

Appendix I: Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)

Initial Screening Record

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change
Temporary accommodation provision

Name of lead officer carrying out the screening
Simon Brooke Homelessness Operations Manager

Decision, review, and monitoring

Decision	Yes	No
Initial (part one) ESHIA Only?	✓	
Proceed to Full ESHIA or HIA (part two) Report?		✓

If completion of an initial or Part One assessment is an appropriate and proportionate action at this stage, please use the boxes above. If a Full or Part Two report is required, please move on to full report stage once you have completed this initial screening assessment as a record of the considerations which you have given to this matter.

Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations
<p>This proposed change will improve the provision of temporary accommodation for homeless single people. The plan to change the use of the Tannery East building from student accommodation will provide an additional 61 units of accommodation for those to whom the Council have a duty to provide temporary accommodation and that are currently housed in inappropriate and expensive B&B/hotel accommodation.</p> <p>The projected improvements in outcomes will include less repeat homelessness, more clients securing permanent accommodation, and less anti-social behaviour. It will also mean less work for health services and social care interventions, as well as for other statutory services.</p> <p>Homelessness is the most acute form of housing inequality, as it inhibits social inclusion and contributes to poor health outcomes. Therefore, by the Council agreeing to additional high quality supported temporary accommodation units, there will be an</p>

increase in positive outcomes for service users such as improved health and wellbeing and life chances.

There is a likely positive impact accordingly across the nine Protected Characteristic groupings as set out in the Equality Act 2010. This is particularly with regard to Age, Disability and Sex and intersectionality across these groupings including people who may have disabilities that may be visible, such as physical disabilities, or those that may be hidden, such as mental health diagnoses or neurodiverse conditions including autism.

There are also 3 ground floor wheelchair adapted properties at the Tannery. The Council struggles to provide good quality accommodation to meet the needs of those who require level access facilities. These units will be particularly helpful. The impact is anticipated to therefore be High Positive for these groupings of Age, Disability and Sex.

We also have regard to vulnerable individuals within our tenth category in Shropshire, of social inclusion. Homeless people can become isolated and being placed in B&B can exacerbate the exclusion from normal activities and placements away from support and family can be devastating. Good quality housing support will encourage social inclusion, taking up employment, engagement with services and reconnection to lost contact with friends and family.

This proposed initiative will build upon ongoing engagement with people in the Protected Characteristic groupings as well as working with vulnerable groupings including people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, young people leaving care, and veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families. The latter two groupings are now considered as distinct local protected characteristic groupings, as they are in Telford and Wrekin Council area as well, which will facilitate further partnership working across the Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin ICS with particular regard to health and well being.

Young people, including care leavers, who are homeless may have particular needs, Some having suffered trauma and hardship within their lives. Supported accommodation not only provides a home, but also enables vulnerable young people to develop life skills, including budgeting, healthy cooking, and appropriate behaviours, giving them the foundation and confidence to undertake study or training or seek employment, with a view to sustaining independent accommodation in the longer term.

Actions to review and monitor the impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations

The equality, social inclusion and health impacts of the programme will be monitored as it progresses.

Individual support plans will be agreed with each resident and these plans will be regularly reviewed. Actions will be agreed for individuals and the support worker.

The management plan for the accommodation will be subject to regular review to ensure the accommodation and support are managed to bring maximum benefit to those accommodated at the facility.

The authority will also seek to share approaches with comparator authorities, particularly other rural unitary authorities and other authorities in the West Midlands, in order to promote good practice around use of temporary accommodation provision, with links to be made to the Council's own current work to develop a Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy. This will usefully include evaluation of the effectiveness of the Tannery provision within the proposed action plan for the Strategy.

Opportunities to enhance positive impacts will be at the forefront of monitoring and review, with the aim that regular monitoring and ongoing engagement will ensure such impacts are identified and adjustments made to project delivery.

There is potential for the operation of a temporary accommodation facility in this location to be perceived negatively by neighbouring businesses and town centre residents. There is a risk that this could in turn create problems of stigmatisation for those using the temporary accommodation.

It is planned to ensure that good information and regular contact is provided for those groups or individuals who may feel impacted by the new facility as a near neighbour. This will avoid misconceptions and misinformation, and also allow positive exchanges about any issues that arise, to ensure swift resolution

Associated ESHIAs

ESHIA's have been carried out in relation to a range of housing policies and strategies, as well as previous ESHIA's regarding homelessness and temporary accommodation.

