

## Appendix 8: LHS 2023-2028 Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

### Introduction

Carrying out a Health Inequalities Impact Assessment (HIIA) will help you to consider the impact of your policy\* on people. Using this workbook, alongside the [HIIA: Answers to frequently asked questions](#) guide, will help you to work through the process and strengthen your policy's contribution towards health equity.

The workshop is a core element of the HIIA and, together with a group of key stakeholders, you will work through six questions to identify any impacts your policy will have on: different population groups; health inequalities; and people's human rights. Policies do not impact on people in the same way – impact assessment is a way to consider how people will be affected differently. It will also help you to meet the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty by considering those groups who are protected under the Duty (information about the Duty is available at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/PublicEqualityDuties](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/PublicEqualityDuties)). During the workshop, the facilitator or lead for the impact assessment will take you through the process and outline the next steps.

The six questions in the workshop are:

- 1 Who will be affected by this policy?
- 2 How will the policy impact on people?
- 3 How will the policy impact on the causes of health inequalities?
- 4 How will the policy impact on people's human rights?
- 5 Will there be any cumulative impacts as a result of the relationship between this policy and others?
- 6 What sources of evidence have informed your impact assessment?

\*The word 'policy' represents any option, procedure, practice, strategy or proposal being assessed.

You should identify impacts as positive or negative, remembering that some policies may have no impacts for a population group.

**Positive impact:** would demonstrate the benefit the policy could have for a population group: how it advances equality, fosters good relations, contributes to tackling health inequalities or upholds human rights.

**Negative impact:** would mean that a population group is at risk of being disadvantaged by the policy, there is a risk of breaching the human rights of people or the requirements of the Equality Duty, or that there is a risk of widening health inequalities.

**No impact:** If you find that the policy will have no impacts for some groups, you do not need to record this information.

## Question 1: Who will be affected by this policy?

Example: Keep this brief, such as ‘Children aged 5–12 years’. There is no need to explore subgroups yet, just provide an indication of how well-defined the target group is at this stage.

The Housing (Scotland) 2001 Act makes it a statutory requirement for all Scottish local authorities to prepare and submit a Local Housing Strategy (LHS) to Scottish Ministers. The LHS sets the strategic direction to tackle housing need and demand in the Scottish Borders and informs future investment in housing and related services across the Scottish Borders. The LHS is regularly reviewed and updated every five years.

The LHS is Scottish Borders Council’s primary strategic document on housing. The new Local Housing Strategy (LHS) will set out how Scottish Borders Council and its partners plan to address the housing and housing related opportunities and challenges over the five-year period 2023 – 2028. This new plan will build on the significant progress made on the issues identified in the current LHS 2017-2022 and will address newly arising housing matters particularly in response to the publication of new LHS Guidance, Housing to 2040 and the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Local Housing Strategy will affect everyone who lives in the Scottish Borders.

## Question 2: How will the policy impact on people?

When thinking about how the policy might impact on people, think about it in terms of the right for **everyone** to achieve the highest possible standard of health. The [Right to Health](#) includes both the right to healthcare and the right to a range of factors that can help us lead a healthy life (the determinants of health). Equality and non-discrimination are fundamental to this right. The Right to Health has four related concepts: goods, facilities and services should be available, accessible, acceptable and of good quality. When thinking about how the policy might impact on people, their human rights and the factors that help people to lead healthy lives, consider and discuss:

- Is the policy **available** to different population groups?
- Is the policy **accessible**, (e.g., in terms of physical access, communication needs, transport needs, health literacy, childcare needs, knowledge and confidence)?
- Is the policy **acceptable** to different population groups (e.g., is it sensitive to age, culture and sex)?
- Is the policy of good **quality**, enabling it to have its desired effects and support the above?

Apply these questions to each population group in the following table. Try to identify any factors which can contribute to poorer experiences of health and any potential positive or negative impacts of the policy. Think about people, not characteristics, such as how the policy impact on the right to health of a disabled older man with low literacy who lives in a deprived area.

