

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 2021 for the next 3 years with option to extend for 4 additional years (2 +2 year extensions). The draft commissioning plan (accompanying this document) sets out the services we are proposing to commission.

This process was delayed from a Commissioning and tendering process that was set out in early 2020 which has been delayed due to the Pandemic.

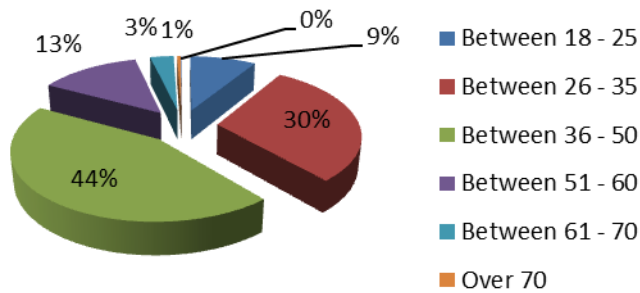
Step 2: What information do we have?

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.

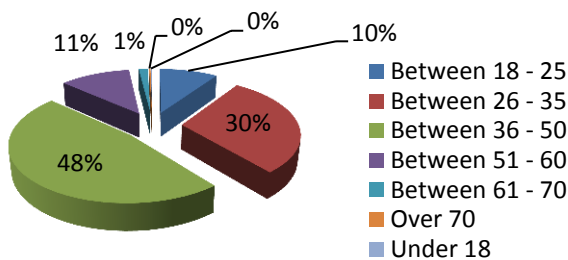
2.1 What data or evidence is there which tells us who is, or could be affected?

Age profile

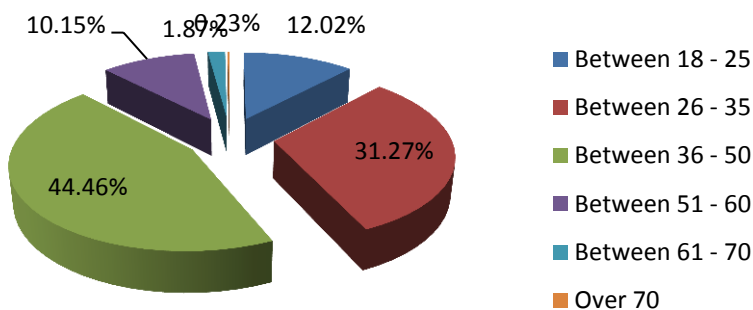
Age profile 2017-2020, 1941 individuals



Age profile 2019-2020: 873 individuals



Age profile Q1, Q2 2020-21, 857 individuals



Gender

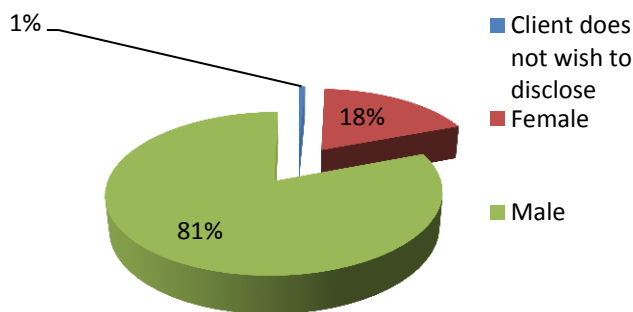
The majority of people (over 75%) who have accessed the current Rough Sleeper Service last year are aged between 26 and 50 years old. The number of **young people (18 to 25)** is 10% of the client group. Young people (up to the age of 25) are offered accommodation in the young people's pathway as this 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 1% of clients who have contact with the service are **61 years or older**. This is 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.

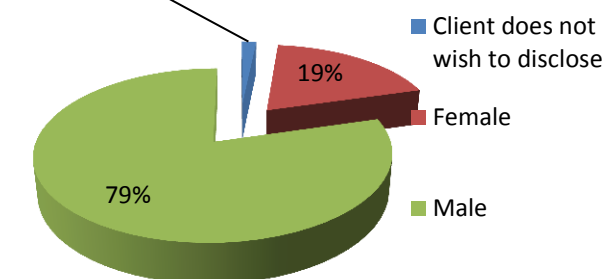
Figures for Q1-2 this year are slightly different but not markedly so.

