

INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS (EqIAA)

Woodleaze Young People's Housing Scheme

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

Following Cabinet approval on 3rd December the Council transferred the Woodleaze site in Yate, South Gloucestershire to Solon Housing Association who will be redeveloping the property. Working with a support provider who will be commissioned by the Council through a competitive tender process, the property will provide supported accommodation for between 18 - 20 young people aged 16 – 25. Some of these young people are care leavers for whom Council are corporate parents for, and others are homeless 16 – 17 year olds who the Council have a statutory responsibility to ensure are adequately housed. Other young people whose needs are not able to be met in existing provision will also be accommodated here.

A range of policies have informed the development of this new scheme including the Young Person's Housing Strategy and Care Leavers' Strategy.

There are currently 24 Care leavers in independent high cost provision with 1:1 support. The aim is to reduce this number, and form of support as it is expensive, and often does not achieve the independent living skills needed to progress towards independent accommodation; and transition into adulthood. Woodleaze will also provide more, much needed units of accommodation to meet demand and reach a greater number of young people at risk of homelessness.

The scheme will support young people to manage and maintain their accommodation, and prepare them to move on to more independent living. The support provided will be intensive, and will focus on building confidence and independent living skills to ensure that the maximum level of independence is achieved.

There will be joint partnership working for those living at the Scheme with:

- The Transitions to Independence Team
- HomeChoice team
- Ongoing Social Worker involvement
- Partnership agencies including Health, Education, Police etc.

SECTION 2 –RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION

A consultation will take place between 10 December 2018 – 11 March 2019 which will involve engagement events and a survey.

In respect of protected characteristics key service users are –

- Young people

There are 197 looked after children in South Gloucestershire. Of these 53% are male and 41% female.

81% - White

2% - Mixed

3% - Asian or Asian British

3% - Black or black British

0% - Other ethnic group

12% - Not stated

52% of care leavers aged 17 – 18 and 11% aged 19 – 21 are not in suitable accommodation.

In 2017/18 there were 48 16 – 17 year olds, 56 18 -19 year olds and 69 20 – 24 year olds who approached HomeChoice as homeless and in need of supported accommodation.

Educational outcomes for Looked after Children are poor, with no child gaining 5+ GCSEs A-C (including English and Maths) in either 2014 or 2015.

Only six per cent of care leavers are in higher education at 19, compared to roughly 30 per cent of young people nationally.

In South Gloucestershire 32% of care leavers aged 17 – 18 and 43% aged 19 – 21 are in employment, education or training.

Too many care leavers leave care with poor educational attainment and end up long term unemployed.

It is estimated that

- 20 per cent of young homeless people were previously in care
- 24 per cent of the adult prison population have been in care
- Care leavers are roughly twice as likely not to be in education training or employment at 19 than the rest of the population.

National research also demonstrates that care leavers are significantly more likely to experience significant mental health issues, drug and alcohol dependency, early pregnancy and experience significant loneliness and isolation in their transition to Independence. (Improving Life chances for Care Leavers, Centre for Social Justice 2014)

The population of young people age 16 – 25 in supported housing in South Gloucestershire who are not care leavers is in line with the general demographics of South Gloucestershire.

The accommodation provided at Woodleaze is aimed at addressing these evidenced needs.

SECTION 3 - IDENTIFICATION & ANALYSIS OF EQUALITIES ISSUES AND IMPACTS

It is anticipated that this new service will result in a positive impact, particularly in respect of the 'Protected Characteristics' of:

Age – due to the scheme being for young people aged 16-25

The scheme will support young people to access Employment, Education and Training as well as health services through tailored support and partnership working.

The new scheme will allow more young people with higher needs to have a successful outcome by being suitably accommodated and receiving specialised support, and at the same time living in their own community.

Throughout the commissioning process, the South Gloucestershire Council Equalities in Procurement Guidance will be followed to ensure that the chosen provider has both the ability and capacity to deliver against the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

SECTION 4 - EqIAA OUTCOME

State one of the following outcomes and why it has been selected:

Outcome	Response	Reason(s) and Justification
Outcome 1: No major change required.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Outcome 2: Adjustments to remove barriers or to better	<input type="checkbox"/>	

promote equality have been identified.		
Outcome 3: Continue despite having identified potential for adverse impact or missed opportunities to promote equality.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Outcome 4: Stop and rethink.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

SECTION 5 - ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THIS EqIAA

- Ensure that the SGC Equalities in Procurement Guidance is followed and is an integral part of the commissioning process.
- Ensure that equalities monitoring is part of the final service specification and contract.
- Contract Manager will ensure analysis of equalities issues as an ongoing part of contract monitoring.

SECTION 6 - EVIDENCE INFORMING THIS EqIAA

Survey results and engagement event outcomes
 South Gloucestershire JSNA
 South Gloucestershire Children’s Services Analysis 2018