



Background Paper 3

RENFREWSHIRE LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2016-2021: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment



This is background paper 1 to Renfrewshire's Local Housing Strategy 2016-2021.

The document can be found online at

www.renfrewshire.gov.uk

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**Renfrewshire's Local Housing Strategy 2016 – 2021
Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment**

**Local Housing Strategy 2016-2021
Renfrewshire Council**

Name of proposed policy:	Local Housing Strategy 2016 -2021
Service:	Housing Strategy and Development
Reason for impact assessment:	New Local Housing Strategy developed

The Equality Act 2010 places a general equality duty for public sector organisations. The Act introduced a statutory public sector duty to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations.

The statutory duty requires needs to be considered in respect of certain protected characteristics:

- Age
- Disability
- Sex (including Pregnancy and Maternity)
- Gender reassignment
- Sexual Orientation
- Race
- Religion and Belief

This Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment examines the new Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2016-2021 with respect to the above protected characteristics.

The aim of the assessment is to identify the likely or actual effects of the strategy on people. This includes identifying where there will be a positive impact and further opportunities to further promote equality. Where there are any potential negative impacts identified, actions will be identified to eliminate or minimise these.

Evidence is drawn from the most recent Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2 recently undertaken by the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Housing Market Partnership, research carried out during the LHS development process and recent nationally published data.

Assessment – Impact on Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	Positive impact identified	Negative Impact Identified	No impact identified
Age	☐		
Disability	☐		
Sex			☐
Pregnancy and Maternity			☐
Gender reassignment			☐
Sexual Orientation			☐
Race	☐		
Religion			☐

Age

In 2014, Renfrewshire's population was 174,230. The age breakdown is shown below.

Age Group	% of population
0-15	17.2%
16-29	17.2%
30-44	18.5%
45-59	23%
60-74	16%
75+	8.2%

Source: NRS factsheet August 2015, 2014 figures

National Records of Scotland 2012 based population projections show longer term that there will only be a marginal increase in the population overall in Renfrewshire (0.6% from 2012- 2037). However the age group 75+ will experience a particularly large increase over this period – up by almost 80% and by 2037 will account for 14% of Renfrewshire's population compared to the current 8%. Planning for an older population is therefore particularly important.

The strategy sets out actions to deliver a range of housing options (eg amenity housing and low cost home ownership for older people) as well as services that will help older people to stay independently in their own homes such as Care and Repair services. This will have a positive impact for older people. In addition an action plan to address outcomes of a review of extra care and very sheltered and sheltered housing in Renfrewshire will be developed over the life time of the strategy. This will help ensure that there is appropriate specialist provision that is fit for modern purposes in Renfrewshire.

Older people are more likely to suffer from fuel poverty. The range of actions outlined in the strategy to tackle fuel poverty will therefore positively impact on older people.

Population projections show the working age groups are projected to decline. Housing Supply Targets set in the Renfrewshire Local Housing Strategy will enable more housing to be built which can help to attract and retain working age people within Renfrewshire.

Youth homelessness is an identified issue in Renfrewshire. Of all homeless applications in Renfrewshire, 28% were from people aged 16-25. There are dedicated youth housing options advisors in place to help prevent youth homelessness and there is a Joint Throughcare Protocol for looked after children and young people in place to ensure planned moves from care to independent living.

14% of homeless applicants in 2015/2016 had children. The strategy notes that work is required across the entire range of services and external partners to ensure that children facing homelessness and vulnerable households are well supported and that the “Foundations First” initiative will work with marginalised families with children aged 0-18 to help break the cycle of homelessness.

Disability

Census 2011 information indicates that 7.2% of Renfrewshire’s population have a physical disability, 6.9% have a hearing impairment, 2.4% have a visual impairment and 5.2% report they had a mental health condition.

The strategy notes the establishment of the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) in Renfrewshire. The Strategic Plan and commissioning strategies that will be developed for a number of specific groups (e.g. learning disability, physical disability, sensory impairment) by the HSCP will likely have positive impacts on future LHS actions which will be reported through LHS annual updates.

The most recent information available (from 2012, ESay return) show that there are 102 people with autism and a learning disability, who live in a range of accommodation from mainstream housing to a care home setting. The LHS notes that the Renfrewshire Autism Strategy Group is implementing the Renfrewshire Autism Strategy 2014-2017 which highlights the need to develop a broader range of housing options for individuals who may not be suited to mainstream accommodation. This will be a positive impact for this group.

Sex

There is a significant over-representation of males within homeless applicants. In 2015/16 67% of all homeless applicants were from male applicants. The strategy notes projects that will be delivered to tackle the root cause of homelessness and repeat homelessness and the focus of the strategy going forward will aim at addressing the complex and often multiple issues (such as addiction and mental health issues) that are a cause of homelessness.

Pregnancy and Maternity

We have not identified any equalities issues specific to this protected characteristic within the Local Housing Strategy.

Gender reassignment

We have not identified any equalities issues specific to this protected characteristic within the Local

Sexual Orientation

We have not identified any equalities issues specific to this protected characteristic within the Local Housing Strategy.

Race

Ethnicity

The 2011 Census identified a total population of 174,908 in Renfrewshire and collated the following information on ethnic groups:

Ethnic Group	Renfrewshire	Scotland
White Scottish	91.3%	83.9%
White Other British	3.3%	7.88%
White Irish	0.9%	1.02
White Polish	0.7%	1.16
White Other	1.0%	1.93
Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	1.8%	2.66
Other Ethnic Groups	1.0%	1.3%

Source: Scotland's Census 2011, June 2014 Release, Area Profile/Identity/Ethnicity

A total of 97% of Renfrewshire residents describe themselves as "White" compared to 96% across the whole of Scotland. Within that category, 91% describe themselves as "White Scottish" in Renfrewshire compared to 84% in Scotland. The next largest ethnic group in Renfrewshire is "Asian" at just under 2% with the other ethnic groups accounting for 1%. There are no identified particular housing needs for any specific ethnic group, although services are available to help people with different languages yo access housing.

Gypsy/Travellers – Census data showed 0.04% of Renfrewshire residents described themselves as Gypsy Travellers. In 2014/15, there were 19 unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller encampments in Renfrewshire. The need for a Gypsy/Travellers site will be consulted upon through the Local Development Plan Main Issues Report.

Religion and Belief

We have not identified any equalities issues specific to this protected characteristic within the Local Housing Strategy.

Human Rights Impact Assessment

Whilst it is not a requirement to carry out a Human Rights Impact Assessment, human rights issues have been considered alongside equalities as the objectives of both are often complimentary. Human rights extend the concept of fairness of treatment, dignity and respect beyond the sphere of protected characteristics to include individual rights. At an international level 'The Universal Declaration of Human Rights' contains 30 articles which have been incorporated into international treaties and protocols covering economic, social, civil and political rights and include among others the rights to: freedom of thought, conscience and religion; rest and leisure; a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of themselves and their family; education; protection against unemployment; freely participate in the cultural life of the community, enjoy the arts and share in scientific advancement.

Many of these rights cannot be influenced through the Local Housing Strategy and it is considered that this strategy document does not significantly impinge on any of these rights.

Conclusion

The Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment has shown that the Renfrewshire Local Housing Strategy 2016-2021 is likely to have a positive impact on a number of the characteristic groups including Race, Disability and Age. No negative impacts or equalities issues have been identified in relation to the Renfrewshire Local Housing Strategy 2016-2021.

Alternative Formats

This document can be made available in braille, large print or audio.

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

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ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ, ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਥੋਂ ਮੰਗ ਲਓ।

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