

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



**Please read the accompanying guidance before completing the form.**

This **Impact Assessment (IA)** toolkit, incorporates a range of legislative requirements that support effective decision making and ensure compliance with all relevant legislation. **Draft versions of the assessment should be watermarked as “Draft” and retained for completeness. However, only the final version will be made publicly available. Draft versions may be provided to regulators if appropriate. In line with Council policy IAs should be retained for 7 years.**

<b>Service Area</b>	Housing	<b>Head of Service</b>	Simon Inkson	<b>Director</b>	Nigel Brinn	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Cllr James Evans
<b>Proposal</b>	Homelessness Review, Strategy and Action Plan						
<b>Outline Summary / Description of Proposal</b>							
<p>In accordance with Section 50 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, a review of homelessness prevention services was undertaken and a strategy for the following four years, guided by an action plan has been produced. The strategy is a Dyfed Powys strategy and the action plan sets out how the priorities in the strategy will be addressed in Powys. The identified priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to evolve and harness community-based services to assist in the prevention of homelessness</li> <li>• Explore how we can focus support to households in those localities which are producing the highest proportion of homelessness cases.</li> <li>• Utilise IT systems and technology to prevent homelessness by ensuring systems are in place which flag up issues early to trigger help and advice as early as possible.</li> <li>• In partnership with key agencies explore how a multi-agency case management approach can evolve to meet the needs of households who revolve around the homeless system and place demands on a variety of services.</li> <li>• In partnership with local stakeholders and other statutory services, explore whether a ‘Housing First’ approach can be developed to support those with the most complex needs</li> <li>• To explore with Housing Association and private landlord partners how to develop affordable and sustainable housing options for single people.</li> <li>• Develop close partnership working with DWP/Job Centre+ to mitigate any impact the introduction of Universal Credit may have on household’s ability to retain their tenancies.</li> </ul>							

1. Version Control (services should consider the impact assessment early in the development process and continually evaluate)

Version	Author	Job Title	Date
1	Dafydd Evans	Service Manager Housing Solutions	30 <sup>th</sup> October 2018

2. Profile of savings delivery (if applicable)

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	TOTAL
£N/A	£N/A	£N/A	£N/A	£N/A	£N/A

3. Consultation requirements

Consultation Requirement	Consultation deadline/or justification for no consultation
<p>Public and Staff consultation required</p>	<p>The code of guidance issued by WG states “(2) After completing a homelessness review, a local housing authority must publish the results of the review by— (a) making the results of the review available on its website (if it has one); (b) making a copy of the results of the review available at its principal office for inspection at all reasonable hours, without charge, by members of the public; (c) providing (on payment if required by the authority of a reasonable charge) a copy of those results to any member of the public who asks for one.</p> <p>And</p> <p>(8) Before adopting or modifying a homelessness strategy a local housing authority must consult such public or local authorities, voluntary organisations or other persons as it considers appropriate. (9) After adopting or modifying a homelessness strategy, a local housing authority must publish the strategy by— (a) making a copy of the strategy available on its website (if it has one); (b) making a copy of the strategy available at its principal office for inspection at all reasonable hours, without charge, by members of the public; (c) providing (on payment if required by the authority of a reasonable charge) a copy of the strategy to any member of the public who asks for one. (10) If the authority modifies its homelessness strategy, it may publish the modifications or the strategy as modified (as it considers most appropriate). (11) Where the authority decides to publish only the modifications, the references to the homelessness strategy in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (9) are to be interpreted as references to the modifications”</p> <p>The review of homelessness is still available on the Councils website and was subject to review with partners via workshops. The adopted strategy and action plan will be consulted with the organisations who attended the workshops.</p>

4. Impact on Other Service Areas

**Does the proposal have potential to impact on another service area? (Have you considered the implications on Health & Safety, Corporate Parenting and Data Protection?)  
 PLEASE ENSURE YOU INFORM / ENGAGE ANY AFFECTED SERVICE AREAS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY**

Homelessness is a corporate responsibility and can impact on Children’s, Youth and Adult services in particular. These services have been consulted and involved in developing the strategy and action plan.

