

- Families having a stable home which give the best start in life for children, and vulnerable adults.
- A reduction in the time spent living in temporary accommodation
- A reduction in the usage of temporary accommodation by homeless households will therefore reduce expenditure
- Families with children prevented from becoming homeless
- An increase in the number of homeless households prevented from becoming homeless
- Households on low incomes being helped to affordable housing.
- Good quality, stable homes help people to avoid financial hardship and can have a significant impact on people's health and wellbeing
- People are happy with the waiting time to move home

The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 -2022 impacts on all wards

RMBC - Equality Analysis Form for Commissioning, Decommissioning, Decision making, Projects, Policies, Services, Strategies or Functions (CDDPPSSF)

What equality information is available? Include any engagement undertaken and identify any information gaps you are aware of. What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics? See page 7 of guidance step 2

Key facts and statistics

- 263,400 people live in Rotherham Borough, about half living in and around the main urban area of Rotherham. The remainder live in smaller towns such as Wath, Dinnington and Maltby, and in numerous large villages and rural communities, all of which have their own distinct identities.

- 120,600 Rotherham residents are in employment whilst 106,000 people have workplaces in the Borough, giving a net outflow of 14,700 workers. One in five workers who live in Rotherham are employed in Sheffield and another one in five work elsewhere outside Rotherham.

- 45,259 children attend 117 Rotherham schools.

- One in four residents (25.2%) are aged 60 years or over and 22,500 people (8.5%) are aged 75 years or over. Rotherham has 56,900 children aged 0-17 (21.6% of the population).

- Rotherham's Black and minority ethnic (BME) population was 8.1% in 2011 and is now estimated at around 11%. The central area of Rotherham is far more ethnically diverse than the rest of the Borough. The largest minority ethnic group is Pakistani & Kashmiri (4% of the population), followed by the Slovak & Czech Roma (1.5% of the population). Rotherham also has smaller Black African, Indian, Chinese, Irish and Arab communities, all with between 500 and 2,000 people.

- The 2011 Census showed that 56,588 (22%) of Rotherham's population had a long term health problem or disability and 11.3% said their day-to-day activities were limited a lot by long term conditions (8.3% nationally). In November 2016, 30,306 Rotherham residents (11.6%) claimed Disability Living Allowance (16,680), Personal Independence Payment (6,100) or Attendance Allowance (7,516).

- One in six homes is rented from the council and although house prices have risen over the years, they are about half the national average.

- In the past 12 months homelessness acceptances has increased from 100 to 122. From the 122 households accepted as homeless, 67% of the main applicants were between the ages of 25 to 44. Acceptances are those people who are homeless, eligible, in priority need, not intentionally homeless and who have a local connection.

- The main reason for homelessness is from people whose private rented tenancy has come to an end. The other top reasons for homelessness are family or parental evictions and domestic abuse/other forms of violence.

RMBC - Equality Analysis Form for Commissioning, Decommissioning, Decision making, Projects, Policies, Services, Strategies or Functions (CDDPPSSF)

- The incidents of people sleeping rough are still low in Rotherham compared to the Sub Region. In Rotherham, there were 19 people identifies as sleeping rough during the last 12 months. Of these 16 were men and 2 women and all were over the age of 25. Their nationality was 15 were White British, 2 were Eastern Europeans and 2 refused to disclose. 17 had a local connection to Rotherham and 2 had a local connection to Barnsley.

- The annual return for rough sleepers in 2017 was 2. This is because it was an actual count of Rough Sleepers on a particular night.

- The demand for temporary homeless accommodation is increasing. The table below shows the comparison over the past 3 years at the end of October each year:

Month and year	October 2016	October 2017	October 2018
Nos in temporary accommodation	21	33	38

The main reasons for temporary accommodation being used in the past 12 months are due to people:

- fleeing domestic abuse
- having physical health problems
- having mental ill health
- losing their tenancy

During 2017/18 there were 714 households prevented from becoming homeless, of these 124 were assisted to remain in their existing homes mainly due to:

- crisis intervention - providing emergency support
- negotiation with family and friends
- providing assistance to remain in private or social rented accommodation
- assistance in resolving housing benefit issues

Of the 714 households there were 510 households that were prevented from becoming homeless by helping to secure alternative housing as follows:

Moved to Supported accommodation	131
Moved to private rented accommodation with the help of rent in advance or bond	84
Moved to private rented accommodation without support for upfront costs	85
Moved to Social housing (either Council or Housing Association)	210

The review of the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2018 -2022 involved detailed consultation with a number of key stakeholders including the Council, Councillors, staff, partners, residents and voluntary groups.

