

EQUALITIES IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT PRO FORMA

Policy/Service being assessed (for definition of 'policy' see Annex A in the EINA guidance)

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Child Poverty Strategy 2011-14.

Is this a new policy/service or a review of an existing policy/service?

This is a new strategy. The Child Poverty Act 2010 placed a legal obligation on all Local Authorities and their delivery partners to cooperate in the bid to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty; to conduct a local needs assessment and produce a child poverty strategy. The coalition Government remains "committed to ending child poverty by 2020" and the duties of the Child Poverty Act 2010 remain.

What are the aims/purpose of the policy/service?

The child poverty strategy sets out Richmond Council's approach to addressing child poverty in the borough. It is based upon the findings from the child poverty needs assessment and child poverty consultation exercise. It includes: an explanation of child poverty and its impact; an outline of the level of child poverty in the borough; a description of existing services that are available to families who are experiencing poverty; and an action plan with a number of operational actions which are intended to alleviate poverty.

Is the policy/service designed to meet specific needs such as the needs of minority ethnic groups, older people, disabled people etc?

Child poverty is experienced by all people from all different backgrounds. In that regard, the strategy is aiming to alleviate poverty for everyone in Richmond Borough. However, research¹ indicates that nationally there are specific groups of individuals that are more likely to be affected by poverty and are therefore considered 'at risk'. These groups include children in care, teenage mothers, single parents, specific ethnic minority groups and parents or children with disabilities. This is reflected at a local level.

What information has been gathered on this function? (Indicate the type of information gathered e.g. statistics, consultation, and other monitoring information)? Make sure you address ethnicity, disability, gender as a minimum and if possible age, religion and sexual orientation. Attach a summary or refer to where the evidence for each group can be found.

As part of the preparations for the child poverty strategy, a child poverty needs assessment for the borough was undertaken. The needs assessment contains a range of data at a Lower Support Output Area (LSOA), quindrat, ward, borough, London and national level. The information covers a range of topics including:

- Levels of child poverty;
- Population figures;
- Levels of deprivation;
- Ethnicity;
- Crime;

¹ [http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/Severe_Child_Poverty_Nationally_And_Locally_February2011\(1\).pdf](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/Severe_Child_Poverty_Nationally_And_Locally_February2011(1).pdf)

- Housing;
- Maternity and early years;
- Children in care;
- Education;
- Free School Meals;
- Health;
- Disability;
- Healthy eating and obesity;
- Substance misuse;
- Teenage mothers and teenage pregnancy;
- Employment, skills and qualifications;
- Benefits;
- Income support;
- Job Seekers Allowance; and
- Debt and benefit advice.

The needs assessment analyses the information available locally, regionally and nationally in these areas to enable a picture of child poverty in the borough to develop.

A child poverty consultation exercise was also undertaken with families who live in Richmond Borough. The purpose of the consultation was to gain a greater understanding of the experience of poverty in the borough and to gain some insight into potential actions that could help to mitigate the impact of poverty. Focus groups were held with a total of 41 individuals who were drawn mainly from the most deprived areas of Richmond Borough.

The strategy is therefore based upon the findings from the needs assessment and the consultation and provides a response to the issues identified.

Does your analysis of the information show different outcomes for different groups (higher or lower uptake than expected/failure to access/receive a service, a poorer or inferior service)? If yes, which aspects of the policy or function contribute to inequality? Please indicate which groups are affected.

The needs assessment has shown that despite overall levels of child poverty in Richmond Borough being low when compared to London and nationally, there are still areas where child poverty levels are high. The needs assessment has also shown that within these areas there a number of equality groups who are more likely to experience poverty. This includes black and minority ethnic groups, the disabled and teenage mothers. The findings about each of these groups is set out below:

- **Ethnicity**

Nationally, “children from minority ethnic groups are over-represented among poor children. Ethnic minorities make up 12% of the population and 15% of children but 25% of children who are in poverty”².

Analysis of the 2001 census ethnicity data depicts Richmond Borough as being a diverse borough when compared to England as a whole but one of the least ethnically diverse of the London Boroughs. According to the 2001 Census profile³ the overarching white ethnic group make up 91% (156,800) of the

² Ethnicity and Child Poverty, Lucinda Platt, Department for Work and Pensions, Research Report Number 576, 2009

³ <http://www.richmond.gov.uk/cenborough.pdf>

borough population, this is similar to the England and Wales total however the specific make up of the white group is slightly different. In Richmond Borough, the white British ethnic group make up 78.7% (135,655) of the population with the 'white other' group accounting for 9.5% (16,332). In comparison, the 'white British' ethnic classification makes up 59.8% (4,614,600) of the regional population (London) and 87.0% (50,366,497) of the England and Wales population.

