monmouthshire sir fynwy

Integrated Impact Assessment document

(incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Rebecca Cresswell **Phone no:** **E-mail:**	**Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal** The Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan 2026-27 sets out how Monmouthshire County Council will commission, deliver and monitor housing-related support services to prevent homelessness, support tenancy sustainment and respond to increasing levels of complex need. The Plan is informed by the Housing Support Programme Strategy Interim Review 2026-27.
Name of Service area Housing Support	**Date** July 2026

1. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?

Age	The Delivery Plan is expected to have a positive impact on people of all ages who require housing-related support, with specific benefits for young people, working-age adults and older residents. The Plan supports early intervention and homelessness prevention activity for young people through the Compass Service, which works in partnership with schools, colleges and other agencies to identify and support those at risk of homelessness before a housing crisis occurs. There are also two young person's Supported Accommodation in the County, one in the north and one in the south which provides stable, age appropriate accommodation whilst supporting the development of independent living skills and promoting move on into settled accommodation. The needs assessment also identified continuing demand for support services for older people, including housing-related support, wellbeing services and tenancy sustainment support. The Delivery Plan supports ongoing review and development of services to ensure older residents can maintain independence and remain safely housed within their communities. Data further indicates that adults aged 25-39 represent the largest group receiving support within temporary accommodation and are experiencing increasingly complex support needs, particularly relating to mental health. The Delivery Plan includes actions to strengthen support pathways and improve responses for individuals with high and complex needs.	No direct negative impacts have been identified. However, increasing demand and complexity of need across all age groups may place pressure on existing services if additional resources are not secured.	Monmouthshire will continue to monitor demand and outcomes across age groups through improved data collection and needs assessment processes. Service reviews, recommissioning activity and stakeholder engagement will be used to ensure services remain responsive to the needs of young people, working-age adults and older residents. Particular attention will be given to the increasing support needs identified amongst younger adults in temporary accommodation and the ongoing demand for support amongst older people.

Disability	The Delivery Plan is expected to have a significant positive impact on people with disabilities, including those with mental ill health, learning disabilities, neurodevelopmental conditions, physical disabilities and long-term health conditions. The needs assessment identified mental health as the most common support need amongst people accessing Housing Support Grant services, accounting for over 40% of referrals during 2025-26. The increasing prevalence of high and intensive support needs further demonstrates the growing demand for services that can effectively support individuals with complex and multiple needs. The Delivery Plan includes a priority to provide timely and effective support for vulnerable residents, particularly those with high and complex needs. Through recommissioning activity and service development, the Council will seek to ensure that support provision remains responsive to changing needs and better enables people with disabilities to maintain stable accommodation, improve wellbeing and live independently. The Plan also supports greater collaboration between housing, health, social care and other partner agencies, recognising that many individuals with disabilities require coordinated support from multiple services. In addition, proposals have been identified to strengthen specialist mental health support, including consideration of a dedicated Mental Health Social Worker within the Housing Support Team and expansion of mental health-focused provision where resources allow.	No direct negative impacts have been identified. However, demand for services supporting people with mental health needs and other complex disabilities is increasing, and there is a risk that available resources may not fully meet the level of need identified within the county. A particular gap remains for specialist accommodation and support provision for individuals whose needs exceed traditional housing support models.	The Council will continue to monitor need through ongoing data collection, service reviews and stakeholder engagement. Recommissioning activity will seek to align services more closely with identified need, while partnership working with Health, Social Care, the Community Mental Health Team and other agencies will support more effective multi-agency responses. Opportunities to expand specialist mental health, complex needs and supported accommodation provision will continue to be explored as part of future service planning and commissioning arrangements.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	Improvements to data collection and analysis will further enhance the Council's ability to identify emerging trends, understand the prevalence of complex support needs and ensure future service provision reflects the needs of residents with disabilities.		
Gender reassignment	This proposal positively affects people of all ages threatened with or actually homeless from 16+. It will also benefit children of families who may be assisted. There are no specific proposals relating to gender reassignment in the Delivery Plan. The priority focus of the Delivery Plan is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups.	None	No negative impacts will arise as a result of this Delivery Plan.
Marriage or civil partnership	This proposal positively affects people of all ages threatened with or actually homeless from 16+. It will also benefit children of families who may be assisted. The priority focus of the Delivery Plan supports HSP to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups.	As above	As above
Pregnancy or maternity	As above	As above	As above
Race	As above	As above	As above

