

### Equality Impact Assessment Form and Action Table

(Expand the boxes as appropriate, please see guidance to assist with completion)

<b>Team/Service Area</b>	Housing Services
<b>Name of what is being assessed</b>	Somerset Homelessness Strategy 2017
<b>Risk Rating</b>	6 - Green
<b>Section 1 – Description</b> of what is being impact assessed – this could be the Policy Aims and Objectives or what is being changed.	
<p>The Homelessness Act 2002 requires all housing authorities to have in place a homelessness strategy based on a review of homelessness.</p> <p>The Somerset Homelessness Strategy 2017 has been undertaken in partnership with the five Somerset district authorities, Mendip District Council, Sedgemoor District Council, South Somerset District Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council and West Somerset Council. It is based on a review of homelessness in Somerset in 2017. It provides a framework to drive forward the five Councils homelessness activities in accordance with the requirements of the Homelessness Act 2002 and Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and the shared aspiration to continuously improve our services and increase successful prevention and relief. The strategy focuses on prevention of homelessness and includes our existing services, which prevent and alleviate homelessness.</p> <p>The new strategy recognises and builds on existing achievements. It addresses the new legislative challenges under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 with new duties to help more individuals and families regardless of whether they are priority homeless. The action plan addresses the following key priorities identified by the strategy:</p> <p><b>Priority 1</b> Support the transition in services required by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 to reduce and prevent homelessness.</p> <p><b>Priority 2</b> Support clients to remain in their existing accommodation where appropriate. This priority involves improving the range of options, support and tools that can assist an individual in remaining in their existing accommodation. Needing to move accommodation can be disruptive and costly for individuals and families.</p> <p><b>Priority 3</b> Support clients to access suitable and affordable accommodation where appropriate. It may not always be possible for a client to remain in their current accommodation so where a move cannot be avoided, this priority will ensure that they can access suitable accommodation that is affordable to them in a timely manner. This priority looks at the options available to clients and addresses accommodation options such as the private rented sector and move on options.</p>	

#### **Priority 4**

Build and maintain strong working relationships across partnerships. Effective partnership working brings a number of benefits including the sharing of best practice and effective use of resources to deliver cost savings to all working partners and for this reason, it remains a priority for this homelessness strategy.

Building on existing services and exploring new opportunities, Housing Options teams of the 5 Districts, in line with the new strategy action plan, will maximise homeless prevention opportunities, increasing homeless preventions, reducing the numbers of homelessness acceptances and the use of temporary accommodation. Examples of the additional homelessness support, advice and accommodation services provided across the county with positive impact on protected characteristics are listed at appendix 1.

#### **Section 2A – People or communities that are targeted or could be affected (for Equalities - taking particular note of the Protected Characteristic listed in action table)**

Residents of the district who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and eligible in relation to their UK residency. The law defines who is and is not eligible, in terms of immigration status and habitual residence. The law is different for people from within the European Economic Area (EEA) and the UK and those from elsewhere.

Any applicant may fall within a protected characteristic. In line with homelessness legislation and the strategy, those who are most vulnerable will be afforded priority status. The strategy is in keeping with the Homeless Reduction Act 2017, which widens the prevention and relief duties to include all individuals and families threatened with homelessness or experiencing homelessness regardless of their priority status.

We do not currently record statistical data on the protected characteristics of all homeless applicants. We currently capture through P1E statistics on age, high level ethnicity and gender breakdowns for those accepted as in priority need and unintentionally homeless. P1E is the homelessness statistics reported to government by all housing authorities.

Future capture of data under the new legislation will provide a more detailed breakdown for all applicants not just those in priority need and unintentionally homeless. Ethnicity will be recorded at a more detailed level than previously in line with harmonised ONS England-specific ethnic groups. The new government data base, H-CLIC (Homelessness Case Level Information Collection) will enable equalities data along with other key statistics to be collected for all applicants with outcomes for the following areas:

- **Main** - information on the main applicant and details of the homelessness application for the household.
- **People** – the characteristics of each household member.
- **Support** - any support needs in the household.
- **Prevention** - activity if the Prevention Duty is owed.
- **Relief** - activity if the Relief Duty is owed.
- **Decision** – activity if the case proceeds to an assessment for a final homelessness duty, (the section 193(2) duty, the section 193C (4) duty, or the section 195A (1) duty).
- **Final duties** - activity if the case was assessed as owed a final homelessness duty.
- **Assistance** - assistance with support needs received by the household.
- **Temporary accommodation** – provision of temporary accommodation and/or if a temporary accommodation duty is owed.
- **Reviews** - any reviews requested of decisions made by the local authority.

Local systems will be adjusted to accommodate the new requirements.

The main reasons for priority need of homeless applicants during the period July 2016 to June 2017 were households with dependent children, pregnancy, disability, old age, fleeing violence, mental illness and drug dependency.

The main reasons for becoming homeless for the same period were loss of tied or rented accommodation, parents or relatives no longer willing to accommodate and violence.

The equalities profile of eligible homelessness Somerset applicants in priority need and unintentionally homeless for the period reviewed of July 2016 – June 2017 tells us:

- It is difficult to compare the ethnicity of those who have received homeless application decisions to Census data due to differing categories; the Government's P1E returns record ethnicity at a high level. However, we are able to see that the ethnicity of homeless applicants is broadly similar to the ethnicity of resident population
- In the period reviewed there was a significantly greater proportion of women accepted as in priority need (over two thirds); this is a reflection of the priority need status for housing if women are pregnant or have children
- There are significantly more acceptances of applicants 16-24 and 25-44 and a lesser proportion of older applicants reflecting that they are more likely to have a settled home
- The incidence of eligible homeless applicants in priority need and unintentionally homeless with a disability in the 12 month period reviewed is broadly in line with the general level of disability in Somerset and greater than that of people who consider their daytime activities are 'limited a lot'.
- Data on the other protected characteristics of homeless applicants is currently not collected statistically.

Issues for Districts include:

#### Age

- Rural West Somerset has a notably high proportion of residents aged 65 and older, and in parts of Minehead almost half of people are aged 65+.
- Population estimates suggest that by 2039, Mendip will experience a significant growth in population over the age of 65 of 67.3% and 159.4% increase of over 85 year olds.

#### Disability

- Bridgwater's Sydenham and Hamp areas contain notable concentrations of households with disability
- At 14.7 per 1000 usual residents, Taunton Deane had one of the highest proportions in the country of people living in a medical or care communal establishment.
- Residents in West Somerset are more likely than anywhere else in the county to consider their health bad or very bad, or to have a limiting disability or condition, even amongst the 16-64 age group. This is unsurprising overall given the district's high proportion of elderly people.
- The particular rural challenges of West Somerset are heightened in relation to the larger percentage of older and disabled residents and those experiencing poor health

#### Race

- The main population centres of Gypsies and Irish Travellers are areas with established Gypsy and Irish Traveller sites, e.g. In Mendip at Berkley (near Frome) and Frome town and South Somerset at Tintinhull (near Ilminster).

- There are Significant pockets of white European residents in parts of Shepton Mallet, Yeovil, Bridgwater, Taunton, Minehead and Chard. The age profile is younger than the Somerset average, with a high proportion aged 25-34, linked to young migrant workers.
- In Somerset, 'other Asian' is the largest sub-group (39%), followed by Chinese (26%) and Indian (22%). People born in the Philippines form a key part of the 'Other Asian' category. The population is concentrated in urban communities, most notably in areas of Taunton and Yeovil.
- Frome, Glastonbury and Taunton are some of the main population centres for those of mixed ethnicity, although the populace is widely dispersed.

#### Rurality

- With an older population and higher proportion of disability, West Somerset has particular rural challenges with poor transport creating isolated areas and communities.

#### **Section 2B** – People who are **delivering** the policy or service

- Housing Options Teams
- The five district councils' partners and wider agencies within the district who provide support, housing and advice providers

#### **Section 3** – **Evidence and data** used for the assessment (Attach documents where appropriate)

In creating the homelessness strategy data, a full review of homelessness was undertaken in the district in 2017 taking into account statistics on housing need, housing provision, homeless applications and outcomes. These are evidenced within the strategy document itself as well as in appendices 2 and 3.

Data was drawn from the following sources:

- Somerset Joint Strategic Needs Assessment  
<http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/jsna>
- Somerset Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2016  
<http://www.mendip.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=14834&p=0>
- <http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/shma.html>  
<https://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/Planning---Building/Planning-Policy/Evidence-Base-Information/Housing---Community-Evidence/Strategic-Housing-Market-Assessment>
- ONS Census and Nomis data  
<http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011>
- Somerset Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Update  
<http://mendip.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=5531&p=0>
- Somerset Health & Wellbeing Strategy  
[www.somerset.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=45804](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=45804)
- Somerset Youth Housing Strategy & Action Plan  
<https://www.bing.com/search?q=somerset+youth+housing+strategy+and+action+plan&src=IE-SearchBox&FORM=IESR3N>
- Avon & Somerset Rough Sleepers Steering Group Action Plan  
[https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/media/677668/ap\\_homeless\\_strategy\\_2013.xlsx](https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/media/677668/ap_homeless_strategy_2013.xlsx)
- Housing, Communities and Local Government (CLG) Statistics - Live Tables  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>
- Shelter Databank  
[http://england.shelter.org.uk/professional\\_resources/housing\\_databank](http://england.shelter.org.uk/professional_resources/housing_databank)

- Homefinder Somerset Housing Register report (*included in the Homelessness Strategy s.6.6 and 6.7*)
- English Housing Survey  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-housing-survey-2016-to-2017-headline-report>
- Mendip net affordable dwellings completed report  
<http://www.mendip.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=4834&p=0>

The review of homelessness incorporated extensive consultation undertaken with the five Districts and their partners. Consultation included homelessness managers and their teams, and the council's partners and key stakeholders through on-line surveys, 2 consultation events and responses to direct communication. Service users were not consulted directly. A list of organisations consulted can be found at appendix 4.