Population groups and factors contributing to poorer health	Potential Impacts and explanation why	Recommendations to reduce or enhance such impacts
<p><b>Age:</b> older people; middle years; early years; children and young people.</p>	<p>Broadly, the proposed LHS was found to have a positive impact on people of all ages and the biggest risk factor was the prospect of it not being delivered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Children:</b> The major positive impact identified is the link between housing costs and child poverty. The delivery of more affordable housing is identified as an important contributing factor but investment in all housing, made either by landlords or owners, which reduce energy costs is also considered important. Addressing fuel poverty and quality of housing are important drivers in children’s overall health and wellbeing including physical health and educational attainment. Looking beyond the home the importance of “Place” and access to amenities for children is important.</li> <li>• <b>Young People:</b> The Young People’s Housing Needs Study (ages 16-25) identified young people as a group with a higher than average level of Homelessness applications. Whilst increasing the supply of homes is considered to be a positive there are factors beyond our control such as welfare reform, mortgage rates, deposit requirements, lower wages etc which are worsening housing choices for this group. Homelessness can be linked to poor health and wellbeing and prevention is vitally important, particularly for young people who may be vulnerable.</li> <li>• <b>Older Adults:</b> Due to the changes in health, lifestyle and income which are often associated with, and experienced by, this age group there are a number of areas this strategy could impact upon. Older people, particularly if retired, spend more time in the home which can mean increased fuel bills resulting in households experiencing fuel poverty. Cold homes have been shown to have a negative impact on health and wellbeing. Households reducing their fuel bills through energy efficiency measures was identified as important but there were a number of challenges to be tackled including how to encourage and support older owner occupiers who are often asset rich, but cash poor to invest in their homes. This highlighted a need to help owner occupiers of all ages and private landlords become knowledgeable about how to improve the energy efficiency of their home. This also applies to registered social landlord tenants for whom there is a need to balance investing in homes with rental increases so as to not place people in poverty due to increases in their housing costs to pay for the investment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the Young Persons Housing Action Plan</li> <li>• Implement the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan</li> <li>• Implement the Older Persons Housing Care and Support Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Independent Living - helping people to stay in their own home has been shown to have positive implications for health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Extra Care Housing Delivery Framework</li> <li>• Deliver the <a href="#">Care village programme   Care Village Programme   Scottish Borders Council</a></li> <li>• Continue to deliver disabled Adaptations through the Scheme of Assistance</li> <li>• Implement the Affordable Warmth Strategy and Strategic Outcome 3 of the new LHS</li> <li>• Delivering EES:ABS</li> <li>• Continue to deliver advice on maintenance and repair through the SoA and enhance this through updating the website and engaging with a range of stakeholders.</li> <li>• Ongoing collaboration through the Borders Home Energy forum.</li> <li>• Care and Repair contract renewed for further three years. Consider enhancements through the C&amp;R service, including delivery of energy efficiency improvements and advice.</li> </ul>

Population groups and factors contributing to poorer health	Potential Impacts and explanation why	Recommendations to reduce or enhance such impacts
<p><b>Disability:</b> physical impairments; learning disability; sensory impairment; mental health conditions; long-term medical conditions.</p>	<p>Broadly it was felt that the strategy would have a positive impact on people with disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newly built homes which can have features such as level access and wider doors “designed in” were identified as important.</li> <li>• The supply and availability of appropriate affordable homes was identified as important because often those with physical impairments have higher costs of living e.g., transportation and access to affordable housing was considered a means to reduce household costs.</li> <li>• All homes regardless of tenure should be future proofed and adaptable to changing household requirements e.g., respond to short and long term changes in ability or medical conditions.</li> <li>• Thinking more broadly about mental health and wellbeing, quality homes in attractive and safe areas are an important factor in supporting mental health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• It is also important to think about different group’s experiences of our places, for example those who use wheelchairs or scooters and the potential for conflict when walking is encouraged as part of climate change ambitions and therefore the need to take an inclusive approach which takes consideration of those using other modes of travel e.g., wheelchairs, scooters.</li> <li>• The LHS should have a positive impact upon people with these characteristics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver the Physical Disability Strategy</li> <li>• Implement the recommendations of the Wheelchair Accessible Housing report “a place to live”.</li> <li>• Monitor delivery of the Wheelchair Accessible Housing Target and engage with private developers to ensure these are delivered across all tenures and not just the SRS.</li> <li>• Deliver Housing for particular needs through the SHIP.</li> <li>• Encourage Housing for Varying needs standard in new builds through the SHIP and LHS.</li> <li>• Continue to deliver adaptations through the Scheme of Assistance and respond to the updated Guidance published by SG in January 2023.</li> <li>• Ensure ongoing Capital allocation for disabled adaptations funding.</li> <li>• Care and Repair service supported, and contract renewed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gender Reassignment:</b> people undergoing gender reassignment</p>	<p>The LHS improves access to housing for all and so there is likely to be a positive impact. There is no impact on gender in new housing supply and investment in existing housing. This will be monitored throughout the life of the LHS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to social rented housing by gender is recorded by RSLs and is monitored by the SHR. The Council has no enforcement powers over RSL access and housing management policies.</li> <li>• The Council delivers the homelessness service and records access and outcomes by gender, this includes an assessment of the incidence of homelessness by male/female, but as yet no needs assessment has been undertaken for transgender/transsexual people. Private sector services and housing support services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to engage with people undergoing gender re-assignment through the LHS consultation process.</li> </ul>