This includes commonality of policy intent with ESHIA's recently undertaken for housing related strategic policy approaches, including the Housing Allocations Policy and Scheme, and Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy, and more widely with ESHIA's undertaken for the Local Plan Partial Review and for the Shropshire Plan.

Additionally, there are links to be made with the draft "Preventing homelessness and rough sleeping strategy", for which a second screening ESHIA will be carried out after public consultation, to take account of feedback received.

Actions to mitigate negative impact, enhance positive impact, and review and monitor overall impacts in terms of any other considerations. This includes climate change considerations

Climate change

The building at Tannery East is already providing residential accommodation, the impact overall on climate change is therefore minimal.

The accommodation is built to modern standards and therefore the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating for the building is B.

We will be using 61 fewer units of hotel accommodation; this accommodation can be very variable with some with excellent energy performance and others where the accommodation is dated and insulation is poor.

Having a larger 61 bed scheme with support provided on site will result in fewer car journeys by support staff to visit residents in scattered B&B accommodation, saving on carbon output.

Health and well being

The most extreme form of housing inequality is homelessness; therefore, it is vital that the Council seeks to prevent homelessness and where households become homeless the Council ensures good temporary accommodation and move on to access affordable dwellings which meet their needs. People experiencing homelessness, face significant health inequalities and poorer health outcomes as compared to the rest of the population. Some homeless people will have suffered hardship and or trauma, leading to an increased incidence of mental health issues and or abuse of alcohol and illegal substances.

The additional units of temporary accommodation, together with onsite housing support will help improve health outcomes.

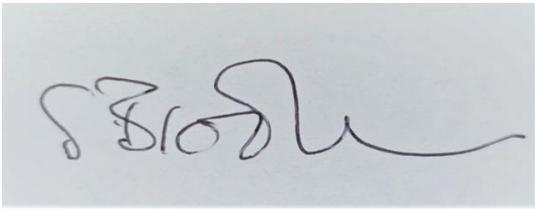
Economic and societal/wider community

By tackling homelessness, the Council ensures that the benefits are not limited to improving the individual health and wellbeing outcomes but can be much wider. For example, the financial cost to society through the increased use of the NHS and other support services will reduce, and following resettlement once people are able to live independently, they can then contribute to society through taking up employment opportunity. Vulnerable young people, including care leavers, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, will be provided with the foundations for being able to contribute to society through being supported to study, train and have careers.

Supported accommodation allows individuals to settle and find structure, enabling them to focus on a journey of recovery and integration back into society.

There is therefore an anticipated impact of through a reduction in presentations at Accident and Emergency departments; a reduction in accessing services for mental health and substance misuse use; and a reduction in crime and ASB, and a reduction in repeat homelessness.

Scrutiny at Part One screening stage

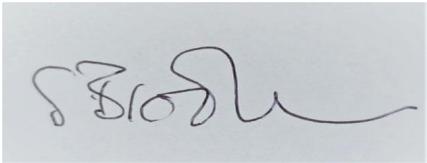
People involved	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer carrying out the screening</i> Simon Brooke		19/5/2024

<i>Any internal service area support*</i>		
<i>Any external support**</i> Lois Dale Rurality and Equalities Specialist		13 th June 2024

***This refers to other officers within the service area**

****This refers to support external to the service but within the Council, e.g., the Rurality and Equalities Specialist, the Feedback and Insight Team, performance data specialists, Climate Change specialists, and Public Health colleagues**

Sign off at Part One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer's name</i> Simon Brooke		20/5/24
<i>Accountable officer's name</i> Laura Fisher		20/5/24

***This may either be the Head of Service or the lead officer**

B. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description

The proposed change of use of the Tannery East building will provide 61 units of accommodation for those that the Council have a duty to provide temporary housing to. This is as part of statutory duties that the Council must secure accommodation for those that are homeless and deemed vulnerable.

The aim is to provide improved accommodation to a particularly vulnerable cohort whilst making significant financial savings by not using B&B accommodation.

The use of B&B/hotel accommodation is inappropriate in most cases as the rooms are small, there is often no or limited facilities for preparing food and hence its use does not help vulnerable people get back on track following losing their home. The accommodation is also not always available in Shrewsbury where a majority of the demand is from and hence vulnerable people are placed in other localities away from friends, family, and other support. At times other agencies are not happy that clients are placed in locations away from doctors, or other support services.

The proposed Tannery East accommodation is modern and attractive with rooms including private bathroom facilities, arranged in clusters with each cluster having a shared kitchen where residents can prepare food and eat their meals. There are on site laundry facilities.