Equalities analysis statistics can be found at appendices 2 and 3 and *Somerset Intelligence* (<http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk>)

**Section 4 – Conclusions** drawn about the impact of the proposed change or new service/policy (Please use prompt sheet for help with what to consider):

**Key issues to be fed into relevant Action Table**

The strategy is relevant to all customer groups, as accommodation is a fundamental requirement for everyone. The strategy and action plan, in line with new legislation, provide a framework for the Districts to help all eligible individuals and families who find themselves at risk of or facing homelessness for an increased period of 56 days regardless of their priority needs or reasons for homelessness.

It positively addresses the housing needs of those who are more vulnerable through continued provision of services along with actions to improve partnership working and find new solutions to increased prevention and relief. These groups include pregnant women and those with dependants, people with disabilities, for example, mental ill health and complex needs, and people whose age may make them more vulnerable. Therefore, the strategy should have an overall positive impact for all homeless applicants. However, there is insufficient evidence to decide if some groups, whilst not being discriminated against or disadvantaged by the strategy, would receive a positive benefit (scored neutral).

The action plan in the new 2017 strategy details a number of actions and services that support better homelessness prevention and relief, which will directly or indirectly have a positive impact on all groups.

The overall impact of the strategy will be to improve the outcomes for residents facing homelessness in the context of diminishing resources. There is no evidence to suggest that the strategy would have a negative impact on any group.

The following table highlights the impact of the strategy on the protected groups:

Protected Group	Comments	Impact
Age	<p>The Housing Options services currently capture data on age of all homeless and housing need customers.</p> <p>We have no evidence that those in any age group are disadvantaged in their access to the service or in the housing assistance they need. Housing legislation provides specific protection and priority for young applicants (16 -17 year olds) and homeless applicants who are vulnerable because of age and applicants for social housing. To support the most vulnerable young people, a range of services are currently available within the district to provide additional signposting, advice, information, support, mediation and supported housing.</p>	Positive

<p><b>- Age</b></p>	<p>P1E statistics show the majority of homeless acceptances come from the 25 to 44 age group and the strategy is focused on helping this group through strengthening P2i preventative activities and opportunities for progression towards independence for young people, and by the provision of more private sector rented accommodation given the availability in the social rented sector.</p> <p>The age group 17-44 has the highest number of homeless acceptances. The Somerset Homeless Strategy 2017 sets out the actions we propose to mitigate the impact of welfare reform changes for young people as well as single homeless people over 25 years including rough sleepers.</p> <p>Being on a low wage or unemployed or in and out of work could increase the risk of homelessness if it leads to difficulties in money management including payment of rent or mortgage. Younger people are more likely to be unemployed and struggle to budget contributing to tenancy failure.</p> <p>Young people may be incentivised to remain at home by the Local Housing Allowance for the private rented sector entitlement for under 35s (single room rate) coupled with increasing accommodation costs. It is also possible that this also could contribute to homelessness.</p> <p>Low numbers in homelessness acceptances for older people could indicate that current sheltered and extra care services available alongside non-age restricted accommodation adequately meets the current housing needs of our older population.</p> <p>All Somerset districts have a higher proportion of the population aged 65 or over than the national average. Each district can expect to see a significant increase in the numbers of people over 65 by 2037. The number of people aged 75 or older is projected to double by 2039. We will need to ensure with our partners that existing and planned services can meet the projected increase in demand over time.</p>	
<p><b>Disability</b></p>	<p>Households containing a person with a disability are more likely to live in social rented housing than households with no disabled occupant. (<u>English Housing Survey, 2011/12</u>). Statistics and research show us that disabled people are significantly less likely to be in employment than non-disabled people. This in turn can affect ability to pay rent or rent arrears leading to increased risk of homelessness.</p> <p>Lack of resources can lead to disabled people living in unsuitable housing. However, we offer aids and adaptations grants and disabled facilities grants to adapt existing properties where this is appropriate. Depending on specific needs, there may be a shortage of accessible housing for some disabled people, resulting in a lack of choice and inappropriate housing for applicants.</p>	<p><b>Positive</b></p>

<p><b>-Disability</b></p>	<p>There are also challenges in matching the correct adaptations on properties to applicant's disabilities. These issues have been addressed through improved property advert labelling and advertising. The Homefinder Somerset Monitoring Board that oversees the operation of the Homefinder Somerset Allocations policy will continue to look for ways to improve accessibility to vulnerable applicants with needs.</p> <p>The need for carers to live in or couples requiring separate bedrooms because of medical conditions and equipment can be an issue, which needs to be taken into account in the allocation, provision and development of housing. This can particularly affect sheltered and extra care housing requirements as well as other housing.</p> <p>The strategy seeks to address the issues faced by people with disabilities by improving partnership working with mental health teams, Adult Social Care and hospital discharge teams. Closer working with the housing occupational therapists is also helping with physical adaptation needs.</p> <p>Districts have protocols with the community mental health teams to ensure that Housing Options are aware of those being discharged from mental health care teams before discharge so that adequate accommodation can be found for them.</p> <p>Any information provided will need to be in accessible formats wherever feasible to aid access for people with disabilities.</p>	
<p><b>Marriage /civil partnership</b></p>	<p>Applicants are not disadvantaged by either being married/ in a civil partnership or not when accessing affordable housing in terms of the housing register, mutual exchange or homelessness /homeless prevention services. Registered civil partners have the same rights as married heterosexual spouses in relation to property and tenancy rights.</p>	<p><b>Neutral</b></p>
<p><b>Pregnancy and maternity</b></p>	<p>Since 1 April 2004, it has been unlawful for local authorities to house families with children and pregnant women in bed and breakfast accommodation for more than six weeks, which has put increased pressure on the housing system. Pregnant applicants are prioritised depending on their housing needs and circumstances within current policies/strategies</p>	<p><b>Positive</b></p>
<p><b>Religion or belief</b></p>	<p>We have no evidence to suggest that applicants from this group are disadvantaged in any way by the Housing Options services or the strategy. Assessment of need and Personal Housing Plans should take account of specific beliefs and religion helping to avoid any disadvantage and target the services to the extent it is reasonably possible.</p>	<p><b>Neutral</b></p>



<p><b>- Religion or belief</b></p>	<p>Setting the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) at 30% of the rate of private rents in the area, not having LHA for more than 4 bedrooms, and the overall benefits cap for families may affect larger families and, therefore, disproportionately on certain religious groups who may have multi-generational families/ larger family groups living in one property.</p> <p>People of Hindu and Muslim religions are more likely to live in overcrowded housing than other groups. 8% of Hindu householders and 7% of Muslim householders have a bedroom 'occupancy rating' of '-1', compared to between 2% and 3% for all other main religious groups. <u>(Census, 2011)</u></p>	
<p><b>Race</b></p>	<p>Assessments and Personal Housing Plans should ensure needs are sensitively met in relation to the Housing Options service and housing where reasonable and feasible.</p> <p>A very small proportion (0.5%) of Somerset residents cannot speak English well (or at all). However, in the 25 to 34 age group this proportion increases to 1.5%; largely related to recent migrant workers from 'New EU' countries. <u>(Census 2011)</u>. Languages can be translated where possible and reasonably by using external language translation facilities.</p> <p>People of Asian ethnicity are 'under-represented' on the Homefinder Somerset social housing register relative to the size of the population: Asian people comprise 0.4% of Homefinder registrants but 0.9% of the county's population whilst people of White Other ethnicity are marginally over-represented.</p> <p>BME groups often represent a higher proportion of rough sleepers and our work with the Avon &amp; Somerset Rough Sleepers group will help to address this issue. Being on a low wage or unemployed or in and out of work could increase the risk of homelessness if it leads to difficulties in money management including payment of rent or mortgage. Unemployment is higher for people of Black and Mixed ethnicities.</p> <p>For Gypsies and Travellers, illegal pitches can have problems around health hazards (such as contamination by vermin), decayed sewage and water fittings, poor-quality utility rooms, and failings in fire safety, impacting adversely on health and access to employment opportunities. Racism towards Gypsies and Travellers can have a detrimental effect on mental health.</p> <p>Gypsy and Traveller Communities across Somerset are of different ethnicities and have their own culture and therefore careful consideration must be made when allocating sites as well as being mindful of their accommodation needs. Our Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) updated in 2013 sets out detail on the needs of this community and the pitch requirements.</p>	<p><b>Neutral</b></p>

<b>-race</b>	Refugees and asylum seekers have many additional challenges and needs including potentially language barriers, along with differing housing needs and a range of dwelling sizes (due to multi-generational households). Many face challenges relating to low or lack of income; lack of capital for a deposit; few household possessions and high forced mobility (in terms of where they are offered accommodation) which makes it difficult to establish a 'local connection'. The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme seeks to address these needs.	
<b>Sex (Gender)</b>	<p>The strategy will have an overall positive effect on women who are over represented among homeless households through preventing homelessness and meeting housing need.</p> <p>Providing comprehensive advice services across all tenures will also benefit women at risk of domestic violence, and those at most risk through the impact of welfare reform changes. The majority of homeless and temporary accommodation households are headed by, or include, women. Since 1 April 2004, it has been unlawful for local authorities to house families with children and pregnant women in bed and breakfast accommodation for more than six weeks, which has put increased pressure on the housing system.</p> <p>Single men are overrepresented in the rough sleeper and non-priority homeless categories both nationally and locally. The reasons for this are varied but may be linked to the fact that 32% of rough sleepers are prison leavers and 6% have been in the armed forces at some point in their lives.</p> <p>Support is provided through Positive Lives services and we need to continue and support further work to reduce single non-priority homelessness, which should have a positive impact on single men in the rough sleeper and non-priority homeless categories, together with bolstering existing support for priority homeless applicants.</p> <p>Single men with children are presenting more often as homeless and there have been issues with landlords not accepting that single males would have such sole access to children. Further work is needed to ensure that landlords understand applicant circumstances and accommodate accordingly, with no reference to the gender of the applicant.</p>	<b>Positive</b>
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	<p>We have no evidence to suggest that applicants from this group are disadvantaged in any way by the service or strategy. However, we know that transgendered people may be at risk of homelessness arising from transphobic reactions, Hate Crime and harassment by family, neighbours and members of their local community.</p> <p>Staff training is critical to awareness of needs and issues.</p>	<b>Neutral</b>