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Religion or Belief	.As above	As above	As above

Sex	The Delivery Plan is expected to have a positive impact on both men and women accessing housing-related support services. The needs assessment identified domestic abuse as one of the most significant presenting support needs within the Housing Support Grant programme, with women experiencing domestic abuse accounting for a substantial proportion of referrals. Although referrals reduced during 2025-26, domestic abuse remains one of the largest areas of identified need within Monmouthshire. The needs assessment also identified that men are disproportionately represented amongst households receiving support in temporary accommodation, accounting for approximately 60% of those receiving temporary accommodation support. The Delivery Plan's focus on homelessness prevention, tenancy sustainment, mental health support and services for people with high and complex needs is therefore expected to deliver positive outcomes for men who are at increased risk of homelessness and requiring temporary accommodation. The Delivery Plan supports continued investment in specialist domestic abuse services and identifies opportunities to strengthen pathways between homelessness and domestic abuse services. A gap has been identified for specialist domestic abuse expertise within Housing Options and consideration will be given	As above	The Council will continue to monitor referral trends and service demand through improved data collection and needs assessment processes. Service reviews and recommissioning activity will ensure that domestic abuse provision remains aligned to local need and that effective referral pathways exist between housing, homelessness and specialist domestic abuse services. Consideration will also be given to the development of a Domestic Abuse Screening Officer role within Housing Options to strengthen early identification, support and prevention activity.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	to the introduction of a Domestic Abuse Screening Officer. Such a role could provide specialist advice to Housing Options staff, improve the identification and assessment of domestic abuse, strengthen referral pathways into specialist services and support earlier intervention for households at risk of homelessness as a result of abuse. The Plan will also support wider partnership working between housing, domestic abuse providers and other statutory agencies to improve outcomes for victims and ensure timely access to safe accommodation and support. Whilst women represent the largest cohort accessing domestic abuse support services, evidence also indicates that men are over-represented within temporary accommodation provision. The Delivery Plan therefore seeks to improve outcomes for both men and women through targeted prevention, accommodation and support interventions, whilst continuing to respond to identified gender-specific needs.		
Sexual Orientation	As above	As above	As above

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	**Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.**	**What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?**

Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	The Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan is expected to have a significant positive impact on individuals and households experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. People experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, poor mental health, domestic abuse, unemployment, low income and financial hardship are disproportionately represented amongst those accessing Housing Support Grant services. The Delivery Plan seeks to reduce these inequalities through early intervention, homelessness prevention and targeted housing-related support. A key aim of the Delivery Plan is to prevent homelessness at the earliest opportunity and reduce the number of households reaching crisis point. This includes supporting individuals to sustain existing accommodation, access housing options advice and receive timely interventions before homelessness occurs. Homelessness prevention reduces the social, financial and health inequalities often associated with housing instability. The needs assessment identified that affordability and access to suitable housing remain significant challenges within Monmouthshire. The Local Housing Market Assessment identified a substantial shortage of affordable housing, whilst homelessness prevention data demonstrated that the affordability of the private rented sector remains one of the biggest barriers to preventing homelessness. The Delivery Plan supports wider efforts to increase access to	No direct negative impacts have been identified. However, increasing levels of complex need, rising housing costs and limited availability of affordable housing may constrain the ability of services to fully meet demand. There is also a risk that the comparatively low Housing Support Grant allocation received by Monmouthshire limits opportunities to expand provision in line with identified need.	To mitigate these risks Monmouthshire will: • Continue to prioritise early intervention and homelessness prevention activity. • Recommission services to better align provision with identified need and improve value for money. • Maintain access to financial inclusion, welfare benefits and tenancy sustainment support. • Strengthen partnership working across Housing, Health, Social Care, domestic abuse services and the third sector to support people with complex needs. • Continue to explore opportunities for specialist mental health and complex needs provision. • Improve data collection and needs analysis to ensure resources are targeted towards areas of greatest disadvantage and emerging need.