Population groups and factors contributing to poorer health	Potential Impacts and explanation why	Recommendations to reduce or enhance such impacts
	<p>delivered by the Council record applications and outcomes by gender including transgender and transsexual people. However, there is scope to record this information at the Homeless assessment stage, prior to referral to support services and this has been identified.</p>	
<p><b>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership:</b> people who are married, unmarried or in a civil partnership.</p>	<p>The LHS is fully inclusive to all people who are married or in a civil partnership. The LHS improves the range and supply of affordable housing and access to housing in addition to support services for all. There is likely to be a positive impact on these groups, and outcomes will be monitored through the life span of the LHS and through the delivery of specific housing and support services.</p> <p>However, there were a couple of areas which highlight that marital status can impact upon housing options. Our homeless statistics demonstrate that single adults and lone parents account for significant share of presentations suggesting that to some extent being in a couple can be protective from financial shocks which impact upon access to housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pregnancy and Maternity:</b> women before and after childbirth; breastfeeding.</p>	<p>The LHS improves the range and supply of affordable housing and access to housing and support services to all. There is likely to be a positive impact on these groups, and outcomes will be monitored through the lifespan of the LHS and through the delivery of specific housing and support services.</p> <p>Quality homes are important for people of all ages but can particularly impact upon young children and their parents, who often spend more time in the home. It is therefore important that our homes are high quality regardless of tenure or type. The Homelessness Service has specific working procedures in place for expectant mothers and those with children. Parents post childbirth can be vulnerable and therefore it is important the housing service work with other service areas to support them.</p>	
<p><b>Race and ethnicity:</b> minority ethnic people; non-English speakers; gypsies/travellers; migrant workers.</p>	<p>Information on people of different nationalities and ethnic origins are included in the strategy. Access to social housing is recorded by the RSLs and monitored through the Scottish Social Housing Charter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress identification of an authorised site for Gypsy/Traveller pitch provision.</li> </ul>

Population groups and factors contributing to poorer health	Potential Impacts and explanation why	Recommendations to reduce or enhance such impacts
	<p>The Homelessness Service records ethnicity through data collection systems. All information and advice is available in alternative formats or translated upon request as is Council policy.</p> <p>During the development of the LHS, consultants were commissioned to carry out a needs assessment on gypsy travellers. There is a lack of evidence across local authorities on the health and care needs of Gypsy/Travellers throughout Scotland and how they access services. Due to their transient lifestyle, it can be difficult to access health services which can lead to poorer health outcomes for the GT community. The work as part of the LHS has led to more focused actions to support GT who stay or visit the Borders. Therefore, the LHS will have a positive impact on the GT community.</p>	
<p><b>Religion and belief:</b> people with different religions or beliefs, or none.</p>	<p>The LHS is fully inclusive to all religions and beliefs (including non-belief). The LHS improves the range and supply of affordable housing and access to housing in addition to support services for all. Development of places and communities are important to allow access to amenities such as religious buildings.</p> <p>There is likely to be a positive impact on these groups, and outcomes will be monitored through the lifespan of the LHS and through the delivery of specific housing and support services.</p>	
<p><b>Sex:</b> men; women; experience of gender-based violence.</p>	<p>The LHS improves access to housing and support services for all and there is likely to be a positive impact on these groups through its implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the previous LHS, the Homelessness Service worked (and continue to work) in partnership with RSLs and the Safer Communities Team to implement a unified domestic abuse policy. Providing a consistent, co-ordinated and responsive approach by Borders housing providers to addressing the housing needs of women and men who suffer domestic abuse.</li> <li>• It is vitally important that should someone need or wish to leave a relationship, particularly an abusive one, that there is support and housing there to enable them to do so. Our Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support service is available to help anyone experiencing domestic abuse.</li> </ul>	