	Further work may be needed to ensure that private interview facilities are available in all partners to ensure that privacy can be assured for gender reassigned applicants. In addition, Personal Housing Plans should pick up and address issues and needs relevant to the service	
<b>Sexuality</b>	<p>Assessments of need and Personal Housing Plans (under the new legislation) may be the most suitable way to determine what types of dwellings are required. Staff training is critical for awareness of needs and issues in delivering our services effectively for LGBT applicants. Specialist accommodation may be considered for LGBT communities, especially people at risk of also being discriminated against due to age or race.</p> <p>Advice can be sought from organisations that support LGBT people such as Stonewall Housing or the Albert Kennedy Trust, the Diversity Trust and 2BU. Information and guidance are available at <a href="#">2BU website</a>.</p> <p>In a survey undertaken with LGBT young people in Somerset, Impact of Coming Out on Mental Health, the results reveal that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85% of respondents indicated that they had either been bullied, witnessed bullying or both.</li> <li>• Only 1 in 3 had reported the bullying</li> <li>• 86% had experienced verbal abuse</li> <li>• 3 in 4 reported deliberate self-harm</li> <li>• Almost half had attempted suicide</li> </ul> <p>These pressures on mental health could lead to additional difficulties for young LGBT people in getting and sustaining housing successfully (equally, poor, inappropriate or unstable housing could compound poor mental health and wellbeing).</p> <p>In the Somerset Gay and Bisexual Men’s Research Report (2015), gay and bisexual men in Somerset report experiencing homophobia and hate crime. This could lead to housing difficulties and risk of homelessness. The full report is available from the <a href="#">Diversity Trust website</a></p> <p>Data on these groups is not collated as part of the Government’s P1E data return and cannot be reported on at this stage. This makes it difficult to obtain accurate information about the housing needs of LGBT people who are at risk of or faced with homelessness.</p> <p>To date there has been no evidence of negative impact.</p>	<b>Neutral</b>

<p><b>Rurality</b></p>	<p>Somerset is a rural county and presents some challenges in terms of reaching rough sleepers in the rural locations. Homelessness Services are located in towns across the district, outreach workers go out daily to look for and support rough sleepers in known rural haunts.</p> <p>The strategy identifies a need to develop a county wide rough sleeper strategy and this will seek to address the rural challenges and disadvantages.</p> <p>Travel and Access: Transport is limited and costly in rural areas and can lead to isolation of our more vulnerable residents, also challenging access to some services and facilities located in towns. Reaching and helping people in the communities in which they live or rough sleep presents challenge. This is true for all districts and especially so for West Somerset.</p> <p>Around 10% of White British householders in Somerset <u>do not</u> have access to a car/van, compared to 15-16% for all other ethnic groups. <u>(Census, 2011)</u></p> <p>People of Hindu and Muslim religions in Somerset are less likely than the general population to have transport: 23% of Hindu and 21% of Muslim householders do not have access to a car (or van) <u>(Census 2011)</u>.</p> <p>Only 33% of adults aged 75 years or over have ever used the Internet. <u>(Internet Access Quarterly Update, Q2 2013)</u>.</p> <p>Disabled people are less likely to live in households with access to the internet than non-disabled people. Over half (53%) of adults who have never used the Internet have a disability.</p> <p>Assessments and Personal Housing Plans should include relevant issues relating to rurality.</p>	<p><b>Neutral</b></p>
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<b>Section 5</b> – After consideration please state your final recommendations based on the findings from the impact assessment. Also, include any examples of good practice and positive steps taken.			
The draft strategy was developed in consultation with internal and external partners. No comments were received concerning equalities impact. The overall impact of the strategy is to improve the outcomes for residents facing homelessness against a backdrop of diminishing resources. It is recommended that the strategy be adopted.			
<b>Section 6</b> - How will the assessment, consultation and outcomes be published and communicated? E.g. reflected in final strategy, published. What steps are in place to review the Impact Assessment			
The impact assessment will be reviewed in line with the next homelessness review and new strategy currently proposed after 18 months.			
The homelessness review and consultations outcomes are contained within the main strategy document and will be published thorough the council's website.			
<b>Completed by:</b>		Jan Errington	
<b>Date</b>		02.03.18	
<b>Signed off by:</b>		Homelessness Managers Group	
<b>Date</b>		09.03.18	
<b>Compliance sign off</b>		Tom Rutland	
<b>To be reviewed by:</b> (officer name)			
<b>Review date:</b>		In line with strategy review September 2019	
<b>Version</b>	V0.1.3	<b>Date</b>	09.03.18

**Equality Impact Assessment Issues and Action Table**

Identified issue drawn from your conclusions	Actions needed – can you mitigate the impacts? If you can how will you mitigate the impacts?	Who is responsible for the actions?	When will the action be completed?	How will it be monitored?	What is the expected outcome from the action?
<b>Age</b>					
Data not collected statistically for all homeless applications therefore not able to monitor effectively full homelessness need and demand.	Collect and monitor data on this characteristic for all homeless applicants	Housing Options Teams Housing Managers	April 2018	H-CLIC submissions and reports  Quarterly management reports and returns	Improved ability to analyse the impact of the strategy and to target services accordingly to avoid any disadvantage
We need to ensure awareness of all services available to homeless individuals where communication could be a barrier	Ensure that commissioned services are able to provide easy to understand service information accessible to young people (media and language)	Housing Managers	December 2018	Councils and commissioned services provide appropriate accessible service information	Fair access to homelessness prevention services ensuring those who need help know how to access it.
Limited homelessness risks awareness and need for a ‘reality check’ for young people so that they can be better informed about the risks of homelessness, where to get help and advice to avoid becoming homeless.	<i>Taken from the strategy action plan:</i> Ensure housing/ homelessness awareness sessions are promoted in schools & colleges	HMG (Housing Managers’ Group) Housing Managers  (YMCA)	December 2018	Possible snap shot surveys from class attendees  Evidence number of sessions undertaken in schools  H-CLIC submissions and reports	More young people staying at home  Awareness raising literature available  Fewer homelessness approaches by clients aged 16-24

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The strategy identifies an increased demand for over 65's and over 75's within the next 20 years.	Review the housing aspirations of older social housing tenants to enable safe and independent living	HMG Housing Managers	April 2019	Minutes/reports via HMG  Positive Customer Satisfaction feedback	Housing providers and enablers are aware of requirements to meet future older persons' housing needs appropriately
	The councils and housing providers must take account of projected demand for older persons' accommodation in decision making about resource allocation, asset management review and housing development.	Housing Managers  (Enabling Teams, Registered Providers)	ongoing	Discussions with Housing Development, Enabling and housing providers engaged in development	Choice and supply to meet/anticipate demand as it grows
	Review the housing needs of older rough sleepers and improve their accommodation pathways and options, working within the Positive Lives programme	HMG Housing Managers	April 2019	Minutes/reports via HMG Positive customer satisfaction feedback	Clear pathways to services in place

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Limited supply of 1 bed units	<p><i>From the strategy action plan:</i> Explore options to increase the number of single units available to single homeless clients, particularly the 25-34 year age group.</p> <p>Consideration should also be given to any need for shared and alternative accommodation options</p>	HMG Housing Managers	Nov 2018 and annual	Fewer households waiting for 1-bedroom accommodation on Homefinder Somerset	Fewer households waiting for 1 bedroom accommodation, more accessible move on for supported housing residents
Mediation is currently available to young people but no other age groups	<p><i>From the strategy action plan:</i> Explore the options to provide mediation services to different age groups/client groups</p>	HMG Housing Managers	January 2019	H-CLIC statistics	Increase in the number of clients supported to remain in their homes
<b>Disability</b>					
Data not collected statistically for all applicants, therefore not able to monitor effectively in terms of district's full homelessness need and demand.	Collect and monitor information on this characteristic for all homeless applicants	Housing Options Teams – Housing Managers	April 2018	Statistical data collection built into software with reports via H-CLIC	Data available for analysis of strategy impacts, emerging trends and issues



**Equality Impact Assessment Issues and Action Table**

<b>Identified issue drawn from your conclusions</b>	<b>Actions needed – can you mitigate the impacts? If you can how will you mitigate the impacts?</b>	<b>Who is responsible for the actions?</b>	<b>When will the action be completed?</b>	<b>How will it be monitored?</b>	<b>What is the expected outcome from the action?</b>
We need to ensure awareness of all services available to homeless individuals where communication could be a barrier	Ensure that commissioned services are able to provide easy to understand service information that can be provided in alternative formats and easy read versions	Housing Managers	December 2018	Commissioned services are able to provide accessible service information in easy read and alternative formats	Enable awareness and fair access to services to prevent homelessness and ensure those who need help know how to access it.
There may be a shortage of accessible housing for some disabled people leading to a lack of choice and inappropriate housing when applicants present as homeless or for advice on their housing options. There are also issues in matching the correct adaptations on properties to applicant's disabilities.	Work further with the Housing Occupational Therapists, through the Homefinder Somerset Monitoring Board that oversees the operation of the Homefinder Somerset Allocations policy, to improve labelling and marketing of adapted property and correct allocation of adapted property	HMG Somerset CBL Scheme Coordinator	Ongoing	.Homefinder Somerset monitoring and reports  Aids and adaptations team and Housing OT feedback and reports Customer satisfaction surveys  Affordable housing plans and delivery reports	Clear efficient and effective pathways to suitable adapted housing. Optimised use of available adapted properties, ensuring applicants are offered appropriate housing to meet their needs.  Reduced waiting time for suitable housing  Ensure wheelchair accessible units included in new builds to basic accessible standard