	appropriate housing solutions and improve pathways into settled accommodation. Housing-related support services also make an important contribution to financial inclusion. Many commissioned services provide advice and assistance around welfare benefits, income maximisation, budgeting, debt management and tenancy sustainment. Service reviews identified improvements in households' financial circumstances as one of the most common positive outcomes reported by service users. The Delivery Plan is expected to positively impact individuals with the highest levels of disadvantage by supporting people experiencing domestic abuse, poor mental health, multiple and complex needs, substance misuse, offending histories and long-term homelessness. Through partnership working, Housing First, temporary accommodation support, the Housing Intervention Panel and specialist support services, the Plan seeks to reduce barriers to stable housing and improve longer-term outcomes. The development of more robust data collection and analysis arrangements will further support the Council's ability to identify emerging needs, understand inequalities within the population and target resources towards those experiencing the greatest socio-economic disadvantage		

3. Policy making and the Welsh language.

How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
Policy Making Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favourably	Welsh Language will be factored into those areas of services where there is written information. Such examples where bi-lingual can be applied include: • Accommodation agreements • Standard letters • Personal Housing Plans • Housing Support Plans • Accommodation signage • Website information • Hard information eg flyers	None	Any future recommissioned services will be expected to comply with Welsh Language Standards and ensure Welsh speakers can access housing-related support services through the medium of Welsh where required
Operational Recruitment & Training of workforce	There is no requirement for Welsh speakers in respect of operational delivery and, therefore, recruitment and training. Welsh speakers are however, positively encouraged to apply for vacancies. Existing staff are encouraged through the Council's training unit to access Welsh lessons.	None	At present there are two members of the Housing team who have taken up this opportunity. Any future recommissioned services will be expected to comply with Welsh Language Standards and ensure Welsh speakers can access housing-related support services through the medium of Welsh where required.
Service delivery	Actions to improve the Council's delivery of the homeless service provide an opportunity to promote that anyone approaching the Council in respect of homelessness can deal	None	The Housing Regsiter policy was reviewed last year and the changes are being implemented. One such change is establishing a Welsh

Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	with the Council in Welsh in person, by phone, email, Twitter, Facebook, letters, forms etc		version of the Homesearch website. The Homesearch website conmtains homeless information and, thereby, provides a building block for going forwards. Any future recommissioned services will be expected to comply with Welsh Language Standards and ensure Welsh speakers can access housing-related support services through the medium of Welsh where required

4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	**Positive:** Homelessness is increasingly a priority for Welsh Government. Thereby it is a strategic priority for the Council. Due to the change in need and demand profiles, there has been a need to create additional posts/jobs and employment across the homeless sector to manage this change in demand. The Council has recruited additional staff in this regard The HSG delivery plan seeks to make best use of the grant funding to meet the needs of those with housing related support needs in Monmouthshire. The Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan contributes positively to a more prosperous Wales by helping people maintain stable	• Continue to prioritise early intervention and homelessness prevention activity. • Maintain specialist welfare benefits, financial inclusion and tenancy sustainment services. • Recommission services to ensure resources are aligned to identified need and deliver maximum value for money. • Improve use of performance and needs data to target resources effectively and respond to emerging demand.