Population groups and factors contributing to poorer health	Potential Impacts and explanation why	Recommendations to reduce or enhance such impacts
<b>Sexual orientation:</b> lesbian; gay; bisexual; heterosexual.	The LHS is fully inclusive to all irrespective of a person's sexual orientation. The LHS improves access to housing and support services for all and there is likely to be a positive impact on these groups through its implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to engage with the LBGT community through the LHS consultation process.</li> </ul>
<b>Looked after (incl. accommodated) children and young people</b>	Whilst increasing the supply of homes is considered to be a positive for looked after children and young people, there are factors beyond our control such as welfare reform, mortgage rates, deposit requirements, lower wages etc which are worsening housing choices for young people (including looked after young people). Homelessness can be linked to poor health and wellbeing and prevention is vitally important, particularly for young people who may be vulnerable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the Young Persons Housing Action Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Carers:</b> paid/unpaid, family members.	<p>Carers may spend more time in the home if the person they are caring for lives at home. The temperature of the home may vary and may be impacted by fuel poverty. Cold homes have been shown to have a negative impact on health and wellbeing. Households reducing their fuel bills through energy efficiency measures was identified as important but there were a number of challenges to be tackled including how to encourage and support older owner occupiers who are often asset rich, but cash poor to invest in their homes. This highlighted a need to help owner occupiers of all ages and private landlords become knowledgeable about how to improve the energy efficiency of their home.</p> <p>Carers who are unpaid may have a reduced income due to their caring responsibilities. The LHS improves the range and supply of affordable housing and access to housing and support services to all. There is likely to be a positive impact on people on low incomes due to the increased availability of affordable housing. This seeks to ensure housing is affordable to rent/purchase and is affordable to heat, thus contributing to the wellbeing and health of occupants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://scotborders.gov.uk">Carers   Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</a></li> <li>• Implement the Affordable Warmth Strategy and Strategic Outcome 3 of the new LHS</li> <li>• Delivering EES:ABS.</li> <li>• Develop and implement the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy.</li> <li>• Ongoing review of LHS Outcomes and monitoring, specifically Outcomes 1-4.</li> </ul>
<b>Homelessness:</b> people on the street; staying temporarily with friends/family; in hostels, B&Bs.	Whilst increasing the supply of homes is considered to be a positive there are factors beyond our control such as welfare reform, mortgage rates, deposit requirements, lower wages etc which are worsening housing choices for people. Homelessness can be linked to poor health and wellbeing and prevention is vitally important.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan</li> <li>• Implement the Young Persons Housing Action Plan</li> <li>• Continue to provide Homelessness Service</li> </ul>

Population groups and factors contributing to poorer health	Potential Impacts and explanation why	Recommendations to reduce or enhance such impacts
<b>Involvement in the criminal justice system:</b> offenders in prison/on probation, ex-offenders.	The LHS improves the range and supply of affordable housing and access to housing and support services to all. People leaving prison are at a higher risk of homelessness, and SBC's Homelessness Service is the interface point for people with no fixed address.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Addictions and substance misuse</b>	People suffering from addiction and substance misuse are at a higher risk of homelessness. SBC's Homelessness Service is the interface point for people with no fixed address.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Staff:</b> full/part time; voluntary; delivering/accessing services.	The LHS improves the range and supply of affordable housing and access to housing and support services to all. It is not anticipated that the LHS will have potential impacts on the health of staff, aside from the potential positive impact on people on lower incomes (part time, voluntary) due to the increased availability of housing and access to support services. This contributes to the wellbeing and health of staff on relatively lower incomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing review of LHS Outcome 1.</li> </ul>
<b>Low income</b>	The LHS improves the range and supply of affordable housing and access to housing and support services to all. There is likely to be a positive impact on people on low incomes due to the increased availability of affordable housing. This seeks to ensure housing is affordable to rent/purchase and is affordable to heat, thus contributing to the wellbeing and health of occupants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy.</li> <li>• Ongoing review of LHS Outcomes and monitoring, specifically Outcome 1.</li> </ul>
<b>Low literacy / Health Literacy</b> includes poor understanding of health and health services (health literacy) as well as poor written language skills.	<p>All information and advice from the Homelessness Service is available in alternative formats or translated upon request as is Council policy.</p> <p>Information from RSL's (including the home application process) is available in a range of languages, large print and audio format on request.</p>	
<b>Living in deprived areas</b>	The LHS improves the range and supply of affordable housing and access to housing and support services to all. There is likely to be a positive impact on people on low incomes due to the increased availability of affordable housing. This seeks to ensure housing is affordable to rent/purchase and is affordable to heat, thus contributing to the wellbeing and health of occupants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Energy Efficiency Programme, and other health and wellbeing initiatives are targeted in SIMD areas, or areas identified to be in fuel poverty.</li> </ul>