**Equality Impact Assessment Issues and Action Table**

Identified issue drawn from your conclusions	Actions needed – can you mitigate the impacts? If you can how will you mitigate the impacts?	Who is responsible for the actions?	When will the action be completed?	How will it be monitored?	What is the expected outcome from the action?
-continued					Improved timescales for minor adaptations
A clear referral pathway for agencies is required, particularly at point of discharge from hospital, prison and other institutions.	<i>From the strategy action plan:</i> Develop protocols for Public Services, Housing Providers & all other Agencies to refer clients they believe to be homeless or at risk of homelessness	HMG Housing Managers	October 2018	Protocols in place Referrals made from variety of agencies	Increased number of referrals
Ensure that no individuals fall through the net becoming homeless or at risk of homelessness where earlier intervention, communication and partnership working could have prevented this, especially for those with complex needs	<i>From the strategy action plan:</i> Improve partnership working between Community Mental Health Teams and Drug/Alcohol dependency support to improve outcomes for dual diagnosis clients	HMG Housing Managers (Service Providers)	ongoing	Protocols in place Evidence of negotiations and meeting minutes	Personalised and planned positive outcome for client
	<i>From the strategy action plan:</i> Continue to work with Community Mental Health Teams, Hospitals, Prisons and Probation to develop a protocol to ensure that clients are not discharged/released without suitable accommodation	HMG Housing Managers (hospitals, prisons, CMHTs)	ongoing	Protocols in place	Personalised and planned positive outcome for client

Equality Impact Assessment Issues and Action Table					
Identified issue drawn from your conclusions	Actions needed – can you mitigate the impacts? If you can how will you mitigate the impacts?	Who is responsible for the actions?	When will the action be completed?	How will it be monitored?	What is the expected outcome from the action?
-continued	<i>From the strategy action plan:</i> Work with social housing providers to ensure that there are transparent and fair tenant selection practices. Monitor skipping reasons more closely.	HMG Housing Managers	ongoing	Homefinder Somerset reports	Reduction in the number of households refused by social landlords Improved access to social housing for clients with difficult housing histories
	Continue to explore and improve ways to ensure service reaches those in rural settings e.g. outreach and drop ins in range of locations*  *Also rurality issue	HMG Housing Managers	ongoing	Reflected in satisfaction questionnaires  Rough sleeper statistics	Service developments for better rural access  Positive outcomes for applicants in rural settings
Ensure adequate supply of suitable accommodation for those with specific needs to enable access to housing	<i>From the strategy action plan:</i> Raise awareness amongst Planners and Enabling Teams on the need and demand for particular units of accommodation	HMG Housing Managers	ongoing	Evidence – e.g. fact sheets, minutes of meetings, 1 bed units delivered within affordable housing programme and published reports	Address the need 1-bedroom accommodation

**Equality Impact Assessment Issues and Action Table**

Identified issue drawn from your conclusions	Actions needed – can you mitigate the impacts? If you can how will you mitigate the impacts?	Who is responsible for the actions?	When will the action be completed?	How will it be monitored?	What is the expected outcome from the action?
<p>Some individuals with complex needs may be rough sleeping and find it difficult to consider or access appropriate decent housing. Many may be 'under the radar', especially newer rough sleepers, and not able to readily engage with help available or be aware of their options</p>	<p><i>From the strategy action plan:</i> Develop [and deliver] Somerset-wide Rough Sleepers Strategy</p>	<p>HMG Housing Managers</p>	<p>April 2019</p>	<p>Minutes of meetings recording strategy development  Draft strategy consultation  Approved strategy published</p>	<p>Improved communication between partners in relation to rough sleeping  Improved options &amp; outcomes for rough sleepers  Improved access to services for rough sleepers</p>
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>					
<p>Data not collected statistically, therefore not able to monitor effectively in terms of district's full homelessness need and demand.</p>	<p>Collect and monitor information on this characteristic for all homeless applicants.  Monitor hate crime and action in relation to housing allocation and Housing Options response</p>	<p>Housing Options Teams Housing Managers</p>	<p>April 2018</p>	<p>H-CLIC quarterly submissions and reports and returns  Housing Options teams' monthly monitoring of Homefinder statistics</p>	<p>Data available for analysis of strategy impacts, emerging trends and issues enabling more effective targeting of services.</p>

<b>Equality Impact Assessment Issues and Action Table</b>					
<b>Identified issue drawn from your conclusions</b>	<b>Actions needed – can you mitigate the impacts? If you can how will you mitigate the impacts?</b>	<b>Who is responsible for the actions?</b>	<b>When will the action be completed?</b>	<b>How will it be monitored?</b>	<b>What is the expected outcome from the action?</b>
Need for staff awareness to enable better understanding and service	Provide regular staff training to ensure adequate awareness and understanding of needs	Housing Managers Housing Options Teams	December 2019 and ongoing	Customer satisfaction surveys Training plan and records	Better understanding of needs and impacts of services on this group
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>					
There are no actions					
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>					
Data not tracked statistically for all applicants	Collect and monitor data on this characteristic for all homeless applicants	Housing Options Teams Housing Managers	April 2018	H-CLIC Quarterly reports and returns	Data available for analysis of strategy and service impacts as well as emerging trends and issues enabling more effective targeting of services.
<b>Race (including ethnicity or national origin, colour, nationality and Gypsies and Travellers)</b>					
Collected for statistically homeless acceptances at a high level only therefore not able to monitor effectively in terms of district's full homelessness need.	Collect and monitor information in more detail on this characteristic for all homeless applicants.  Options response	Housing Options Teams Housing Managers	April 2018	H-CLIC quarterly submissions and reports and returns  Quarterly reports and returns	Data available for analysis of strategy and service impacts as well as emerging trends and issues enabling more effective targeting of services.

**Equality Impact Assessment Issues and Action Table**

<b>Identified issue drawn from your conclusions</b>	<b>Actions needed – can you mitigate the impacts? If you can how will you mitigate the impacts?</b>	<b>Who is responsible for the actions?</b>	<b>When will the action be completed?</b>	<b>How will it be monitored?</b>	<b>What is the expected outcome from the action?</b>
People from a different race or culture may be vulnerable to hate crime	Monitor hate crime and action in relation to housing allocation and Housing	Housing Options Teams HMG	ongoing	H-CLIC quarterly submissions and reports and returns  Housing Options teams' monthly monitoring of Homefinder statistics	Data available for analysis of strategy impacts, emerging trends and issues enabling more effective targeting of services.
We need to ensure awareness of all services available to homeless individuals where language could be a barrier  Ensure accessibility of services	Ensure that all Housing Options and commissioned services can provide service literature that is easy to understand and can be provided in alternative formats and translations.  Ensure that language barriers are considered and mitigations found – e.g. interpretation when needed	Housing Managers	December 2018	Literature and access to interpretation /translation in place	Enable awareness and fair access to services to prevent homelessness and ensure those who need help know how to access it.

<b>Equality Impact Assessment Issues and Action Table</b>					
<b>Identified issue drawn from your conclusions</b>	<b>Actions needed – can you mitigate the impacts? If you can how will you mitigate the impacts?</b>	<b>Who is responsible for the actions?</b>	<b>When will the action be completed?</b>	<b>How will it be monitored?</b>	<b>What is the expected outcome from the action?</b>
Current availability of accommodation options for Gypsies and Travellers does not include permanent and transit pitches, only housing, which may not be appropriate to the needs of all.	In line with the updated GTAA (Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment) work towards implementation within resources and when feasible of GTAA recommendations including the delivery of identified annual pitch requirements	Council planners	ongoing	Monitoring and review of GTAA	Measurable steps taken towards implementation of increased permanent and transit pitch availability
Current support available is not targeted specifically to the needs of Gypsies and Travellers and therefore may not be as accessible or appropriate as possible	Support progress and implementation of application by Julian House for funding for pilot specialist outreach and engagement worker for Gypsies and Travellers in Somerset	HMG Housing Managers	If bid successful April 2018 -19	Quarterly reports and in line with funding	Improved access to practical support, information and advice services for Gypsies and Travellers. Increased cultural awareness amongst Health and Social Care professionals

<b>Equality Impact Assessment Issues and Action Table</b>					
<b>Identified issue drawn from your conclusions</b>	<b>Actions needed – can you mitigate the impacts? If you can how will you mitigate the impacts?</b>	<b>Who is responsible for the actions?</b>	<b>When will the action be completed?</b>	<b>How will it be monitored?</b>	<b>What is the expected outcome from the action?</b>
<b>Religion and Belief</b>					
Certain religious groups may have multi-generational families/ larger family groups living in one property leading to potential need for larger property. There may be other relevant cultural needs affecting service delivery and access	<p>Personal Housing Plans should pick up any cultural or religious needs in terms of service provision.</p> <p>Regular Staff training is needed to raise awareness of issues and needs.</p>	Housing Options Teams	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>March 2019 and ongoing</p>	<p>Customer satisfaction surveys</p> <p>Training plan and records</p>	<p>Service ensures accessibility and that there is no disadvantage as a consequence of religion or belief</p> <p>Better understanding of needs and impacts of services on this group</p>
Ensure adequate supply of suitable accommodation for those with specific needs to enable access to housing, for example larger properties for multi-generational households	Work with Enabling and development teams to ensure housing are reflected in development programmes	HMG Housing Managers	ongoing	Evidence – e.g. fact sheets, minutes of meetings, 1 bed units delivered within affordable housing programme and published reports	Address the need larger accommodation