APPENDIX 4 - The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2022

RMBC - Equality Analysis Form for Commissioning, Decommissioning, Decision making, Projects, Policies, Services, Strategies or Functions (CDDPPSSF)

The Strategy review took into account demographic information, supply and demand for properties. An assessment of waiting time to be rehoused for those who are homeless.	
Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings) See page 7 of guidance step 3	The proposed changes to the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 -2022 has been discussed with elected members at:
	September 2018 – Improving Places Select Commission. As part of the consultation a presentation was presented to members who were supportive of the proposals. The Panel were concerned about the impact of Universal Credit.
	The findings are that the impact on rent arrears is now starting to become evident at individual account level, with the average arrears for a tenant on Universal Credit being £726.92 compared to £395.12 for other tenants i.e. the average arrears for a tenant on Universal Credit is 84% higher than other tenants. This presents a significant risk to income collection and manifests itself through increased bad debt provision. The forecast arrears balance for new Universal Credit claims is £625k for 2018-19. To mitigate this risk all new tenants who are eligible for Universal Credit have to make a claim and set up either a Direct Debit or a Recurring Card payment for rent prior to being issued with the keys for their new home.
	Local partners have not reported any significant increase in demand for services following the roll out of the Universal Credit Full Service. For instance, whilst the Citizens' Advice Bureau has seen over a 120% increase in uptake of services this is not directly attributable to Universal Credit as there has only been a 1% increase in demand for benefits advice since the same period last year. For context, Citizens' Advice Bureau have only provided 92 pieces of advice about Universal Credit since July 2018, this comprises only 2% of the 4,125 issues that have been dealt with during that time.
	Foodbank use has remained fairly constant, at levels seen before the rollout of the Universal Credit Full Service. Before the rollout there were on average 79 referrals per month. In the three months following rollout, there have been 74, 84 and 80 vouchers issued respectively i.e. no increase in the average number of referrals.
	September 2018 - Other engagement/consultation has been undertaken at the Rotherham Show

RMBC - Equality Analysis Form for Commissioning, Decommissioning, Decision making, Projects, Policies, Services, Strategies or Functions (CDDPPSSF)

	March, July and September 2018 - The Side by Side Partnership who are predominantly providers who work with homeless households have been consulted. They were supportive of the aims and the group highlighted further work will be required to prevent homelessness in the development of the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 - 2022 **October 2018** - Rotherfed who lead on Tenant Involvement have been consulted and also the Quality Challenge Group. Both groups were supportive of the draft proposals **December 2018** - Strategic Housing Partnership were consulted. A presentation was made highlighting the proposals and the benefits for Rotherham people. Staff across both Children' and Adult Services have been provided with briefing papers relating to homeless households in Rotherham. The Strategy changes: a) Bring benefits for other directorates and partners, particularly in reducing homelessness for families with children and contributing to local targets on homelessness prevention and financial inclusion / capability. b) Ensure that members, Council officers, partners and local people can be confident that the new Strategy will help local people access affordable housing quicker. **Further actions required –**
Engagement undertaken with staff about the implications on service users (date and group(s)consulted and key findings) See page 7 of guidance step 3	The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 - 2022 has been developed with support from Council Officers and input from the Strategic Leadership Team. Councillors, staff and partners play a vital role in the review of the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 - 2022. The draft Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 – 2022 has been circulated to a range of stakeholders, including; services across the Council, Rotherfed, public health, housing associations, the police, health, community protection,

RMBC - Equality Analysis Form for Commissioning, Decommissioning, Decision making, Projects, Policies, Services, Strategies or Functions (CDDPPSSF)

	Shiloh, support providers, Rotherham's Armed Forces Covenant group. Following approval the new Strategy will be effectively communicated to staff and members and the new Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 – 2022 will be published and made available online.

The Analysis

How do you think the Policy/Service meets the needs of different communities and groups? Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity. Rotherham also includes Carers as a specific group. Other areas to note are Financial Inclusion, Fuel Poverty, and other social economic factors. This list is not exhaustive - see guidance appendix 1 **and** page 8 of guidance step 4

The new Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 – 2022 should have a positive impact on all communities. However the impact will need to be reviewed based on specific need.

The changes should improve the Council's ability to respond to the demand for accommodation from homeless households so that they can move quicker into suitable housing. The strategy will help homeless people living in temporary accommodation to move on quicker.

The 'hidden' homelessness including people who are rough sleeping, or 'sofa surfing will be assisted in accommodation and support services.

The exploration of the development of an alternative giving scheme will help to reduce rough sleeping and begging

By considering the expansion of the Housing First scheme and by working in partnership with support providers will ensure there is a whole person approach to support people with complex needs.

Joint working arrangements with adult social care, children's social care, safeguarding, primary care, mental health and substance misuse will help people with drug, alcohol or gambling dependencies.

The provision of a resettlement/floating support package for every complex needs individual/rough sleeper will help individuals move into an independent tenancy

Analysis of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service:
See page 8 of guidance step 4 and 5
Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Group? Identify by protected characteristics **Does the Service/Policy provide any improvements/remove barriers?** Identify by protected characteristics

APPENDIX 4 - The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2022

RMBC - Equality Analysis Form for Commissioning, Decommissioning, Decision making, Projects, Policies, Services, Strategies or Functions (CDDPPSSF)

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? Identify by protected characteristics

The new Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 – 2022 should remove barriers to Social Housing. For example changes have been made to the Councils Housing Allocation Policy, which should have a positive impact and improve the Council's ability to respond to the demand for accommodation from homeless households and for those people with other urgent housing need. The Council will review the impact of the Allocation Policy changes on people who are at risk of homelessness.