Population groups and factors contributing to poorer health	Potential Impacts and explanation why	Recommendations to reduce or enhance such impacts
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing review of LHS Outcomes and monitoring.</li> </ul>
<b>Living in remote, rural and island locations</b>	It is envisaged that the LHS will have a positive effect on people living in the Scottish Borders, the majority of which live in a rural location. Impacts linked to health include improvements in health, fuel poverty levels and availability of affordable housing in a variety of tenures. There will be more developments in more rural locations and in less accessible rural locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rurality is a common theme throughout the LHS and is address throughout.</li> <li>• Appendix 11 – Rural Proofing Exercise has been undertaken and will be considered going forwards.</li> </ul>
<b>Discrimination/stigma</b>	<p>The LHS seeks to deliver improvements to all residents in the Scottish Borders, including particular groups (people leaving prison; young care leavers; women experiencing domestic abuse etc). This also includes Gypsy Travellers and show people. It is not anticipated that the LHS will worsen any existing stigma and discrimination.</p> <p>RSL’s have allocation policies in place which seek to ensure people with the highest housing need are provided with homes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress identification of an authorised site for Gypsy/Traveller pitch provision.</li> </ul>
<b>Refugees and asylum seekers</b>	The LHS seeks to ensure that everyone has access to a home that meets their needs and is part of a sustainable community. This is true for refugees and asylum seekers, and SBC is participating in resettlement programmes led by the Home Office to ensure refugees have access to suitable homes in places where they can work and live. This is anticipated to have a positive health impact on these groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ukrainian Displaced Persons</li> <li>• Refugees resettlement programmes</li> </ul>

To comply with the general equality duty of the Equality Act 2010 when conducting impact assessment, you must demonstrate ‘due regard’ for the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it;
- foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

This means that you must identify, record and eliminate (through appropriate policy changes) any impacts that could amount to unlawful discrimination under the act. Wherever possible you should also try to identify, record and enhance any impacts that enable the policy to advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.

### Question 3: How will the policy impact on the causes of health inequalities?

The wider environmental and social conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age are shaped by the distribution of power, money and resources. These conditions can lead to health inequalities. While considering how your policy will impact on people and their right to health, it is also important to think about how it may impact on the causes of health inequalities (see the table below). Further information on the causes of health inequalities can be found in [NHS Health Scotland's Health Inequalities Policy Review](#). Not all policies will be able to act or impact on these causes, but it will be useful to reflect on whether yours will. Think about any opportunity this policy might offer to reduce inequalities and also try to identify any ways in which it might inadvertently increase inequalities (you may find the prompts in Appendix 1 helpful). You may have discussed some of these issues when considering question 2.