**Equality Impact Assessment Issues and Action Table**

Identified issue drawn from your conclusions	Actions needed – can you mitigate the impacts? If you can how will you mitigate the impacts?	Who is responsible for the actions?	When will the action be completed?	How will it be monitored?	What is the expected outcome from the action?
<b>Sex (Gender)</b>					
Data collected statistically for homeless acceptances therefore limiting information available for analysis not able to monitor effectively in terms of district's full homelessness need and demand.	Collect and monitor information in more detail on this characteristic for all homeless applicants	Housing Options Teams Housing Managers	April 2018	H-CLIC quarterly submissions and reports and returns  Quarterly reports and returns	Data available for analysis of strategy and service impacts as well as emerging trends and issues enabling more effective targeting of services.
Optimise the range of provision for women and children fleeing domestic abuse	<p><i>From the strategy action plan:</i> Evaluate the “stay safe” at home options available for victims of domestic violence where this choice is suitable</p> <p>Where ‘stay safe” at home is not an option, review banding, policy and processes around domestic violence to ensure consistency</p>	<p>HMG Housing Managers  (Avon &amp; Somerset Police  Somerset County Council  Homefinder Somerset)</p>	April 2019	<p>Increase in the number domestic violence victims able to remain in their home where it is practical to do so</p> <p>Consistent banding policy for victims of domestic violence</p>	Ensuring victims of domestic violence remain safe

**Equality Impact Assessment Issues and Action Table**

Identified issue drawn from your conclusions	Actions needed – can you mitigate the impacts? If you can how will you mitigate the impacts?	Who is responsible for the actions?	When will the action be completed?	How will it be monitored?	What is the expected outcome from the action?
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>					
Data not collected statistically limiting information available for analysis therefore not able to monitor effectively in terms of district's full homelessness need and demand.	Collect and monitor information on this characteristic for all homeless applicants	Housing Options Teams Housing Managers	April 2018	H-CLIC quarterly submissions and reports and returns  Quarterly reports and returns	Data available for analysis of strategy and service impacts as well as emerging trends and issues enabling more effective targeting of services.
Need to ensure staff awareness to enable better understanding and service	Provide regular staff training to ensure adequate awareness and understanding of needs	Housing Managers Housing Options Teams	March 2019 and ongoing	Training plan and record	Better understanding of needs and impacts of services on this group  Service ensures accessibility and that there is no disadvantage as a consequence of this groups needs and issues

**Equality Impact Assessment Issues and Action Table**

Identified issue drawn from your conclusions	Actions needed – can you mitigate the impacts? If you can how will you mitigate the impacts?	Who is responsible for the actions?	When will the action be completed?	How will it be monitored?	What is the expected outcome from the action?
<b>Other</b> (including caring responsibilities, rurality, low income, Military Status etc.)					
Rurality - issues relating to rurality can lead to additional isolation from social and support networks and service access issues. This can be compounded by:- low income; lack of access to transport; older people and disabled people may be less likely to be able to access internet	An ongoing challenge to ensure that those in rural locations are aware of services that services reach out to rural areas and can be accessed in as many ways as possible to overcome distance and isolation.  Assessments and Personal Housing Plans should include and address these issues and needs	Housing Options Teams	Ongoing	Services can demonstrate actions, initiatives, communication methods and facilities which support those in rural locations with service accessibility  Customer satisfaction surveys	Improved awareness of services of rural residents and rough sleepers  Reduction and removal of barriers and disadvantage created by rurality issues

## Appendix 1

Examples of the homelessness support, advice and accommodation services provided across the county with positive impact for protected characteristics:

Advice and Support Service	District	Who benefits?
Services providing housing and homelessness advice, information and access to mediation such as Citizen's Advice (CAB), P2i, Positive Lives and District Councils' Housing Options Teams with positive impact	All	Homeless individuals (or those at risk of homelessness) who are vulnerable due to their homelessness and other needs, some of whom may fall into any category of protected characteristic
Keyring have directly has helped 71 tenants in Mendip to find affordable and decent accommodation Somerset West Letting Agency secured 89 bed spaces in Sedgemoor and 5 bed spaces in West Somerset	MDC SDC	
Credit Union provide loans to support homelessness prevention and enable access to alternative private rented sector housing through the Help to Rent, Sedgemoor Loan and Universal Credit In Advance Loan schemes	MDC SDC	
Citizens Advice Money Advice, Warrant, Debt and Budgeting scheme provides specialist advice and assistance e.g. rent arrears and transition to Universal Credit. South Somerset in house Welfare Benefits Team and Taunton Deane Debt and Benefit Advisors support tenants with money advice.	All	
YMCA Deposit Guarantee Scheme is provided with the Council to help clients into private sector housing.	MDC	
Somerset Homelet Website - allows private landlords and agents to advertise their vacant properties to let for free	SDC TDBC WS	
YMCA Private Rented Support Scheme delivers a support service to over 25's focussing on prevention of homelessness helping single homeless and couples without dependants.	All	
YMCA Adult Emergency Host Family Accommodation (EHFA) is the provision of Host Family Accommodation for up to seven nights for someone aged 25 and over.	All	
Yeovil4Family provide floating support and mentors to people at risk of homelessness in South Somerset	SSDC	
YMCA provide Sedgemoor Lodgings Scheme which aims to establish lodgings so that people can remain in their homes and provide much needed accommodation in Sedgemoor and West Somerset, achieving 218 bed-spaces in the first 2 years	SDC WS	

Advice and Support Service	District	Who benefits?
YMCA Emergency Host Family Accommodation (EHFA) for young people for up to seven nights	MDC	Age – young people 16-25
YMCA tenancy accreditation scheme to build up tenancy management skills and provide evidence to landlords to help young people access move-on accommodation	All	
P2i is an outcome based homelessness prevention service, which aims to provide a service for all vulnerable young people aged 16 to 25 inclusive who have a relevant need. 168 beds are available across the county (some services provided by YMCA as above).	All	
Homefinder Somerset Policy has an exemption from local connection rules for victims of domestic abuse and gives priority status (Gold Band) to women fleeing domestic abuse.	All	Gender
Taunton Women's Aid and Knightstone's SIDAS (Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service) provide a range of services including a refuge, 6 safe houses, drop in, outreach and other support and advice services for male and female victims of domestic abuse		
The Positive People initiative for single homeless adults with complex needs was co-designed with service users and providers with services tailored to individual needs. It links together and drives forward development of a range of services to meet local need. (some services are provided through TAH (Taunton Association for the Homeless))	All	Homeless individuals who are vulnerable due to their homelessness and other needs who may fall into any category of protected characteristic These include but are not limited to: • Disability e.g. mental health, dual diagnosis, complex needs. • Those where rurality is an additional challenge
<p>Rough Sleepers are supported through Outreach services across the county.</p> <p>There is a range of accommodation for homelessness, for example:</p> <p>Elim's Connect Centre, drop in sessions across Mendip's main towns, outreach service with assistance to reconnect those without a local connection. Elim's Direct Access Community provides supported housing for rough sleepers on a working farm with client able to get involved in helping out on the farm.</p> <p>TAH provide accommodation and outreach in Taunton Deane</p>	MDC	
Cold weather provision aims to engage individuals who are rough sleeping and provide some form of accommodation to reduce the risk of ill health or death due to rough sleeping in severe weather	All	
Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme – alleviates homelessness for Syrian refugees	All	Race