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	accommodation, improve financial resilience and participate in employment, training and education opportunities. Safe, secure and sustainable housing provides the foundation from which individuals can address wider barriers to independence and economic wellbeing. Housing-related support services funded through the Housing Support Grant provide specialist welfare benefits advice, income maximisation support, budgeting assistance and tenancy sustainment interventions. Service reviews found that improved financial circumstances were one of the most common positive outcomes reported by service users, helping households to increase income, manage debt and improve affordability. The Delivery Plan's focus on homelessness prevention and early intervention helps people to remain in their homes and reduces the disruption that homelessness can have on employment, education and training. By preventing housing crises and supporting tenancy sustainment, services help individuals maintain links to local communities, employment opportunities and learning environments. The Plan also supports individuals with complex needs, including those experiencing mental ill health, domestic abuse and multiple disadvantage, helping them to access the support required to live independently and improve longer-term life outcomes. This contributes to reducing inequality and improving opportunities for some of the county's most vulnerable residents.	• Continue partnership working to reduce duplication and improve outcomes across housing, health and social care services.

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	Effective homelessness prevention and housing support also reduce demand on wider public services. Preventing homelessness and reducing reliance on temporary accommodation can lessen pressure on health services, social care, criminal justice services and emergency accommodation budgets, ensuring public resources are used more effectively. **Negative:** Demand for housing-related support continues to increase in complexity while housing affordability challenges remain significant. Limited Housing Support Grant resources may restrict the Council's ability to expand services in line with identified need.	
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	**Positive:** N/A **Negative:** N/A	For emerging accommodation projects, the Council will use this as an opportunity to consider scope to incorporate accommodation standards that mitigate against climate change and tackling carbon emissions eg PV panels
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	**Positive:** The Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan makes a significant positive contribution towards improving both physical and mental wellbeing across Monmouthshire. Evidence from the Housing Support Programme Strategy Interim Review demonstrates that mental health is now the most commonly identified support need amongst people accessing housing-related support services, accounting for over 40% of referrals in 2025-26. The	• Continue to develop integrated working arrangements between Housing, Health, Social Care and mental health services. • Recommission services to better align provision with identified mental health and complex-needs demand. • Explore opportunities to expand specialist mental health, Housing First and complex-needs provision where resources allow.

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	increasing prevalence of mental ill health highlights the critical role that housing-related support plays in promoting wellbeing and preventing homelessness. The needs assessment also identified a significant increase in the number of people presenting with high and intensive support needs, many of whom experience multiple and overlapping challenges including poor mental health, physical health conditions, substance misuse, trauma and social exclusion. The Delivery Plan seeks to respond to this changing profile of need through improved service design, targeted support and stronger partnership working. Stable housing is a key determinant of health and wellbeing. The Delivery Plan supports homelessness prevention, tenancy sustainment and access to suitable accommodation, helping individuals avoid the negative health impacts associated with homelessness and housing insecurity. Safe and secure accommodation enables people to better engage with health services, maintain treatment plans, improve independence and build resilience. The Plan also promotes more integrated responses to mental health through closer partnership working between housing support providers, Health, Social Care, the Community Mental Health Team and other specialist services. Opportunities to strengthen specialist mental	• Continue to develop Severn View as an appropriate temporary accommodation option for people with higher support needs. • Improve data collection and needs analysis to identify emerging health-related support needs and inform future commissioning decisions.

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	health provision, including consideration of a dedicated Mental Health Social Worker within the Housing Support Team, have been identified through the needs assessment and recommissioning process. Monmouthshire has also developed specialist approaches for individuals with higher and more complex needs. Housing First continues to provide intensive, person-centred support for people with multiple disadvantage, whilst Severn View Temporary Supported Accommodation has been established to provide a more appropriate environment for homeless single people with moderate to high support needs. Both initiatives contribute positively to health and wellbeing outcomes by combining accommodation with tailored support. **Negative:** Despite the positive impact of the Delivery Plan, demand for mental health and complex-needs support continues to increase. Current housing support provision does not fully meet the needs of all individuals requiring specialist mental health support, complex-needs accommodation or intensive multi-agency intervention. Rising complexity of need also places increasing pressure on existing services and staff.	
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	**Positive:** The Delivery Plan contributes to cohesive communities through support delivery to prevent homelessness. Support services work with households to address support needs and promote independence, fostering stable, safe communities.	• Continue to embed Rapid Rehousing principles across housing and support services. • Strengthen multi-agency working through the Housing Intervention Panel and other partnership forums.