Will the policy impact on?	Potential impacts and any particular groups affected	Recommendations to reduce or enhance such impacts
<p><b>Income, employment and work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability and accessibility of work, paid/ unpaid employment, wage levels, job security.</li> <li>• Tax and benefits structures</li> <li>• Cost/price controls: housing, fuel, energy, food, clothes, alcohol, tobacco</li> <li>• Working conditions</li> </ul>	<p>Key workers More affordable housing Helping those in fuel poverty which includes information and advice on benefits. Young People Single People</p>	<p>Continue to progress discussions and pathfinder projects seeking to address the issue of providing adequate accommodation for key workers. Implement the Young Persons Housing Action Plan Implement the Affordable Warmth Strategy and Strategic Outcome 3 of the new LHS. Continue to deliver EES:ABS. Ongoing collaboration through the Borders Home Energy forum.</p>
<p><b>The physical environment and local opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability and accessibility of housing, transport, healthy food, leisure activities, green spaces</li> <li>• Air quality and housing/living conditions, exposure to pollutants</li> <li>• Safety of neighbourhoods, exposure to crime.</li> <li>• Transmission of infection</li> <li>• Tobacco, alcohol and substance use</li> </ul>	<p>More affordable housing Place making and making communities feel safer</p>	<p>Continue to work with the community and partners to put Place at the heart of our work, ensuring safer and more sustainable communities.</p>
<p><b>Education and learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability and accessibility to quality education, affordability of further education</li> <li>• Early years development, readiness for school, literacy and numeracy levels, qualifications</li> </ul>	<p>Provide good quality homes so children and young people have access to home that helps with their development and education</p>	<p>Continue to implement actions from LHS Action Plan.</p>

<b>Access to services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of health and social care services, transport, housing, education, cultural and leisure services</li> <li>• Ability to afford, access and navigate these services</li> <li>• Quality of services provided and received</li> </ul>	Place making Sustainable communities Access to affordable housing	Continue to work with the community and partners to put Place at the heart of our work, ensuring safer and more sustainable communities.
<b>Social, cultural and interpersonal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social status</li> <li>• Social norms and attitudes</li> <li>• Tackling discrimination</li> <li>• Community environment</li> <li>• Fostering good relations</li> <li>• Democratic engagement and representation</li> <li>• Resilience and coping mechanisms</li> </ul>	Young people Single People Gypsy Travellers Show people People leaving prison Young care leavers People experiencing domestic abuse	Implement the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan Implement the Young Persons Housing Action Plan Continue to provide Homelessness Service Progress identification of an authorised site for Gypsy/Traveller pitch provision.

#### Question 4: How will the policy impact on people’s human rights?

Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms which everyone is entitled to in order to live with dignity. They can be classified as **absolute, limited** or **qualified**. Absolute rights must not be restricted in any way. Other rights can be limited or restricted in certain circumstances where there is a need to take into account the rights of other individuals or wider society. Not all policies will be able to demonstrate an impact against human rights, but it will be useful to consider if yours will. Think about the potential impacts you have identified and consider whether these could help fulfil or breach legal obligations under the Human Rights Act. Can you think of any actions that might promote positive impacts or mitigate negative impacts? The following table includes rights that may be particularly relevant to health and social care policies.

Articles	Potential impacts and any particular groups affected	Recommendations to reduce or enhance such impacts
<b>The right to life</b> (Absolute right) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to basic necessities such as adequate nutrition, clean and safe drinking water.</li> <li>• Suicide.</li> <li>• Risk to life of/from others.</li> <li>• Duties to protect life from risks by self/others.</li> <li>• End of life questions.</li> <li>• Duties of prevention, protection and remedy, including investigation of unexpected death.</li> </ul>	Housing is a human right – having access to a good quality affordable home.	Implement the LHS and Action Plan.