5. How does your proposal impact on the council’s strategic vision?

<b>Council Priority</b>	<b>How does the proposal impact on this priority?</b>	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	<b>What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?</b>	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>The Economy</b>                      We will develop a vibrant economy</p>	<p>A significant proportion of homelessness is due to the affordability of accommodation and the levels of poverty in the communities in Powys.</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>The action plan references increased partnership working between agencies in Powys, increased community based services, in partnership with agencies increased housing options including accommodation and integrated case management, It also includes provision to address the more difficult and complex cases.                      We will better work with the private rented sector to ensure more successful tenancies                      We will work closer with the DWP/Jobcentre to support people into work.</p>	<p>Good</p>

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Council Priority	How does the proposal impact on this priority?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<b>Health and Care</b> <b>We will lead the way in effective, integrated rural health and care</b>	Homelessness affects vulnerable people and as seen from the review the households affected by homelessness are also often known to other services and agencies in particular social services and health services.	Good	The action plan includes provision with partners to maximise housing options in Powys this will include increasing the supply of housing with care and support. The IT developments proposed will enhance the ability of households to self-help in terms of exploring housing options available, which can mean accessing community based support. Better data will help to become better at prevention of homelessness, e.g. concentrating efforts in areas with historically high numbers of homeless households. The action plan references increased partnership working between agencies in Powys, increased community based services, in partnership with agencies increased housing options including accommodation and integrated case management. The Housing First model is expected to help create an environment where the homeless person can work to improve their health and wellbeing.	Good
<b>Learning and skills</b> <b>We will strengthen learning and skills</b>	Homelessness can significantly affect households with children which can have a detrimental effect on the children's education as they do not have a suitable environment to learn.	Neutral	Education and Children's services are key partners and will be included in the key partners working group ensuring effective partnership working.	Neutral
<b>Residents and Communities</b> <b>We will support our residents and communities</b>	Community based services including voluntary services are an essential component in addressing the needs of those affected by homelessness. Access to services in communities is an issue and the access and choice of both affordable and market housing is an issue.	Good	A key priority in the action plan is to continue to evolve and harness community-based services to assist in the prevention of homelessness, there is also in partnership with housing association and private landlords to develop housing options in communities.	Good

**Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements**

Homeless review included analysis of data, consultation with key partners, the public and other local authorities in Wales.

6. How does your proposal impact on the Welsh Government's well-being goals?

<b>Well-being Goal</b>	<b>How does proposal contribute to this goal?</b>	<b><u>IMPACT</u></b> Please select from drop down box below	<b>What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?</b>	<b><u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u></b> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>A prosperous Wales:</b>                      An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>The focus of the action plan is to provide community based services via greater partnership and collaborative working and increase options available (inc accommodation) in the communities in Powys. Greater employment opportunities are required in order to increase the economic situation of households and decrease reliance on welfare benefits.</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>The action plan advocates community based services and increased housing options in partnership with housing associations and private landlords. The action plan also references the re-tendering of supporting people services in Powys in the short term. The action plan also advocates working with the DWP to mitigate the impact of universal credit which will include increased employment opportunities where possible.</p>	<p>Good</p>
<p><b>A resilient Wales:</b>                      A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>No impact expected</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

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<p><b>A healthier Wales:</b> A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p> <p><b>Public Health (Wales) Act, 2017:</b> Part 6 of the Act requires for public bodies to undertake a health impact assessment to assess the likely effect of a proposed action or decision on the physical or mental health of the people of Wales.</p>	<p>Homelessness affects vulnerable people in particular those affected by physical and mental health and as seen from the review the households affected by homelessness are also often known to other services and agencies in particular social services and health services. The action plan is an opportunity for greater partnership and collaboration between agencies, organisation and services including statutory services, particularly around the issue of problematic rough sleepers.</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>Key component of the action plan is to develop further community based services in particular the support available in communities in Powys. This will involve in the short term re-tendering support services funded via supporting people. In the long term the strategy is to increase capacity and availability of support in communities by increased partnership/collaborative working. Key component of this is increased collaboration with Health Services which to date has not been effective. The Housing First model is expected to help create an environment where the homeless person can work to improve their health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Very Good</p>
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities:</b> Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.</p>	<p>A key priority in the action plan is to evolve and harness community-based services to assist in the prevention of homelessness</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>Actions include increased community capacity and the IT development will also enable households in communities to access self-help guidance and support.</p>	<p>Good</p>
<p><b>A globally responsible Wales:</b> A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p> <p><b>Human Rights - is about being proactive (see guidance)</b></p> <p><b>UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:</b> The Convention gives rights to everyone under the age of 18, which include the right to be treated fairly and to be protected from discrimination; that organisations act for the best interest of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and the right to be heard.</p>	<p>The new IT system and proposed greater partnership working will enhance the information, accessibility and advice available to households in Powys empowering people to use services.</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>The new IT system and proposed greater partnership working will enhance the information, accessibility and advice available to households in Powys empowering people to use services. The Powys Children and Young People’s Partnership (CYPP) is involved in ensuring homeless young people and children are heard.</p>	<p>Good</p>
<p><b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language:</b> A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>				