Ethnic Group	Ham and Richmond	Hampton and Hampton Hill	Heathfield, Whitton and West Twickenham	Kew, Mortlake, Barnes and East Sheen	St Margarets, Twickenham and Teddington	Total
White Group	90.4%	91%	86.5%	91.8%	92.7%	91%
Mixed Group	2.5%	2.1%	2.3%	2.3%	2.1%	2.2%
Asian Group	3.2%	4.2%	7.6%	3.1%	3.0%	3.9%
Black Group	1.2%	0.8%	1.2%	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%
Chinese / Other Group	2.7%	1.9%	2.4%	2.1%	1.5%	2.0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

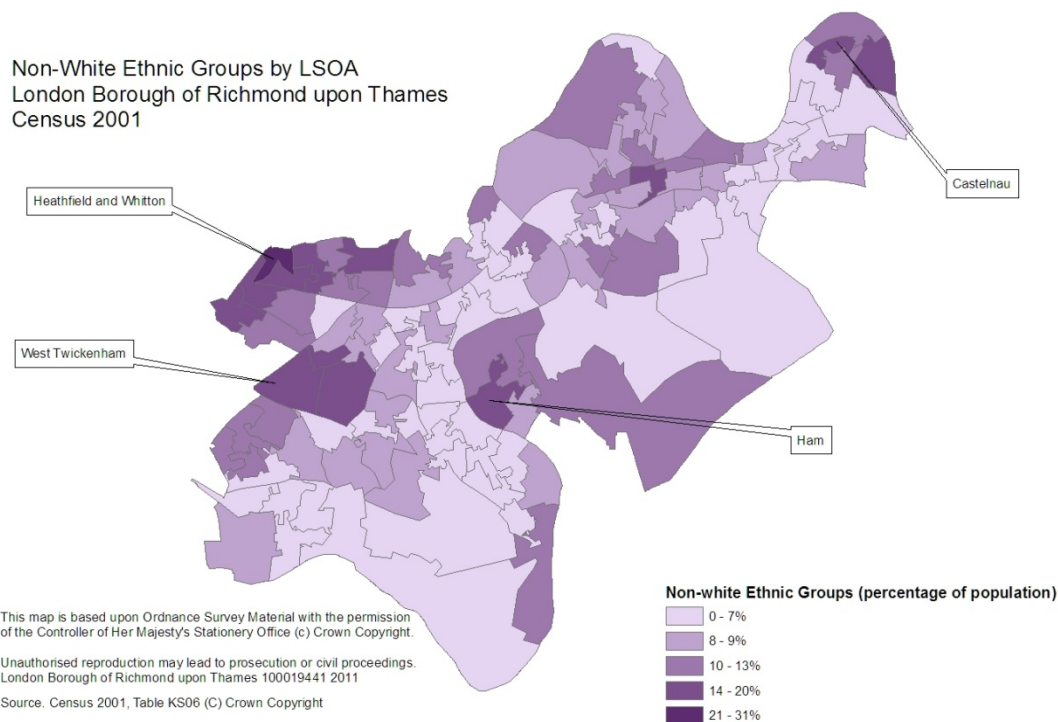
- Table 5- Breakdown of Ethnic group by Quindrat: Source. Aggregated data from Census 2001, Table KS06

Aggregating the data to a Quindrat level highlights Heathfield, Whitton and West Twickenham as being the most diverse Quindrat with non white ethnic groups making up 13.5% of the Quindrat population. The largest minority ethnic group within Heathfield, Whitton and West Twickenham is the Asian group with 7.6% of the population. This is higher than the borough total where 3.9% of the population are of Asian or Asian British ethnicity. The least ethnically diverse Quindrat is St Margarets, Twickenham and Teddington where the overarching white group make up 92.7% of the population and the black and minority ethnic groups 7.3%. The Asian ethnic group is the largest minority ethnic population accounting for approximately 3% of the Quindrat total.

At a ward level it was identified that Whitton and Heathfield has the most ethnically diverse population with 15% of people living there from non-white ethnic groups. A more detailed analysis reveals that certain areas within the borough have higher proportions of black and minority ethnic groups.

As identified on the map (below) areas within Heathfield, Whitton and West Twickenham, Ham and the Castelnau area of Kew, Mortlake Barnes and East Sheen have LSOAs where over 14% of the local population are from black and minority ethnic groups. Some of these areas are coterminous with areas identified as being within the 30% most deprived according to the IDACI 2010.