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	The Delivery Plan supports the Council's Rapid Rehousing approach, which seeks to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurrent. By focusing on early intervention, tenancy sustainment and access to appropriate support, the Plan aims to reduce repeat homelessness and support people to achieve long-term housing stability. A key strength of the programme is its emphasis on partnership working. The Housing Intervention Panel (HIP) provides a multi-agency forum that brings together Housing, Health, Social Care, Probation, support providers and other partners to coordinate support for individuals with significant or complex needs who are at risk of homelessness or experiencing housing instability. This joined-up approach helps ensure that vulnerable households receive coordinated support and reduces the likelihood of people falling through gaps between services. The Delivery Plan also promotes wider collaboration through the Housing Support Grant Planning Group, commissioned providers, Registered Social Landlords, domestic abuse services, mental health services and other statutory and third-sector partners. This collaborative approach improves access to support, reduces duplication and strengthens community resilience. Specialist services such as Housing First, temporary accommodation support and Severn View Temporary Supported Accommodation provide additional support for individuals with higher and more complex needs, helping them to sustain accommodation and successfully integrate into their communities.	• Recommission services to improve integration, accessibility and service user experience. • Maintain tenancy sustainment and homelessness prevention services to reduce homelessness recurrence. • Continue to gather service user feedback and use it to inform service improvement and commissioning decisions.

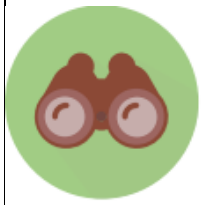
Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	Negative: There is a risk that increasing levels of complex need, limited affordable housing options and pressures on support services could affect the ability of some households to achieve long-term housing stability and community integration. Service user feedback has also identified some frustration with fragmented services and changes in support personnel.	
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	**Positive:** *Positively contributes to the effective use of resources and contributes positively to health if properties can be brought back into use.* **Negative:** N/A	N/A.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	**Positive:** N/A **Negative:** N/A	N/A
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	**Positive:** The Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan contributes positively towards a more equal Wales by supporting individuals and households who experience some of the greatest inequalities in housing, health and wellbeing outcomes. Housing-related support services are targeted towards vulnerable groups who are at increased	• Continue to review and recommission services based on identified need and evidence. • Maintain specialist support pathways for vulnerable groups, including victims of domestic abuse and people with mental ill health.

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	risk of homelessness, housing insecurity and social exclusion, helping to reduce inequalities and improve opportunities for independent living. The needs assessment identified domestic abuse as one of the most significant presenting support needs in Monmouthshire. The Delivery Plan supports continued provision of specialist domestic abuse services and seeks to strengthen pathways between housing and domestic abuse services, ensuring victims can access safe accommodation, specialist support and homelessness prevention interventions at the earliest opportunity. Opportunities to strengthen specialist domestic abuse expertise within housing services will also be explored through future service development. The Delivery Plan is also expected to improve outcomes for people with disabilities, long-term health conditions and mental ill health. Mental health is now the largest identified support need within Housing Support Grant services, while increasing numbers of people are presenting with high and intensive support needs. Through recommissioning, partnership working and service development, the Council aims to improve access to housing support, strengthen multi-agency responses and ensure services are better aligned to the needs of people with complex support requirements. A key focus of the Delivery Plan is improving access to appropriate services for those most at risk of	• Strengthen partnership working across Housing, Health, Social Care and third-sector services to improve outcomes for individuals with complex needs. • Improve data collection and analysis to better understand inequalities, emerging demand and gaps in provision. • Use recommissioning activity to improve accessibility, reduce fragmentation and ensure services remain focused on those at greatest risk of homelessness and exclusion.