<p><b>The right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way</b> (absolute right)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should not cause: fear; humiliation; intense physical or mental suffering; or anguish.</li> <li>• Prevention of ill-treatment, protection and rehabilitation of survivors of ill-treatment.</li> <li>• Duties of prevention, protection and remedy, including investigation of reasonably substantiated allegations of serious ill-treatment.</li> <li>• Dignified living conditions.</li> </ul>	<p>Tenants in the private sector have rights to good quality rented homes.</p>	<p>Ensure the following are met, where possible: Repairing Standard Scottish Housing Quality Standards Tolerable Standards</p>
<p><b>The right to liberty</b> (limited right)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right not to be deprived of liberty in an arbitrary fashion.</li> <li>• Detention under mental health law.</li> <li>• Review of continued justification of detention.</li> <li>• Informing reasons for detention.</li> </ul>	<p>Not applicable</p>	
<p><b>The right to a fair trial</b> (limited right)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When a person’s civil rights, obligations or a criminal charge against a person comes to be decided upon.</li> <li>• Staff disciplinary proceedings.</li> <li>• Malpractice.</li> <li>• Right to be heard.</li> <li>• Procedural fairness.</li> <li>• Effective participation in proceedings that determine rights such as employment, damages/ compensation.</li> </ul>	<p>Not applicable</p>	
<p><b>The right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence</b> (qualified right)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family life, including outwith blood and formalised relationships.</li> <li>• Privacy.</li> <li>• Personal choices, relationships.</li> </ul>	<p>Affordable housing Energy efficiency Sustainable community</p>	<p>Continue to deliver energy efficiency programmes.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical and moral integrity (e.g. freedom from non-consensual treatment, harassment or abuse).</li> <li>• Participation in community life.</li> <li>• Participation in decision-making.</li> <li>• Access to personal information.</li> <li>• Respect for someone's home.</li> <li>• Clean and healthy environment.</li> <li>• Legal capacity in decision-making.</li> <li>• Accessible information and communication e.g. phone calls, letters, faxes, emails.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>The right to freedom of thought, belief and religion</b> (qualified right)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct central to beliefs (such as worship, appropriate diet, dress).</li> </ul>	Not applicable	
<p><b>The right to freedom of expression</b> (qualified right)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To hold opinions.</li> <li>• To express opinions, receive/impart information and ideas without interference by a public authority.</li> </ul>	Not applicable	
<p><b>The right not to be discriminated against</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of the rights and freedoms contained in the Human Rights Act must be protected and applied without discrimination.</li> <li>• Discrimination takes place when someone is treated in a different way compared with someone else in a similar situation.</li> <li>• Indirect discrimination happens when someone is treated in the same way as others that does not take into account that person's different situation.</li> <li>• An action or decision will only be considered discriminatory if the distinction in treatment cannot be reasonably and objectively justified.</li> </ul>	<p>Young people Single People Gypsy Travellers Show people People leaving prison Young care leavers People experiencing domestic abuse</p>	<p>Implement the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan Implement the Young Persons Housing Action Plan Continue to provide Homelessness Service Progress identification of an authorised site for Gypsy/Traveller pitch provision.</p>
<p><b>Any other rights relevant to this policy e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convention on the Rights of the Child</li> </ul>	No further rights identified	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</li> <li>• Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</li> </ul>		
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**Question 5: Will there be any cumulative impacts as a result of the relationship between this policy and others?**

Consider the potential for a build-up of negative impacts on population groups as a result of this policy being combined with other policies, e.g. relocation of services at the same time as changes to public transport networks.

There are no negative impacts that will result from this policy.

**Question 6: What sources of evidence have informed your impact assessment?**

Formal sources of evidence to consider include population data and statistics, consultation findings and other research. However, your professional or personal experience and knowledge of individuals and communities (and the potential impact of a policy on them) is equally as valuable. Further information can be found in the planning a workshop section. <http://www.healthscotland.scot/publications/planning-resources-hiia-scoping-workshop> What evidence have you used to support your impact assessment thinking? Have you identified any areas where more evidence is needed or where there are gaps in your current knowledge to inform the assessment?

Evidence type	Evidence available	Gaps in evidence
<b>Population data</b> E.g. demographic profile, service uptake.	Aging population Increase in smaller households	N/A
<b>Consultation and involvement findings</b> E.g. any engagement with service users, local community, particular groups.	Wide range of engagement have been carried out (LIST)	N/A
<b>Research</b> E.g. good practice guidelines, service evaluations, literature reviews.	Followed LHS guidance. Collated a wide range of evidence and policies (both nationally and locally) to inform the LHS	N/A

<p><b>Participant knowledge</b> E.g. experiences of working with different population groups, experiences of different policies.</p>	<p>Part of the LHS – includes work on all ages groups and people from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. It's important the LHS is informed by different policies but it also impacts on other policies being developed</p>	<p>N/A</p>
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### Summary of discussion

The Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 has a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the population of the Scottish Borders. The LHS delivers a positive impact on people and their right to health, the causes of health inequalities, and people's human rights. The Public Sector Equality Duty has been considered and actions have been identified to ensure impacts are positive and all opportunities to improve health outcomes are pursued. There are no data gaps that have been identified.

The discussions and recommendations from this HIA will form part of the evidence to inform the implementation of the Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028.