Non-White Ethnic Groups by LSOA
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Census 2001



- **Disability**

A link between poverty and disability remains within society despite attempts to break it. According to Department for Work and Pensions Research⁴, almost a quarter of all children considered to be living in poverty have a disabled parent (DWP 2006) and further evidence suggests that almost 55% of disabled children live on or near the recognised poverty thresholds.

The risk of poverty is increased by disability. In cases where parents became disabled during the year the poverty rate was 23% compared to 17% for those experiencing no change in health. Data also shows that having a disabled family member increased the risk of poverty for those in work families; however a lower risk of poverty for non working families with disabled family members.

The latest information on disability living allowance claimants⁵ from the Department for Work and Pensions shows that at November 2010 there were 4,530 disability living allowance claimants living in the borough with the higher claimant count figures appearing in the wards of Heathfield (395), Hampton North (375) and West Twickenham (295). Of the DLA claimants aged under 16 (disabled children), the highest counts were evident in Hampton North (50), Heathfield (50), West Twickenham (45) and Whitton (45). When compared to the London and national average, the borough has fewer disability living allowance claimants.

- **Teenage mothers and pregnancy**

Nationally children born to teenage mothers have a 63% higher risk of living in

⁴ Health, disability, caring and employment,

⁵ <http://83.244.183.180/NESS/BEN/dla.htm> Disability Living Allowance Data

poverty; have lower academic attainment and are at risk of economic inactivity in later life.⁶ Teenage mothers are 22% more likely to be living in poverty than mothers giving birth aged 24 and over, young fathers are twice as likely to be unemployed at age 30 than men who become fathers after they turn 23.

Richmond upon Thames is recognised for having one of the lowest rates of teenage pregnancy nationally. Provisional figures for 2009 showed England as having a teenage pregnancy rate of 38.2, London of 40.7 and Richmond upon Thames of 19.6⁷. Since 1998 Richmond has reduced the rate by 15%, slightly less than the national reduction of 18% over the same period. The provisional rate of 19.6 from 2009 equates to 56 under 18 conceptions during the twelve months January to December 2009.

Ward level conception data from the Office of National Statistics 2005-07 highlights certain wards as having high numbers of teenage conceptions. The wards with the highest numbers of teenage conception include Heathfield, Hampton North, West Twickenham and Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside.

The child poverty strategy will seek to address poverty experienced by all people in the borough. However, in that child poverty is more likely to be experienced by certain equality groups, then the strategy may potentially have more impact on these groups. This is especially true as the strategy advocates a targeted approach, focusing on those areas where child poverty levels are high, rather than a universal approach.

Are these differences justified (e.g. are there legislative or other constraints)? If they are, explain in what way.

As noted above, child poverty is more likely to be experienced by certain equality groups both locally and nationally. To address this, a targeted approach has been set out in the child poverty strategy. If the strategy is successful, the impact should be felt more by those equality groups who are more likely to experience child poverty. This is not to the detriment of any other equality groups so is therefore justified.

Please indicate whether the policy promotes equality of opportunity and good community relations and explain in what way.

The strategy promotes equality of opportunity and good community relations in that it aims to alleviate poverty to enable everyone in the borough to have a good standard of living.

What action needs to be taken as a result of this Equality Impact Needs Assessment to address any detrimental impacts or meet previously unidentified need? Please indicate objectives and targets that have been set.

The impact of the strategy needs to be reviewed to ensure it is benefiting those groups it is set out to assist and that generally it is having a positive impact on levels of child poverty in the borough.

When will you evaluate the impact of action taken? Please give review dates

⁶ Child Poverty Fact Sheet, Child Poverty Needs Assessment Toolkit, LG Improvement and Development

⁷ <http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/healthandwellbeing/teenagepregnancy/a0064898/under-18-and-under-16-conception-statistics>

The strategy contains an action plan which aims to alleviate child poverty and contains actions which should have a positive impact on those equality groups who are more likely to experience child poverty. The action plan will be reviewed annually to ensure it is still fit for purpose. Delegated responsibility for progressing the actions in the strategy will be given to the Family and Wellbeing Delivery Board and the Learning and Attainment Delivery Board as the actions primarily fall within the remit of these boards. In addition, a dashboard of child poverty indicators will be developed and will be reported annually.

The strategy and needs assessment will both be refreshed in three years. However both will remain 'live' documents and may be subject to revision as context and needs change.

Assessment completed by:

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