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	homelessness. Through recommissioning and service reviews, Monmouthshire is seeking to ensure that support services remain accessible, responsive and reflective of local need. This includes improving pathways into support, reducing fragmentation and ensuring resources are directed towards those with the greatest needs. The Plan also supports vulnerable groups who are disproportionately affected by homelessness, including young people, care leavers, people experiencing domestic abuse, people with mental health conditions, those with offending histories and individuals with multiple and complex needs. By helping people access and sustain suitable accommodation, the Plan contributes to reducing disadvantage and promoting equality of opportunity. **Negative:** None. No direct negative impacts have been identified. However, increasing levels of demand, growing complexity of need and finite Housing Support Grant resources may limit the Council's ability to fully meet all identified support needs, particularly for individuals requiring specialist or intensive support.	

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?

 Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future	The Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan balances immediate pressures within the housing and homelessness system with longer-term strategic planning and service transformation. In the short term, the Plan supports the delivery of frontline housing-related support services that help prevent homelessness, sustain tenancies, respond to domestic abuse, support people with mental ill health and provide assistance to vulnerable households living in temporary accommodation. The Plan also supports the ongoing delivery of services such as Housing First, Severn View Temporary Supported Accommodation, the Housing Intervention Panel and specialist support services, ensuring that people with urgent housing and support needs receive timely interventions. These actions help prevent homelessness from escalating and reduce immediate risks to individuals and families. In the longer term, the Delivery Plan seeks to reshape and strengthen the Housing Support Grant programme through service reviews, recommissioning and improved partnership working. The Plan is informed by evidence showing increasing complexity of need, rising demand for mental health support and growing pressure on existing services. As a result, it includes work to develop more sustainable, integrated and needs-led services that are better equipped to respond to future demand. The Plan also supports the Council's wider Rapid Rehousing ambitions by focusing on homelessness prevention, reducing repeat homelessness and improving access to settled accommodation. Alongside this, improvements to data collection and needs analysis will strengthen the Council's ability to identify emerging trends, understand future demand and ensure that commissioning decisions are based on robust evidence.	Through the recommissioning process, it has become evident that the collection and analysis of Housing Support Grant (HSG) data requires further development. A key priority for the coming year will be to strengthen data quality, consistency and reporting arrangements to ensure that robust evidence is available to demonstrate the impact of housing-related support on service users, identify emerging trends and inform future commissioning decisions. At present the MCC Housing Department is preparing for the implementation of the Homelessness and Social Housing Allocations Act (Wales) 2026. The HSG team will be inputting into discussions with Welsh Government about what the changes may mean for HSG commissioning moving forwards, and how commissioning may support the aims and new duties of the department.

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	Through this combination of immediate support and long-term service development, the Delivery Plan seeks not only to address current housing-related support needs but also to build a more resilient, sustainable and effective support system for future generations.	