The Council intend to have 24/7 concierge and Housing Support staff on site. This will improve the supervision and support available to those accommodated. At present it can be days if not weeks before we discover certain events or support that is required. Staff being on site will significantly improve support provided, leading to improved outcomes for homeless single people.

Evidence used for screening of the service change

The continued high use of B&B/hotel accommodation is evident. As at the end of March 2024 Shropshire had 106 homeless households placed in B&B/hotel accommodation. Of these over 90% were single person households.

Placement into temporary accommodation in the Shrewsbury area is very difficult and often homeless people are being placed in accommodation out of Shrewsbury away from family, friends and support networks. Currently we have 31 placements of single households out of the Council's boundaries due to lack of availability.

Placements away from support can lead to a deterioration in health, mental health or recovery from substance misuse. This can then lead to a failure to sustain the placement in accommodation with the risk of rough sleeping and a further decline in good outcomes.

The Council has other temporary accommodation schemes in progress, at Coton Hill House in Shrewsbury, Parish Rooms in Bridgnorth and other smaller projects. However, these alone will not address the significant use of B&B/hotel accommodation.

Specific consultation and engagement with intended audiences and target groups for the service change

The Council will continue its ongoing engagement with the homeless individuals who are affected, on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, the council is committed to engaging with the local community and stakeholders on the development of this project and to address any concerns in a timely manner. The council will:

- Provide regular and timely updates on the progress of the project, the planning application, the renovation works, and the outcomes of the scheme.
- Use a range of communication methods and channels, such as press releases, social media, newsletters, meetings, and stakeholder channels.
- Provide a dedicated page on the council's website, where people can find more information, FAQs, and contact details for the project team.
- Work with key stakeholders, such as local councillors, Shrewsbury Town Council, Shrewsbury BID, Shrewsbury Big Town Plan Partnership, neighbouring businesses and residents, and other statutory and voluntary partners, to ensure they are informed and involved in the project.
- Seek feedback from the local community and stakeholders and respond to any queries or complaints in a respectful and constructive manner.
- Ensure that the new facility forms part of the wider community and that the residents are supported to integrate into the local area.

Initial equality impact assessment by grouping (Initial health impact assessment is included below)

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have on a group, through stating this in the relevant column.

Please state if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact) and add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.

Protected Characteristic groupings and other groupings in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two ESHIA required</i>	High positive impact <i>Part One ESHIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact <i>Part One ESHIA required</i>	Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify) <i>Part One ESHIA required</i>
<u>Age</u> (please include children, young people, young people leaving care, people of working age, older people. Some people may belong to more than one group e.g., a child or young person for whom there are safeguarding concerns e.g., an older person with disability)		High positive impact		
<u>Disability</u> (please include mental health conditions and syndromes; hidden disabilities including neurodiverse conditions and Crohn's disease; physical and sensory disabilities or impairments; learning disabilities; Multiple Sclerosis; cancer; and HIV)		High positive impact		
<u>Gender re-assignment</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Low positive impact
<u>Marriage and Civil Partnership</u> (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility,				Low positive impact

potential for bullying and harassment)				
<u>Pregnancy and Maternity</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Low positive impact
<u>Race</u> (please include ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Traveller)				Low positive impact
<u>Religion and belief</u> (please include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				Low positive impact
<u>Sex</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Medium to high positive impact	
<u>Sexual Orientation</u> (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				Low positive impact
<u>Other: Social Inclusion</u> (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities; households in poverty; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable; people with		High positive impact		

health inequalities; refugees and asylum seekers; rural communities; veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families; and young people who are care leavers)

Initial health and wellbeing impact assessment by category

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have with regard to health and wellbeing, through stating this in the relevant column.

Please state if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact) and add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.

Health and wellbeing: individuals and communities in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two HIA required</i>	High positive impact	Medium positive or negative impact	Low positive negative or neutral impact (please specify)
<p>Will the proposal have a <i>direct impact</i> on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing?</p> <p>For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?</p>		High positive impact		
<p>Will the proposal <i>indirectly impact</i> an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?</p> <p>For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking?</p>		High positive impact		
<p>Will the policy have a <i>direct impact</i> on the community - social,</p>			Positive impact	

economic and environmental living conditions that would impact health?

For example, would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, availability of green space or climate change mitigation?

Will there be a likely change in *demand* for or access to health and social care services?

For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health, Local Authority services including Social Services?

High positive impact as demand is anticipated to reduce