The Council will ensure there are housing options and support for adults and children affected by domestic abuse, ensuring accommodation and appropriate support is provided, and that information sharing and support provision is more accessible. as one of the aims to the amendments will give more priority to people in urgent need. For example by increasing the quota of properties advertised in Band 2 from 50% to 60% will mean that people in need of urgent rehousing will be able to move more quickly away from unsuitable living conditions.

Vulnerable people are offered and provided with tenancy support which is tailored to individual needs to help them sustain their tenancy and live in the community.

The effect of the new Strategy will be closely monitored on areas such as:
- The number of homeless households on the Housing Register
- The numbers of people prevented and relieved from becoming homeless
- The numbers of caseloads per Homelessness Officer
- The number of children living in temporary accommodation
- Length of stay in temporary accommodation
- An analysis of tenancy termination reasons
- Expenditure on temporary accommodation and hotels
- Reduce the number of Council tenancy evictions
- Reduction in rent arrears for cases that have received Tenancy Support
- The number of evictions averted as a result of Tenancy Support

Please list any **actions and targets** by Protected Characteristic that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment and ensure that they are added into your service plan.

Website Key Findings Summary: To meet legislative requirements a summary of the Equality Analysis needs to be completed and published.

APPENDIX 4 - The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2022

RMBC - Equality Analysis Form for Commissioning, Decommissioning, Decision making, Projects, Policies, Services, Strategies or Functions (CDDPPSSF)

<u>**Equality Analysis Action Plan**</u> - See page 9 of guidance step 6 and 7

Time Period …………………

Manager: Sandra Tolley, Head of Housing Options

Service Area: Housing Options, Adult Social Care Housing and Public Health Directorate Tel: 01709 255619

Title of Equality Analysis:

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic.

List all the Actions and Equality Targets identified

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Monitor the number of households prevented and relieved from becoming homeless including the protected characteristics	All	**Annual on 31/3/2020 and 31/3/2021**
Consider homelessness statistics relating to the protected characteristics	All	**Annual on 31/3/2020 and 31/3/2021**
Monitoring the number of Council evictions relating to the protected characteristics	All	**31/3/2020**
Monitor the impact of the new Strategy by analysis the number of homeless households assisted to alternative housing according to their protected characteristic.	All	**Annual on 31/3/2020 and 31/3/2021**

RMBC - Equality Analysis Form for Commissioning, Decommissioning, Decision making, Projects, Policies, Services, Strategies or Functions (CDDPPSSF)

Complete further EIA's in the future should there be further changes to the policy	All	
Name Of Director who approved Plan	**Tom Bell, Assistant Director of Housing**	**Date**	

*A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups

Website Summary – Please complete for publishing on our website and append to any reports to Elected Members SLT or Directorate Management Teams

Completed equality analysis	Key findings	Future actions

APPENDIX 4 - The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2022

RMBC - Equality Analysis Form for Commissioning, Decommissioning, Decision making, Projects, Policies, Services, Strategies or Functions (CDDPPSSF)

Completed equality analysis	Key findings	Future actions
Directorate: Adult Social Care Housing and Public Health Directorate Function, policy or proposal name: The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2022 Function or policy status: New (new, changing or existing) Name of lead officer completing the assessment: Sandra Tolley Jill Jones Date of assessment: 19 February 2019	The Strategy was developed off the back of extensive consultation. It will not have a negative or adversely affect any communities or individuals. The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2022 sets out the Council's long term vision for addressing the root causes of homelessness, and seeks to develop a partnership approach to reducing homelessness over the next three years. It has been developed in consultation with key partners and takes into account recent legislative changes, and the impact on demand for homelessness services as a result of this. The 7 aims will; support people with complex needs, increase access to housing and rehousing people faster, prevent homelessness and increase support for young people, tackle and end rough sleeping and begging, create access to support, employment, improve the provision of temporary accommodation and sustain tenancies	Any future policy changes will be subject to an EA's We will be monitoring the effect of the changes of the policy on areas such as: • The number of homeless households on the Housing Register • The numbers of people prevented and relieved from becoming homeless • The numbers of caseloads per Homelessness Officer • The number of children living in temporary accommodation • Length of stay in temporary accommodation • An analysis of tenancy termination reasons • Expenditure on temporary accommodation and hotels • Reduce the number of Council tenancy evictions • Reduction in rent arrears for cases that have received Tenancy Support • The number of evictions averted as a result of Tenancy Support

APPENDIX 4 - The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2022

RMBC - Equality Analysis Form for Commissioning, Decommissioning, Decision making, Projects, Policies, Services, Strategies or Functions (CDDPPSSF)