	Working together with other partners to deliver objectives	Homelessness is not solely a housing issue and cannot be solved by accommodation alone. HSG support services play a crucial role in preventing homelessness but to be truly effectine a whole system approach is required. A key strength of the programme is its emphasis on partnership working. The Housing Intervention Panel (HIP) provides a multi-agency forum that brings together Housing, Health, Social Care, Probation, support providers and other partners to coordinate support for individuals with significant or complex needs who are at risk of homelessness or experiencing housing instability. The Delivery Plan also promotes wider collaboration through the Housing Support Grant Planning Group, commissioned providers, Registered Social Landlords, domestic abuse services, mental health services and other statutory and third-sector partners. This collaborative approach improves access to support, reduces duplication and strengthens community resilience.	At present the MCC Housing Department is preparing for the implementation of the Homelessness and Social Housing Allocations Act (Wales) 2026. The HSG team will be inputting into discussions with Welsh Government about what the changes may mean for HSG commissioning moving forwards, and how commissioning may support the aims and new duties of the department. The Act places a greater emphasis on collaborative working across housing, homelessness, health, social care, community safety and the wider support sector. As the focus shifts towards earlier intervention, prevention and more person-centred approaches, it will be increasingly important for statutory and third-sector partners to work together to develop integrated pathways that prevent homelessness and support sustainable housing outcomes. HSG commissioned services will have a key role in supporting these objectives through the provision of flexible, responsive support that complements the new statutory duties. For MCC, this is likely to require stronger partnership arrangements, improved information sharing, joint strategic planning and a shared understanding of outcomes across services. Commissioners and providers will need to work closely with operational teams to ensure that commissioned services are aligned to emerging legislative requirements and local housing needs. There may also be opportunities to develop more integrated commissioning approaches, reduce duplication across services and strengthen the contribution of support services in achieving the Act's objectives.

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Involving those with an interest and seeking their views	Stakeholders are involved in the creation of the Delivery and HSP via various methods. Monmouthshire hosts provider and support worker networks where commissioned services can have direct conversations with each other and the commissioning team, as well as regular provider meetings and service reviews. Service user feedback is being collected to identify what is going well, and what could be improved in service delivery. As part of the HSG recommissioning process planning groups have been established for each individual tender to help design and shape specs for future services.	MCC is committed to strengthening the role of service user feedback and consultation, ensuring that lived experience is more meaningfully embedded within service design, delivery and review processes. This aligns with the direction of travel set out within the forthcoming housing legislation, which places greater emphasis on co-production and person-centred approaches to service development. The Housing Team is currently exploring a range of opportunities to enhance engagement with people who have lived experience of homelessness and housing services. This includes identifying more effective and sustainable mechanisms for participation, ensuring that service users are able to influence decision-making, shape future service provision and contribute to the continuous improvement of local housing and support services. By embedding the voices of those with lived experience into strategic planning and commissioning, MCC aims to develop services that are more responsive to need and achieve better outcomes for residents.

 Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse	The Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan strongly reflects the prevention principle by prioritising early intervention and proactive support to prevent homelessness before a housing crisis occurs. A key objective of the Plan is to identify those at risk of homelessness earlier and provide timely support to prevent homelessness from occurring. This includes the work of the Housing Options Prevention Team, which supports households threatened with homelessness through housing advice, tenancy sustainment, income maximisation, welfare benefits support and assistance to secure alternative accommodation. The Housing Support Gateway plays an important role in ensuring that individuals are connected to the most appropriate housing-related support service at the earliest opportunity. This enables support needs to be identified and addressed before they escalate and helps households maintain stable accommodation and independence. Prevention activity also extends to specific groups at increased risk of homelessness. The Compass Service works directly with young people, schools and colleges to identify emerging risks and provide support before housing issues develop into homelessness. This early intervention approach helps reduce the likelihood of young people experiencing housing instability and promotes better long-term outcomes. The Delivery Plan also recognises the importance of evidence-led prevention. Improvements to data collection, data quality and needs analysis will strengthen the Council's ability to identify emerging trends, understand changing support needs and respond proactively to future demand. By using robust data and intelligence to inform commissioning and service delivery,	Through the recommissioning process, it has become evident that the collection and analysis of Housing Support Grant (HSG) data requires further development. A key priority for the coming year will be to strengthen data quality, consistency and reporting arrangements to ensure that robust evidence is available to demonstrate the impact of housing-related support on service users, identify emerging trends and inform future commissioning decisions.