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<i>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language</i>	The new IT system which includes a self-help module will be available in Welsh. This will enable Welsh speakers to present their situation in Welsh and get written responses via the interactive module in Welsh.	Very Good	The self-help service is not currently available in an interactive format. This is an enhancement to the service provided and increases the opportunity of Welsh Speakers to be dealt with in Welsh and get their housing plans in Welsh.	Very Good
<i>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</i>	The web based system will be available in Welsh and this is not currently available.	Very Good	The new module will promote the use of Welsh when presenting a homeless issue. The response provided in the form of a housing plan will be in Welsh a service we currently can't provide.	Very Good
<i>Welsh Language impact on staff</i>	Responses received via the new IT system in Welsh can be dealt with by Welsh speaking staff in the Housing Service and therefore there will be an increased opportunity for Welsh speaking staff to use Welsh .	Very Good	Currently homeless presentations are all recorded in English. The availability and opportunity for the public to submit details interactively to the service will enhance the opportunity of Welsh speaking staff to interact in Welsh.	Very Good
<i>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.</i>	No impact expected	Neutral		Neutral
<b>A more equal Wales:</b> A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).				
<i>Age</i>	The provision of housing options via Welsh may benefit older people who are more comfortable speaking in Welsh. The new IT system is web based which may increase access to younger people. As the new system is web based this may limit accessibility to some who prefer face to face or telephone contact.	Neutral	The Housing Service will still be contactable by phone and face to face and can assist access to the module and assist in completing the online forms. New It and better data collection will enable better analysis of people's characteristics.	Good
<i>Disability</i>	The new IT system is web based and requires internet access	Neutral	The Housing Service will assist applicants via the phone or face to face at offices to complete the online form.	Good
<i>Gender reassignment</i>	No impact expected	Neutral		Neutral
<i>Marriage or civil partnership</i>	No impact expected	Neutral		Neutral
<i>Race</i>	No impact expected	Neutral		Neutral
<i>Religion or belief</i>	No impact expected	Neutral		Neutral
<i>Sex</i>	No impact expected	Neutral		Neutral
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	Study shows that that LGBT people are over represented among young homeless people.	Good	Through better recording, enabled by new IT, to understand if LGBT young people are over represented in Powys.	Good
<i>Pregnancy and Maternity</i>	No impact expected.	Neutral		Neutral
<b>Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements</b>				

Homeless review / LGBT Youth Homelessness: A UK National Scoping of Cause, Prevalence, Response & Outcome (The Albert Kennedy Trust, 2015)

7. How does your proposal impact on the council's other key guiding principles?

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<b>Sustainable Development Principle (5 ways of working)</b>				
<b>Long Term:</b> Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.	The action plan has long term objectives to reduce and prevent homelessness by increasing partnership and collaborative working i.e. whole system working	Good	Greater understanding of the common causes of homelessness which are not just housing issues.	Good
<b>Collaboration:</b> Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.	A key priority is to in partnership with key agencies explore how a multi-agency case management approach can evolve to meet the needs of households who revolve around the homeless system and place demands on a variety of services	Very Good	The action plan includes a mechanism to monitor the impact and progress of partnership/collaborative working	Very Good
<b>Involvement (including Communication and Engagement):</b> Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them.	The action plan has been developed in accordance with the findings of the review which was subject to consultation and therefore includes feedback from people who use services.	Good	The action plan will be subject to regular review by key stakeholders which include engagement groups and voluntary services.	Good