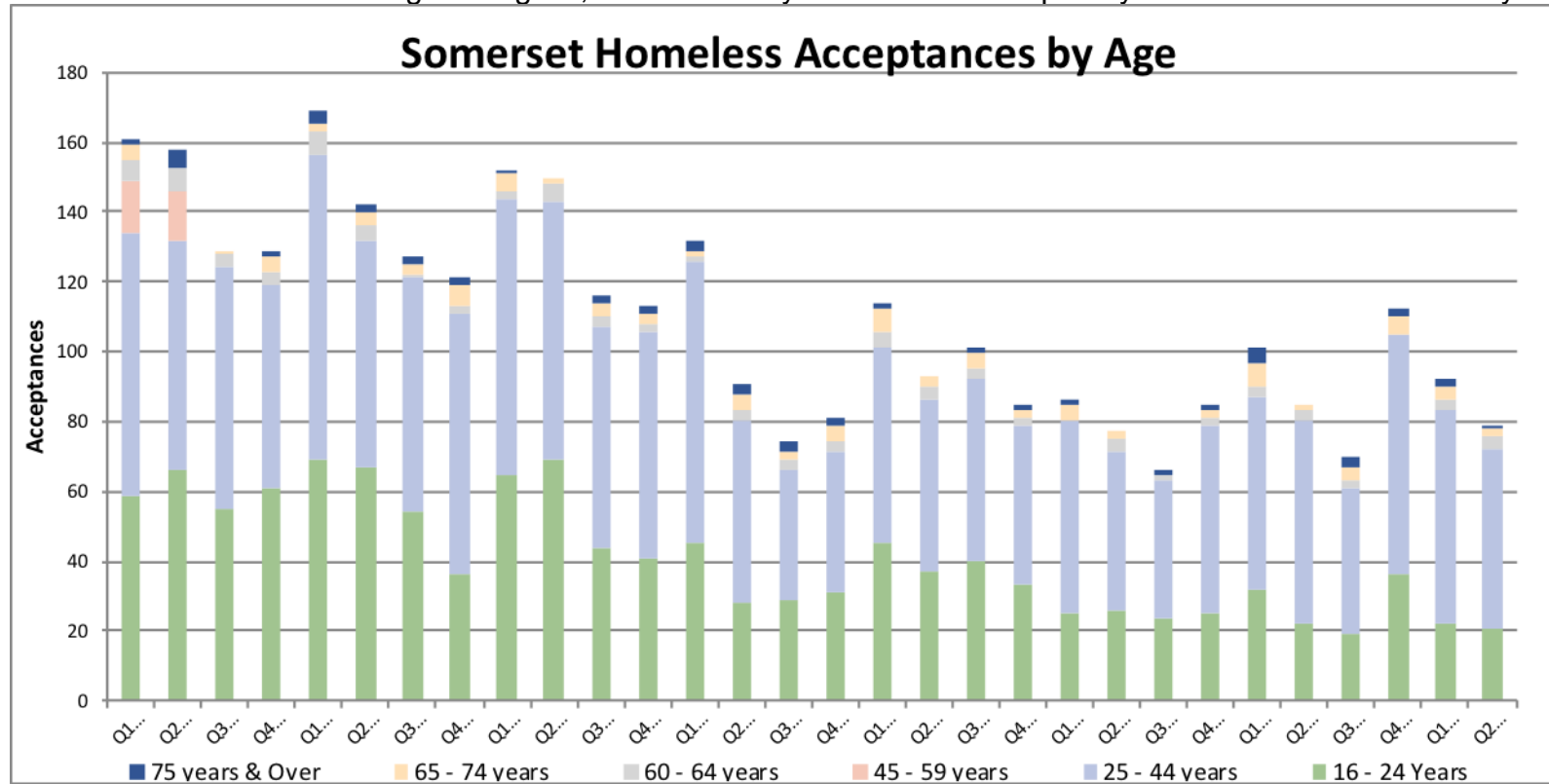
## Appendix 2

Equalities data analysis in this section is taken from Somerset Intelligence (<http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk>)

### Age

	Mendip	Sedgemoor	South Somerset	Taunton Deane	West Somerset	South West	Great Britain
Males	48.7%	49.1%	49.1%	48.6%	48.1%	49.2%	49.3%
Females	51.3%	50.9%	50.1%	51.4%	51.9%	50.8%	50.7%

The table below shows the age of eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need households from July 2016 to June 2017 was:



Amongst the 65-74 age group, the annual rate of growth was an estimated 3.4%, five times the average rate. This partly reflects the attraction of Somerset as a retirement destination, and the post-war baby-boom generation reaching retirement age. Comparison of the population in 2013, and local projections, show how each district can expect to see a significant increase in the numbers of people over 65 by 2037. The number of people aged 75 or older is projected to double by 2039. Most of Somerset, including almost all rural areas, is likely to have at least 25% of the population over 65 by 2033. (see maps at appendix 3 below and at section 6.10 of the Strategy and at <http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/population-estimates-and-projections/>)

*Economy and Jobs:* Younger people are more likely to be unemployed and claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) than older people: The claimant rate for people aged 16-24 in Somerset is 3.3%, compared to 2.0% for those aged 25-49, and 1.0%

*Housing:* Younger people are much less likely and able to own their own home: 37% of Somerset householders aged 16 to 34 are owner occupiers, compared to 79% of those aged 65 or over. (Census, 2011) As a result, 44% of householders aged 16 to 34 in Somerset privately rent their home, compared to just 7% of those aged 65 or over. Private renters typically spend more on their rental payments than owner occupiers spend on their mortgage payments (Census, 2011 / English Housing Survey, 2011/12)

Younger people are much more likely to be homeless: Around one third (31%) of people accepted as homeless and in priority need by Somerset local authorities were aged between 16 and 24. (Department for Communities and Local Government, Live Tables on Homelessness, 2012/13)

### **Disability**

At the time of the 2011 Census, 99,664 people in Somerset identified themselves as having a long-term health problem or disability which limited their day-to-day activity. This equates to around 1 in 5.5 of the population.

- 43,988 people's lives were limited 'a lot' and 55,676 people limited 'a little'.
- A higher proportion of women than men report having a long term health problem or disability.
- Overall, over half of people aged 65 or over have a long-term health problem or disability, rising to 83% of those aged 85 or over.
- There are nearly 9,000 households (3.9% of all households in Somerset) containing at least one adult with a long-term disability or health condition and dependent children.
- Prevalence is most common in areas with older populations: in parts of Minehead and Burnham-on-Sea around 1 in 3 residents have a limiting condition.

The map attached at appendix 3 shows distribution of disabled households in Somerset. <http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/census-health.html>

The following table shows the disability breakdown of eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need households for the same period from July 2016 to June 2017:

**Homeless Acceptances - Disability**

Category	Number	% of Total Acceptances
Physical Disability	41	10.00%
Mental Illness	33	8.05%
Total Disability	74	18.05%

*Health and Well-being:* The proportion of people with a long-term illness or disability that restricts their daily activities increases steadily with age: Around 4% of people aged under 25 in Somerset have a long-term health problem or disability, increasing to 83% of people aged 85 and over. (Census, 2011)

Around a fifth of people aged 16 or over are estimated to have some indication of anxiety or depression, with a higher proportion of those aged between 40 and 59 and aged 80 and over. (Annual Population Survey, 2012/13)

*Economy and Jobs:* Nationally, 47% of working-age disabled people are in employment compared to 76% of working-age non-disabled people. (Labour Force Survey, 2012).

Half of people aged 16+ with a long-term health problem or disability in Somerset have never worked or are long-term unemployed. Overall, only around 4% of Somerset residents have never worked or are long-term unemployed. (Census, 2011)

**Religion and Belief**

Somerset’s main religious groups, as identified in the 2011 Census:

- Christian (339,211 residents)
- Buddhist (1,612 residents)
- Muslim (1,470 residents)
- Pagan (1,147 residents)
- Hindu. (506 residents)
- Of the other major world religions, there were a total of 337 Jewish residents and 100 Sikh residents recorded in the Census. In addition there were 34 ‘other’ religious affiliations, the most common being Mixed Religion (750), Spiritualist (369), Spiritual (200) and Wicca (158)



## **Race**

The largest ethnic population group is "White British": Mendip (94.24%), Sedgemoor (95.30%), South Somerset (94.96%), Taunton Deane (93.50%) and West Somerset (95.83%). These compare to 93.67% in England and Wales and 91.80% for the South West region. (Source: *Census 2011*)

### **Ethnic group or background of Somerset residents**

<b>Ethnic group or background</b>		<b>Census 2011</b>
White	British/English/Welsh/ Scottish/Northern Irish	501,558
	Irish	2,257
	Gypsy or Irish Traveller	733
	Other White	14,707
Mixed / multiple ethnic groups	White and Black Caribbean	1,200
	White and Black African	650
	White and Asian	1,407
	Other Mixed	984
Asian / Asian British	Indian	1,069
	Pakistani	203
	Bangladeshi	442
	Chinese	1,247
	Other Asian	1,912
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	African	607
	Caribbean	291
	Other Black	115
Other ethnic group	Arab	175
	Other ethnic group	415

- An estimated 20,912 Somerset residents do not identify themselves as British (or English, Welsh, Scottish or Northern Irish). 20,329 Somerset residents hold a non-UK passport.
- In over 97% of Somerset households, English is the main language of all adult residents. However, there are an estimated 3,404 households in which no one has English as a main language.
- Around 4 out of 5 residents whose main language is not English can speak English 'well' or 'very well'. An estimated 2,382 residents cannot speak English well, and a further 410 cannot speak English at all.

The table below shows the ethnicity of eligible, unintentionally homeless and priority need households in the last four quarters of data available during the homelessness review (July 2016 to June 2017). (Source: P1E statistics - Government homelessness statistical reporting)

#### Homeless Acceptances Ethnicity Breakdown

	White	Black	Asian	Mixed	Ethnicity not stated	Other
Mendip	19	0	0	0	3	2
Sedgemoor	61	0	0	0	0	0
South Somerset	155	0	0	1	21	3
Taunton Deane	115	1	1	3	1	0
West Somerset	24	0	0	0	0	0

*Economy and Jobs:* Being on a low wage or unemployed or in and out of work could increase the risk of homelessness if it leads to difficulties in money management including payment of rent or mortgage. Unemployment is higher for people of Black and Mixed ethnicities: Around 4.8% of economically active Somerset residents are unemployed, rising to 7.6% for Black and 8.2% for people of Mixed ethnicity. (Census, 2011)

*Housing:* The proportion of people who own their own home varies significantly across ethnic groups, from 71% for White British to 37% for White Other. Only 15% of White British householders privately rent their home, compared to 54% for White Other, 43% for Asian and 37% for Black ethnicities. (Census, 2011)

Around 2.4% of households in Somerset rate as overcrowded in terms of the number of available bedrooms in the home. For several ethnic groups the proportion is significantly higher: White Other (9.9%), Asian (11.1%) and Gypsy or Irish Traveller (16.9%). (Census, 2011)

People of Asian ethnicity are 'under-represented' on the Somerset Homefinder social housing register relative to the size of the population: Asian people comprise 0.4% of Homefinder registrants but 0.9% of the county's population. Conversely, people of White Other ethnicity are marginally over-represented.

### **White Other ethnicity**

Areas with highest concentrations of 'White: Other' residents:

- Most were born in Europe, the majority in Eastern Europe.
- 94.6% of Somerset's population are 'White British'. This proportion is typical of that seen in Somerset's neighbouring local authorities but much higher than the England and Wales average (80.5%). Somerset's non-'White British' residents tend to be concentrated in and around the county's principal towns.
- Somerset has seen a large increase in Polish-born residents since the accession of the A8 East European countries to the EU in 2004. Of the 8,171 East European-born residents recorded in the 2011 Census, around two-thirds were from Poland.
- Polish is the most common 'non-UK' ethnicity in all Somerset's districts, and Polish-born residents now account for 1% of Somerset's overall population. There are significant pockets of residents in parts of Shepton Mallet, Yeovil, Minehead, Taunton and Bridgwater.
- The size of the Portuguese population in Somerset has also increased markedly in the last ten years, from 53 residents at the time of the 2001 Census to 965 residents in 2011. There are now notable groupings of Portuguese residents in areas of Chard and Shepton Mallet.
- At a broader (district) level, there are also noteworthy, albeit small, concentrations of Italian people in Mendip; Chinese in Taunton Deane; and people from the Baltic States in Sedgemoor. West Somerset has a small representation of 'Other Eastern European' ethnicity.
- There are established German, Irish and South African-born populations in Somerset, each accounting for between 0.3% and 0.5% of the county's overall population. The numbers have not changed significantly since the 2001 Census. These residents are generally found throughout the county, with no particular local concentrations.

### **Mixed / multiple ethnic group**

Mixed ethnicity comprises 'White and Black Caribbean', 'White and Black African', 'White and Asian' and 'Other'

In Somerset, there were 4,241 residents at the time of the 2011 Census, representing 0.8% of the population. The largest sub-group is 'White and Black Asian' (33%), followed by White and Black Caribbean (28%). India and the Philippines account for the highest numbers of Asian-born residents. Information about the Philippines was not published in the last Census but Somerset has seen an eightfold increase in residents of 'Other Asian' ethnicity since 2001, of which new residents from the Philippines are likely to be a key factor. Wellington, Minehead and Taunton have small pockets of Filipino residents.

- The age profile is young compared to the Somerset average, with more than half of people under 20

## **Black / African / Caribbean / Black British**

Around 7 out of 10 were born outside the UK. The BME (Black and Ethnic Minority) population of Somerset was estimated at 10,717 in 2011. The BME population now comprises 2.0% of Somerset's overall population, which is well below the national average of 14.0%.

Half arrived as children or young adults. The majority (60%) are Black Caribbean. 29% are Black African.

- The population is widely dispersed, although predominately in and around town centres.
- People of student and working age form the main population demographic.
- There are relatively few people aged over 65.
- More than three-quarters (77%) are Christian, with Muslim the next most common religion (5%).

*Economy and Jobs:* Unemployment is higher for people of Black and Mixed ethnicities: Around 4.8% of economically active Somerset residents are unemployed, rising to 7.6% for Black and 8.2% for people of Mixed ethnicity. (Census, 2011)

*Housing:* The proportion of people who own their own home varies significantly across ethnic groups, from 71% for White British to 37% for White Other. Only 15% of White British householders privately rent their home, compared to 54% for Other White, 43% for Asian and 37% for Black ethnicities. (Census, 2011)

Around 2.4% of households in Somerset rate as overcrowded in terms of the number of available bedrooms in the home (defined as having an 'occupancy rating' of -1). For several ethnic groups the proportion is significantly higher: Other White (9.9%), Asian (11.1%) and Gypsy or Irish Traveller (16.9%). (Census, 2011)

## **Gypsies and Travellers**

There are an estimated 733 Gypsy or Irish Travellers in Somerset.

- The age profile is younger than the county average, with comparatively few people aged over 45.
- The main population centres are areas with established Gypsy and Irish Traveller sites, e.g., Berkley (near Frome), Frome, Tintinhull (near Ilminster), and Shepton Mallet.
- Life expectancy for Gypsy and Traveller men and women is 10 years lower than the national average.
- Gypsy and Traveller mothers are 20 times more likely than the rest of the population to have experienced the death of a child.
- There can be health issues associated with illegal pitches with lack of facilities

### Areas with concentrated populations of Gypsies and Travellers

LSOA description	Number of residents	% of local population
Beckington and Berkley	29	2.4%
Tintinhull	14	1.2%
Frome Keyford North / Market South	16	1.0%
Frome The Butts and Lower Keyford	13	.9%
Frome The Mount	13	.9%
Shepton Mallet North	13	.9%

*This is a snapshot in time as some gypsy and Irish travellers live transient lifestyles.*

### **Refugees and asylum seekers**

Refugees and asylum seekers have differing housing needs and a range of dwelling sizes (due to multi-generational households) and types need to be provided in both the private and social sector. Many refugees and asylum seekers face challenges relating to low or lack of income; lack of capital for a deposit; few household possessions and high forced mobility (in terms of where they are offered accommodation) which makes it difficult to establish a 'local connection'. Some kinds of temporary accommodation currently used by authorities nationally to house refugees and asylum seekers are inappropriate – especially for women and children and young people, many of whom are traumatised by their experiences – and can place them at unacceptable levels of risk on arrival. With many migrants choosing to share dwellings for cultural or financial reasons, there may be a greater need for larger accommodation although many migrants are single people seeking work. Current economic migration from abroad from poorer countries is also likely to affect housing tenure by sustaining demand for cheaper, private sector rented accommodation

### **Sex(Gender)**

*Economy and Jobs:* Women in Somerset are likely to be paid 14% less than men and 48% are in part time jobs, which may lead to difficulties in sustaining rent payments putting them at risk of homelessness. (Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2013). (Census, 2011)

*Housing:* Around half (47%) of householders accepted as homeless and in priority need by local authorities are female lone parent households. Male lone parent households account for 4% of homelessness. (MHCLG, Live Tables on Homelessness, 2012/13)

### **Somerset Gender Breakdown**

	Mendip	Sedgemoor	South Somerset	Taunton Deane	West Somerset	South West	Great Britain
Males	48.7%	49.1%	49.1%	48.6%	48.1%	49.2%	49.3%
Females	51.3%	50.9%	50.1%	51.4%	51.9%	50.8%	50.7%

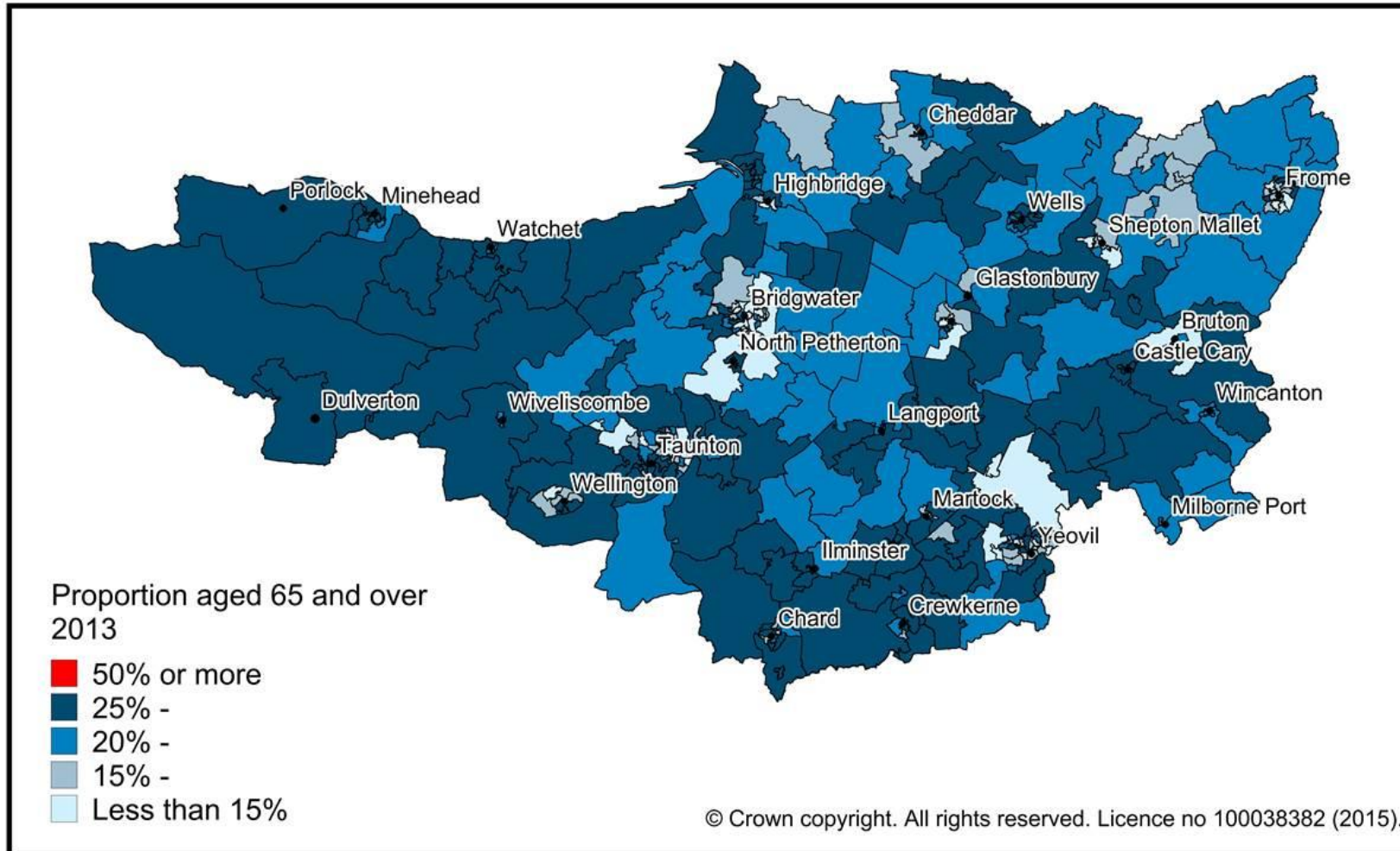
The gender breakdown of eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need households from July 2016 to June 2017 was about 70% female to 30% male

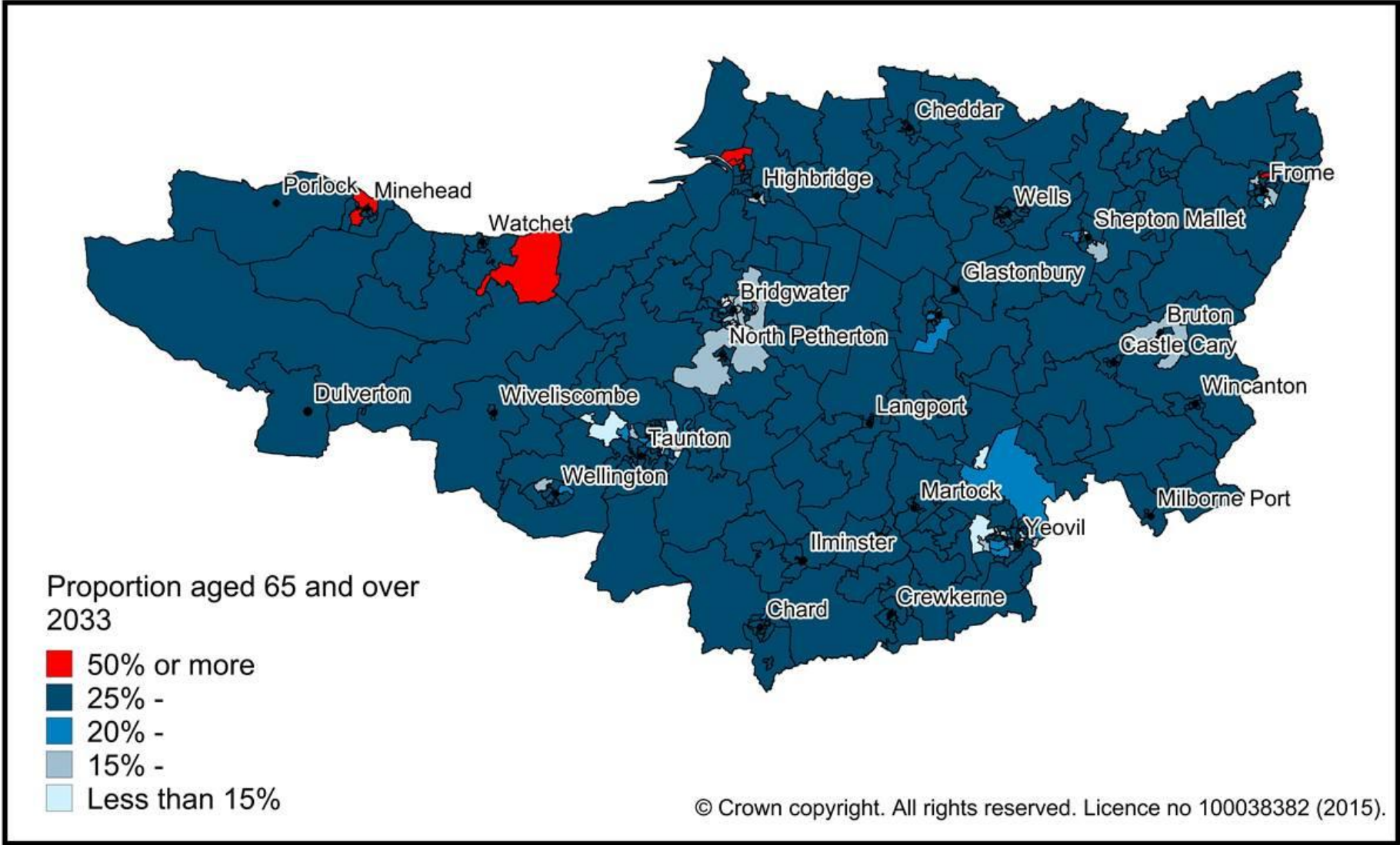
### **Sexuality**

In April 2017, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published experimental estimates of sexual identity at a local authority (county) level for the first time, based on survey data covering 2013 to 2015. The estimates suggest that 95.2% of Somerset's adult (aged 16 or over) population identify themselves as heterosexual or straight; 0.9% (4,000 residents) identify as gay or lesbian; 1.1% (5,000 residents) identify as bisexual; 0.4% (2,000 residents) as 'Other'.

### Appendix 3

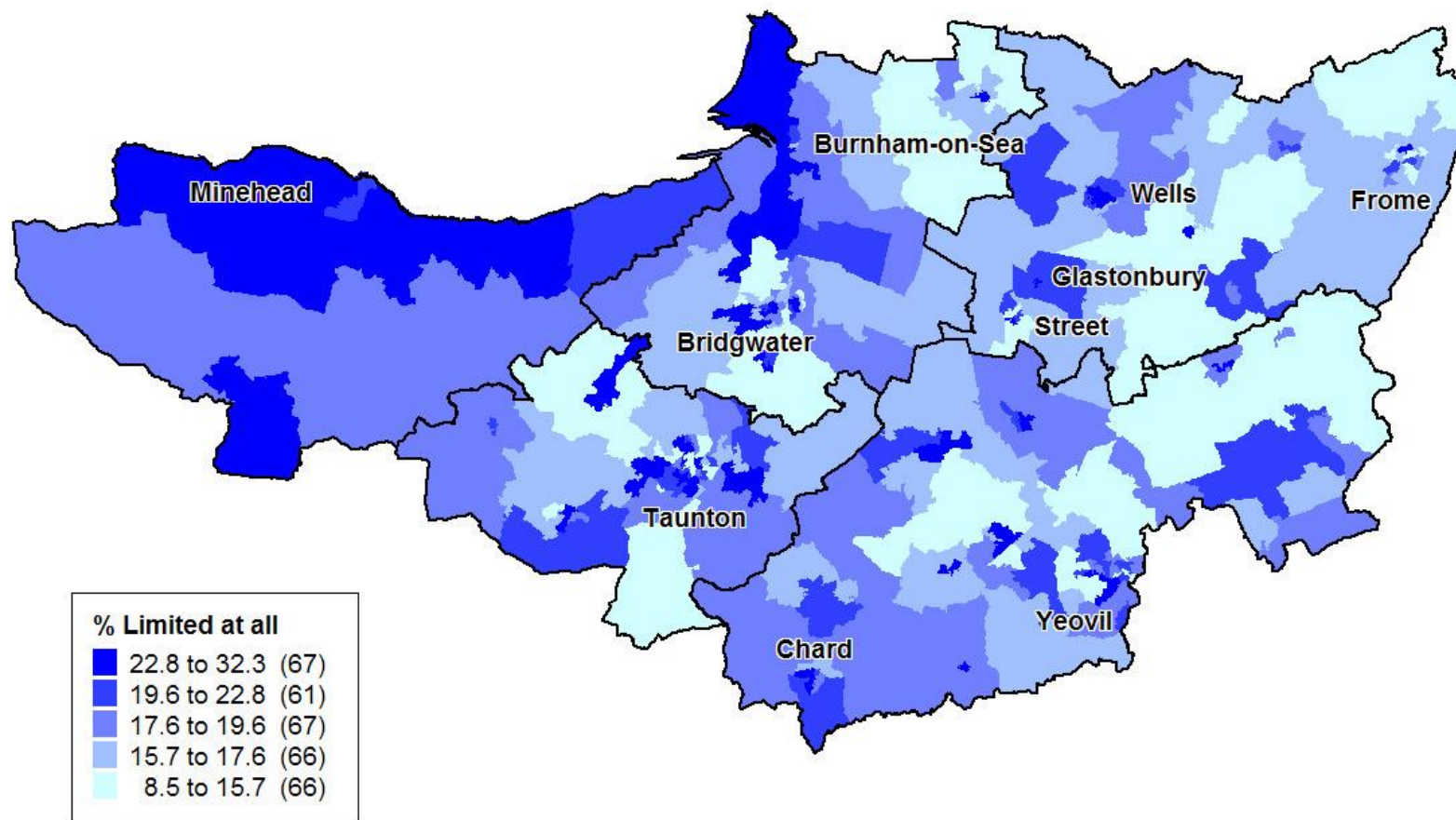
Comparison of the population in 2013, and local projections, show how most of Somerset, including almost all rural areas, is likely to have at least 25% of the population over 65 by 2033 (see maps below and <http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/population-estimates-and-projections/>)







The map below shows distribution of disabled households in Somerset. <http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/census-health.html>



## Appendix 4

<b>Organisations Consulted During the Homelessness Review 2017</b>
Homes In Sedgemoor
Aster Group
Magna Housing
Yarlington Housing Group
Taunton Association for the Homeless (TAH)
Knightstone Housing Association
Homegroup
SHAL Housing Association
Stonewater
Community Credit Unions
Citizens Advice services
Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (SIDAS)
Elim
Rethink Mental Illness
Brandon
Bournemouth Churches
Barnabas
Sanctuary Housing Association
Hannover Housing Association
Somerset Partnership Mental Health Teams
Avon and Somerset Police
Somerset County Council – Adult Social Care

<b>Organisations Consulted During the Homelessness Review 2017</b>
Somerset County Council – Children Services and Leaving Care Service
Somerset County Council – Public Health
Somerset County Council – Housing Occupational Therapist
Somerset County Council – service commissioners
Somerset County Council – Education
Somerset County Council – Troubled Families
P2i
National Probation Service
Mendip YMCA and YMCA Somerset Coast
Somerset Care and Repair
Somerset Drugs and Alcohol Service (SDAS)
DWP Partnerships manager for Somerset
IRIS
Turning Point
Somerset YRP
Sedgemoor Lodgings Scheme
Centre for Sustainable Energy
Keyring Lettings
Somerset West Lettings Agency
Sedgemoor District Council
Taunton Deane Borough Council
West Somerset Borough Council
South Somerset Council

<b>Organisations Consulted During the Homelessness Review 2017</b>
Mendip District Council
Town Councils
Frome Trinity Church
Wells Vinyard Church