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	resources can be targeted towards areas where early intervention is most likely to prevent problems from worsening. Through homelessness prevention services, Housing Support Gateway referrals, targeted support for vulnerable groups and improved understanding of emerging need, the Delivery Plan seeks to reduce homelessness, minimise crisis interventions and promote long-term housing stability	
 Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies	The Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan demonstrates the principle of integration by recognising that homelessness and housing instability are rarely caused by housing issues alone. The Plan acknowledges the interconnected relationship between housing, health, wellbeing, domestic abuse, financial hardship, social exclusion and community safety. The Delivery Plan promotes a coordinated approach to addressing these issues through close partnership working between Housing, Health, Social Care, Registered Social Landlords, domestic abuse services, commissioned support providers, Probation and wider third-sector organisations. This integrated approach helps ensure that individuals and families receive holistic support that addresses both their housing needs and the wider factors affecting their wellbeing.	N/A

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	The Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan strengthens the Council's safeguarding responsibilities by promoting early identification, intervention and coordinated support for vulnerable individuals and households who may be at risk of harm, homelessness or exploitation. Prevention activity delivered through Housing Options, the Housing Support Gateway and commissioned support services enables risks to be identified earlier and reduces the likelihood of circumstances escalating into safeguarding concerns or homelessness crises. This is particularly important for vulnerable adults, young people, victims of domestic abuse and individuals experiencing mental ill-health. The Plan strengthens safeguarding through multi-agency approaches such as the Housing Intervention Panel (HIP), which enables Housing, Social Care, Health, Probation and other agencies to share information appropriately, coordinate interventions and manage risk for individuals with complex needs. This collaborative approach supports effective safeguarding and promotes better outcomes for vulnerable residents.	None.	The following are used to mitigate against any negative impacts: Procedure documents; staff meetings; briefing notes and training
Corporate Parenting	The proposal supports Corporate Parenting by potentially providing safe and secure accommodation.	None.	

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

Evidence has been informed by the Housing Support Programme Strategy Interim Review 2026-27, WHO12 homelessness data, Housing Support Gateway referral data, temporary accommodation needs analysis, service reviews, stakeholder engagement, provider feedback, service user feedback and Local Housing Market Assessment evidence. Data quality improvements and cleansing exercises undertaken during 2025-26 have strengthened the evidence base and highlighted the importance of accurate, consistent and meaningful data collection in identifying changing demand and informing future commissioning decisions.

8. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

The Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan 2026-27 is expected to deliver significant positive impacts across all protected characteristic groups, particularly for people experiencing homelessness, mental ill health, domestic abuse, disability, socio-economic disadvantage and multiple complex needs. The Plan supports early intervention, homelessness prevention, tenancy sustainment and access to housing-related support, helping vulnerable residents achieve improved wellbeing, housing stability and independence.

No direct negative equality impacts have been identified. However, the assessment recognises ongoing risks associated with increasing levels of complex need, rising housing costs, limited affordable housing supply and finite Housing Support Grant resources. These pressures may affect the ability of services to fully meet identified demand, particularly for specialist mental health support, complex-needs provision and supported accommodation.

The findings of the assessment have reinforced the importance of maintaining a preventative approach to homelessness, strengthening partnership working, improving referral pathways and ensuring commissioned services remain responsive to changing needs. They have also informed priorities within the Delivery Plan relating to recommissioning, service development, mental health provision, domestic abuse support and improved multi-agency working.

Going forward, Monmouthshire County Council will continue to strengthen data collection and needs analysis, use recommissioning to align services with identified need, explore opportunities to expand specialist support provision where resources allow, increase meaningful service user involvement in service design and review, and ensure Housing Support Grant services remain focused on reducing homelessness, tackling inequality and improving outcomes for vulnerable residents.

9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Expand data collection	Summer 2026 onwards	Strategic Homelessness Manager
Explore methods for service user input into service design	Autumn 2026	Strategic Homelessness Transformation Co-Ordinator
Recommissioning	2024 onwards	HS Commissioning Operational Manager

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration