

Bristol City Council Equality Impact Assessment Form

(Please refer to the Equality Impact Assessment guidance when completing this form)



Name of proposal	Reducing Rough Sleeping Commissioning
Directorate and Service Area	Growth and Regeneration
Name of Lead Officer	Hywel Caddy

Step 1: What is the proposal?

Please explain your proposal in Plain English, avoiding acronyms and jargon. This section should explain how the proposal will impact service users, staff and/or the wider community.

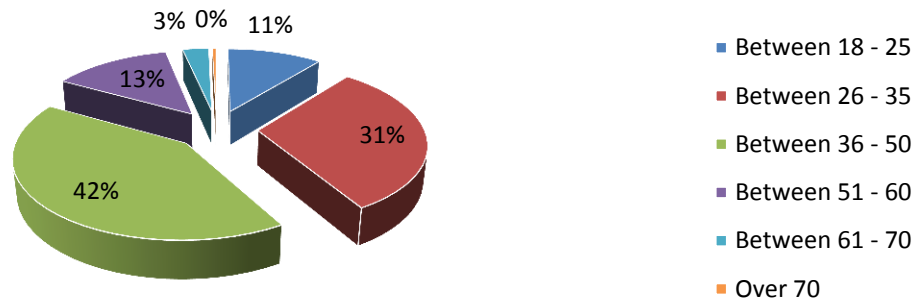
1.1 What is the proposal?
Commissioning services that will prevent and reduce rough sleeping in Bristol from October 2020 for the next 5 years with option to extend for 4 additional years. The draft commissioning plan (accompanying this document) sets out the services we are proposing to commission.

Step 2: What information do we have?

Decisions must be evidence-based, and involve people with protected characteristics that could be affected. Please use this section to demonstrate understanding of who could be affected by the proposal.

2.1 What data or evidence is there which tells us who is, or could be affected?
Age profile

Age Profile 2016-19: 1,975 individuals

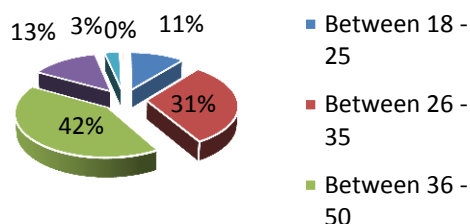


The majority of people (over 70%) who have accessed the current Rough Sleeper Service between 2016-19 are aged between 26 and 50 years old. The number of **young people (18 to 25)** is 11% of the client group. Young people (up to the age of 25) are offered accommodation in the young people's pathway as this is often more appropriate for their needs and prevents them being exposed to older people with more complex needs who may take advantage of their vulnerability. There are rarely any people who are under 18 who access the service as they are immediately referred into social services and accommodated immediately through the Emergency Duty Team.

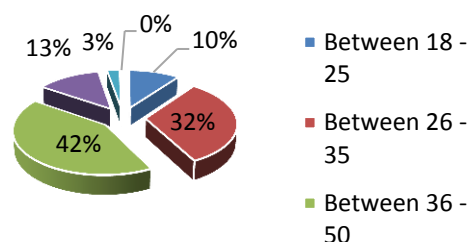
Only 3% of clients who have contact with the service are **61 years or older**. This partly reflects the vulnerability of people who end up sleeping on the streets and the complexity of their issues. The mean age at death was 45 years for men and 43 for women, far lower than for the general population, which is 76 years and 81 years for men and women respectively. This often reflects the impact of living on the streets and the trauma that many people experience in early life.

Gender

Age Profile 2016-19: 1,975 individuals



Age Profile 2018-19: 1,009 individuals



In the last year – compared to the average for the last three years - there has been a slight shift in the gender of people accessing the service with the number of female clients increasing to 18% of the total client group.

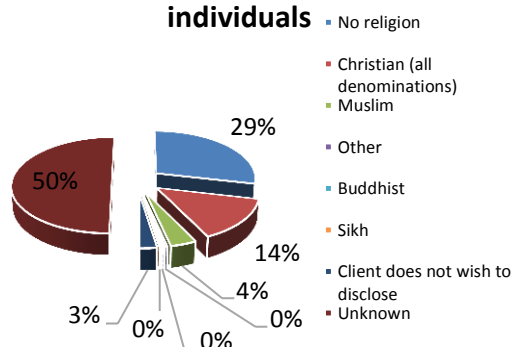
Ethnicity

Information from the Needs Analysis tells us that there are higher levels of Black/African/Caribbean/Black British people (11%), white other (13%) and lower levels of Asian/Asian British people engaging with the service compared to the Bristol population.

