

West Suffolk Council Housing, Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy - Equality Analysis

An equality impact assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken on this new strategy to ensure that there are no adverse effects for any particular group. The strategy contains priorities and actions which will be delivered to provide a range of housing options so that we can respond to and plan for the growing need for additional housing, and in particular affordable housing, in West Suffolk.

It is anticipated that all residents in West Suffolk could benefit from the proposals. Through this strategy we intend to: increase the rate of housing delivery for the right type of housing to meet different needs; increase affordable housing including homes for social rent; improve energy efficiency and standards in existing housing by working with registered providers, the private rented sector and owner-occupiers; and engage, educate and support households at an earlier stage to ensure homelessness prevention before a crisis point is reached.

As set out in the strategy at section 4 and Appendix D, extensive consultation and engagement has been carried out in order to understand the needs of particular groups and people living in different localities. The feedback and learning from this is reflected throughout the pages of the strategy.

In terms of how it will impact on those with a protected characteristic, the strategy sets out how West Suffolk intends to improve housing provision for the following groups:

- those with a disability
- elderly people and younger people
- those living in rural isolation
- those on a low income
- vulnerable people and those at increased risk of homelessness and rough sleeping.