

Fourth Quarterly Report (2016/2017) on the Implementation of the Equality Scheme

1.0 Compliance Issues

1.1 Equality Screening/Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA)

Screening

From 1st January – 31st March 2017 the following policies were screened:

- Constitution of the Joint Consultative and Negotiating Committee (JCNC) (revised policy)
- Disciplinary Procedure (revised policy)
- Trades Union Facilities Agreement (revised policy)

EQIA

There were no EQIAs completed during this quarter.

1.2 Training

Safeguarding Training

Since 2010 over 200 training sessions have been completed with over 2,500 members of staff attending child safeguarding courses, adult safeguarding courses or both. In addition Equality Unit staff have facilitated safeguarding policy awareness sessions with 10 contractor firms, Supporting Communities and the House Conditions Survey Team.

1.3 Access to Information and Services

Communication Support (Translation & Interpreter Services)

A total of 716 telephone based interpreting sessions were held from 1st January to 31st March 2017. The top 3 most requested languages are listed below:

- Polish
- Slovak

- Portuguese

Translation tasks totalled 53 and face to face interpreter sessions totalled 22.

1.4 Monitoring

Equality Monitoring waiting list and allocations data is available up to the 31st March 2017.

1.5 Consultation

The Housing Executive's 45th meeting of the Consultative Forum Steering Group on Equality was held on the 1st March 2017.

2.0 Key Equality/Good Relations Programme

2.1 Traveller Project Team:

The following update provides a brief synopsis of the Housing Executive's accommodation strategy for Traveller families across Northern Ireland.

Group Housing:

- FOLD Housing Association, Omagh (8 units) and Magherafelt (6 units).
- Clanmil Housing Association, Glen Road, Belfast (6 units) and Father Cullen Park, Bessbrook (6 Units).
- APEX Housing Association, Monagh Road Belfast (21 Units) and Labre Park, L'Derry (10 units).

Serviced Sites

The NIHE currently operate 6 serviced sites situated at:

- Acorn Grove, Craigavon
- The Glen, Coalisland
- Daisyfield, L'Derry
- Glen Road Heights, Belfast
- Greenbrae, Strabane
- Glen Road, Belfast- SLA with Clanmil HA

The NIHE has been granted planning approval for an additional 12 unit serviced site at Burnside, Craigavon which will be subject to additional consultation at a more local level involving all key stakeholders.

Transit Sites/Emergency Halting Site

- The site at Rathenraw Antrim has recently been vacated and the lands have been restored to their original state. The Planning Appeals Committee have rejected the NIHE appeal against the refusal of Antrim and Newtownabbey Council to allow temporary planning approval for an emergency site at Rathenraw. NIHE are taking no further action as the site is now cleared and no current need has been identified.
- An application to extend the planning approval at Legahory Close, Craigavon has been submitted to ABC Council offices. NIHE currently await the outcome of this application. Existing transit sites include Glen Road Heights, Belfast, The Glen Coalisland and Ballyarnett, Derry

3rd Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment

Traveller accommodation needs assessments are carried out on a 5 year basis. The findings of the 3rd Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment are available on the NIHE web site. A new 3 year rolling programme has commenced for the period 2015-18

2.2 Community Cohesion

A Community Cohesion update will be included in the 1st Quarterly Report of 2017/18.

2.4 Key Documents

The following documents can be viewed and downloaded by accessing the links below:

NIHE Equality Scheme

http://www.nihe.gov.uk/equality_scheme.pdf

16th Annual Report to the Equality Commission

http://www.nihe.gov.uk/sixteenth_annual_progress_report_to_the_equality_commission.pdf

Mapping Foreign Nationals Living in N.I. 2016 Update (formerly known as the Black Minority and Ethnic (BME) and Migrant Worker Report Update)

http://www.nihe.gov.uk/foreign_national_mapping_report.pdf

NIHE Traveller Accommodation needs Assessment

http://www.nihe.gov.uk/traveller_accommodation_needs_assessment_2014_published_march_2015_.pdf

If you require any further information on any of topics discussed in this report or if you require the report in an alternative format please contact:

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