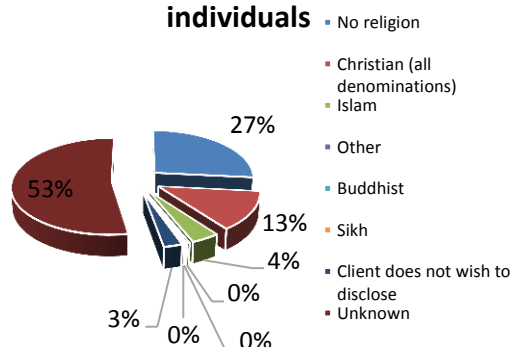
Religion

A significant number of people stated they had no religion, other or did not wish to disclose. In 2018-19 13% of people said they were Christian with 4% of people saying they were Muslim.

Religion Profile 2016-19: 1,975 individuals



Religion Profile 2018-19: 1,009 individuals



Disability

The majority of people on entry to the service responded to say that they did not have a disability; indeed only 9% clearly stated that they did have a disability. This maybe partially explained by stigma in acknowledging a

disability but could also be related to people being unaware that mental health and learning disabilities are disabilities and many people may not be aware of this.

However, as noted above, this contrasts with a 2010 Health Needs Audit of 152 people in homelessness services or supported housing, whereby 59% said they experienced a long term physical health need or problem. We also know that in the adult supported accommodation pathways in 2018-19, 73% of people have mental health needs and 43% of people have physical health needs.

Sexual orientation

Information on sexual orientation does not reflect the level of 4% of LGBT* people in Bristol Quality of life Survey 2016¹. This reflects a need to assimilate in recommendations from Stonewall's 'Finding Safe Spaces' so that people feel safer in services in the city to feel confident to be open about their sexuality.

2.2 Who is missing? Are there any gaps in the data?

There is no data on marriage and civil partnership.

2.3 How have we involved, or will we involve, communities and groups that could be affected?

People who are using services have been asked about gaps in services or improving access to services in the pre-consultation. A wider consultation is being undertaken between the 13th December 2019 and the 31st January 2020.

Step 3: Who might the proposal impact?

Analysis of impacts on people with protected characteristics must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts in this section, referring to all of the equalities groups as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

3.1 Does the proposal have any potentially adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics?

No, there is nothing in the proposals that has been identified as having an adverse impact on people because of their protected characteristics, although this will be further explored in the consultation.

3.2 Can these impacts be mitigated or justified? If so, how?

¹ Sexual Orientation and gender - 2015/16 Bristol Quality of Life Survey adult population

Not applicable at this stage
3.3 Does the proposal create any benefits for people with protected characteristics?
<p>The following are proposed in the consultation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will be seeking to increase services and staffing levels for women accessing services (dependent on government funding). 2. We are seeking to extend shelter provision in the city to enable people to move immediately off the streets which will be particularly beneficial to people who have a disability. Within shelters there will be women only areas. 3. Public Health and Safeguarding are undertaking a thematic review of deaths in homelessness services to see how services can better support people who are at risk, particularly people who have substance misuse issues.
3.4 Can they be maximised? If so, how?
Not applicable at this stage. We will use findings from the public consultation to maximise positive impact and inform the final commissioning plan.

Step 4: So what?

The Equality Impact Assessment must be able to influence the proposal and decision. This section asks how your understanding of impacts on people with protected characteristics has influenced your proposal, and how the findings of your Equality Impact Assessment can be measured going forward.

4.1 How has the equality impact assessment informed or changed the proposal?
Information collected on sexual orientation is poor in the current service (although the current provider, St Mungo's is very proactive in supporting LGBTQ+ service users). We will ensure that commissioned providers assimilate recommendations from Stonewall's 'Finding Safe Spaces' so that people feel safer in services in the city and confident to be open about their sexuality.
4.2 What actions have been identified going forward?
We will continue to monitor data and ensure that all commissioned services produce an EQIA with an action plan each year to improve access to services for all protected characteristic groups.
4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured moving forward?

The EQIAs and action plans will be an integral part of the annual reviews of services.

Service Director Sign-Off: Julian Higson	Equalities Officer Sign Off: <i>Reviewed by Equality and Inclusion Team</i>
Date: 11/12/2019	Date: 9/12/2019