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<b>Prevention:</b> <i>Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.</i>	The Strategy and Action Plan priorities all relate to the prevention and alleviation of homelessness in Powys	Very Good	Some of the issues that cause homelessness are not housing issues but relate to other statutory and regulatory services. The Partnership approach advocated in the action plan will enhance the understanding of homelessness and how the prevention of homelessness is a whole system issue i.e. Social Services, Health etc.	Very Good
<b>Integration:</b> <i>Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives.</i>	The partnership and collaborative priorities stated in the action plan acknowledge that wellbeing goals can be addressed by agencies/services/organisations working together.	Good	The multi-agency monitoring of partnership/collaboration will further enhance addressing the wellbeing goals and will assist in addressing the consequences of changes in one service impacting on another.	Good
<b>Preventing Poverty:</b> Prevention, including helping people into work and mitigating the impact of poverty.	A priority in the action plan is to Develop close partnership working with DWP/Job Centre+ to mitigate any impact the introduction of Universal Credit may have on household's ability to retain their tenancies. This will include maximising the income of households and encouraging people into work.	Good	Closer working with the DWP should enhance the ability of the citizens of Powys to access financial assistance when they need it.	Good
<b>Unpaid Carers:</b> Ensuring that unpaid carers views are sought and taken into account	The priority "Continue to evolve and harness community-based services to assist in the prevention of homelessness" will include looking at the support available in communities to assist carers to maintain their accommodation.	Good	Regular monitoring of the action plan by the multiagency group will ensure that services are provided for this priority group.	Good
<b>Safeguarding:</b> Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.	Preventing homelessness for households with children and vulnerable adults will benefit the welfare and help to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm. In particular the priority of utilising intelligence, explore how we can focus support to households in those localities which are producing the highest proportion of homelessness cases, will mean that partnership and across agency working can be targeted in certain areas.	Good	The regular monitoring of the action plan by the multiagency group will ensure that opportunities for collaboration and taken.	Good

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<b>Impact on Powys County Council Workforce</b>	No additional impact expected, as the partnership working and locality approach is already adopted.	Neutral		Neutral
<b>Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements</b>				
Homeless Review				

8. What is the impact of this proposal on our communities?

Severity of Impact on Communities	Scale of impact	Overall Impact
Low	Low	Low
<b>Mitigation</b>		

9. How likely are you to successfully implement the proposed change?

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

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Impact on Service / Council	Risk to delivery of the proposal	Inherent Risk
Medium	Medium	Medium
Mitigation		

Risk Identified	Inherent Risk Rating	Mitigation	Residual Risk Rating
Lack of cooperation from agencies/organisation/services in particular Health	High	The involvement and commitment of health is important. When the Strategy and Action plan are accepted the Council should report the importance of the strategy to the RPB and ensure Health are key partners.	Low
Supporting People grant funded services.	Medium	Welsh Government have stated that the funding is secure for the next 12/24 months however longer term plans for the funding are unclear and we therefore need to ensure that we lobby WG via the SPMB and the RCC	Medium
Housing General Fund reductions.	Medium	The action plan takes account of the savings already identified, any additional savings would jeopardise the action plan. Need to ensure no further cuts to the Housing General Fund that supports homeless services.	Medium
Overall judgement (to be included in project risk register)			
Very High Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
			Low Risk

### 10. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

Outline Assessment (to be inserted in cabinet report)	Cabinet Report Reference:
The strategy and action plan, although a statutory requirement, is a positive development, as it identifies the areas where the Council needs to prioritise its activities and transparently identifies the need for a whole system (multi agency) approach to reducing/preventing homelessness in Powys.	

### 11. Is there additional evidence to support the Impact Assessment (IA)?

What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

WHO 12 Welsh Government statistics

12. On-going monitoring arrangements?

**What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?**

A multi-agency group is proposed to ensure that partnership working is effective and the group will monitor the implementation of the action plan and the impact in Powys.

**Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.**

May 2019

13. Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Impact Assessment Lead:	Dafydd Evans		
Head of Service:	Simon Inkson		
Director:	Nigel Brinn		
Portfolio Holder:	CLlr James Evans		

14. Governance

<b>Decision to be made by</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date required</b>	December 2018
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**FORM ENDS**