Gender

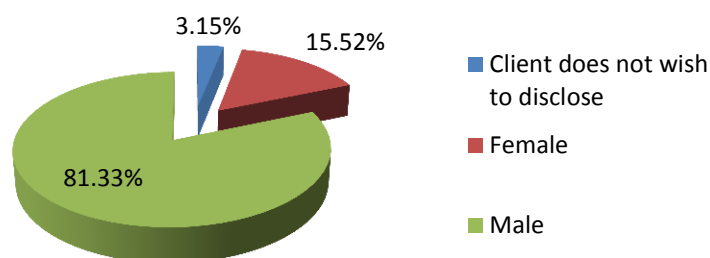
Gender profile 2017-2020, 1941 individuals



Gender profile 2019-2020, 873 individuals



Gender profile 2020-2021 (Q1-Q2) 857 clients



In the last 6 months – 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 decreasing to 16% of the total client group, compared to 19% in 2019-20. In the last two quarters there have been more people coming onto the streets who were previously sofa surfing and of this cohort there are proportionately more men than women.

Ethnicity

Information from the Needs Analysis tells us that there are higher levels of Black/African/Caribbean/Black British people, white other and lower levels of Asian/Asian British people engaging with the service compared to the Bristol population in 2011. However, this census data is now out of date and is no longer thought to correspond with averages in Bristol.

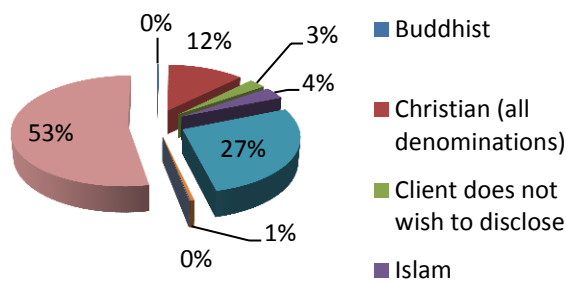
Information for the first two quarters of 2020-19 during the COVID19 period show a reduction in those identifying as White British, from 62% in both previous time periods to 52%. This drop is explained by slight increases in most other ethnicities - in particular double the number of individuals identifying as Black or Black British: African or where the ethnicity is unknown. This suggests that the COVID pandemic has had more of an impact on non-White British people who are disproportionately likely to enter the rough sleeping service. During 'Everyone in' the government suspended legislation around people who had no recourse to public funding which is likely to have had an impact in the reduction of white British clients in comparison to previous years.

Religion

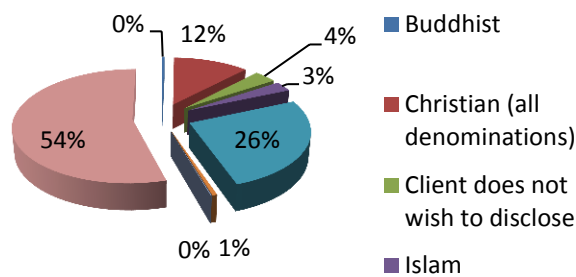
A significant number of people stated they had no religion, other or did not wish to disclose. In the first two periods, 12% of people said they were Christian with 4% of people said they were Muslim. For the first two quarters of 2020-21 an increased proportion (68%) were of unknown religion, likely due

to the speed with which many people engaging with the service were accommodated in Emergency Accommodation.

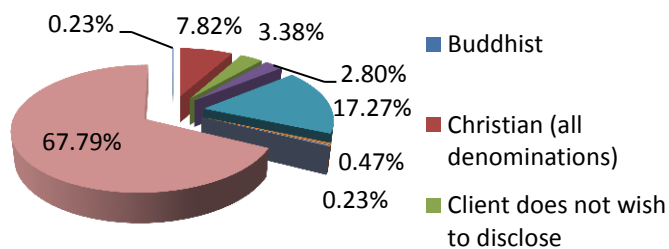
Religion profile 2017-2020, 1941 individuals



Religion profile 2019-2020: 873 individuals



Religion profile 2020-2021 (Q1,Q2) 857 individuals



Disability

The majority of people on entry to the service responded to say that they did not have a disability; indeed only 9% in 2017-2020 and 7% in 2019-20 stated that they did have a disability. The first two quarters of 2020-21 there was an increase in those where their disability status was unknown, again possibly

reflecting people who moved from rough sleeping before fuller details were collected.

However, as noted in the Needs Analysis, 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 in November 2019. A wider consultation was undertaken between the 13th December 2019 and the 31st January 2020. The Commissioning process was then halted due to the Pandemic and a further limited consultation will be happening from mid-December 2021 to mid- January 2021

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.

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

3.2 Can these impacts be mitigated or justified? If so, how?
Not applicable at this stage
3.3 Does the proposal create any benefits for people with protected characteristics?
The following are proposed in the consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will be seeking to maintain services and staffing levels for women accessing services who often find it difficult to access services (dependent on the RSI government funding bid). 2. 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:



Stephen Peacock

Date: 14.12.2020

Equalities Officer Sign Off:

*Reviewed by Equality and Inclusion
Team*

Date: 11/12/2020