

# Second Quarterly Report (2017/2018) on the Implementation of the Equality Scheme

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## **1.0 Compliance Issues**

### **1.1 Equality Screening/Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA)**

#### **Screening**

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 the following policies have been screened:

- Recruitment Policy (Revised)
- Travel & Subsistence Policy (Revised)
- Additional Payments Policy (Revised)
- Transfer Procedure (Revised)

Screening reports are available on request.

#### **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 N.I. (SCNI) and the House Conditions Survey Team. A new programme of safeguarding training began in September 2017.

#### **Equality Awareness Training**

A new programme of Equality Awareness training began in September 2017.

### **1.3 Access to Information and Services**

#### **Communication Support (Translation & Interpreter Services)**

A total of 707 telephone based interpreting sessions were held from 1st July to 30th September 2017. The top 3 most requested languages are listed below:

- Polish
- Slovak
- Somali

Translation tasks totalled 49 and face to face interpreter sessions totalled 20.

### **1.4 Monitoring**

Equality Monitoring waiting list and allocations data is available up to the 30th September 2017.

### **1.5 Consultation**

The NIHE's Consultative Forum Steering Group on Equality met on 20th September 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 4 serviced sites situated at:

- Acorn Grove, Craigavon
- The Glen, Coalisland

- Daisyfield, L'Derry
- Glen Road Heights, Belfast

The Service level agreement which involved the maintenance and upkeep of the private Traveller site at Glen Road Belfast has been terminated with effect from 7th July 2017. More recently a scoping exercise of all sites was completed in April 2017 followed by health and safety inspections of all NIHE managed Traveller sites. Works identified are currently in the process of being addressed. NIHE are also in the process of appointing a Consultant to review all sites with regard to fire safety, health and safety while ensuring minimum site guidelines are enforced. These guidelines are currently being revised by DfC and will also be implemented when released.

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**

- 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. Year 1 of this programme targeted the provision of individual electricity points for all pitches on NIHE managed Traveller sites. Subsequently work was completed at Acorn Grove Craigavon, Glen Road Heights Belfast and Daisyfield site in Derry. The site at Rathenraw Antrim has been returned to its former use as green open space as the occupying family chose to move to conventional housing. The family moving on from Rathenraw has a knock on effect with year 2 of the programme as it removes the need for land identification process to identify suitable lands in the Antrim area as no other need for a site has been identified. Also in year 2, as stated above, provision of additional facilities in Belfast and Craigavon are

dependent more intensive local consultation. With regard to year 3 Place shapers (NIHE) have invoked the land identification processes to identify suitable lands in Magherafelt and Newry for site provision. The re-opening or relocation of the site at Greenbrae Strabane will be predicated by a meeting with Planners in December 2017 while the refurbishment of Legahory will also be predicated following a Consultant appointment and full summary of all NIHE sites. Traveller Policy Unit has also met with NIHE Research to commence the fieldwork for the 4th Comprehensive Traveller Needs Assessment. An initial meeting has been fixed for February 2018 to help formulate a Research Group to lead out the assessment with a projected on site date of September 2018.

## **2.2 Community Cohesion**

An update from the Community Cohesion Unit will be included in the 3rd Quarterly Report for 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](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/equality_scheme.pdf)

17th Annual Report to the Equality Commission

[https://www.nihe.gov.uk/seventeenth\\_annual\\_progress\\_report\\_to\\_the\\_equality\\_commission.pdf](https://www.nihe.gov.uk/seventeenth_annual_progress_report_to_the_equality_commission.pdf)

Black Minority and Ethnic (BME) and Migrant Worker Report

[https://www.nihe.gov.uk/bme\\_migrant\\_worker\\_mapping\\_report\\_2016.pdf](https://www.nihe.gov.uk/bme_migrant_worker_mapping_report_2016.pdf)

NIHE Traveller Accommodation needs Assessment

[http://www.nihe.gov.uk/traveller\\_accommodation\\_needs\\_assessment\\_2014\\_published\\_march\\_2015\\_.pdf](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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