



Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Ltd

CARE AND SUPPORT

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

FINAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2008

DRAWN UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 75 OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND ACT 1998

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Limited is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. In its Equality Scheme, the Association gave an undertaking to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on each policy, or group of related policies, where screening had indicated significant issues in relation to one or more of the nine equality dimensions.
- 1.2 As the representative body for housing associations, the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA) has been assisting its members in the implementation of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 by co-ordinating a joint approach to the equality obligations. Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Limited is part of this joint exercise which is intended to maximise resources for equality work and to minimise the administrative impact on consultee and/or stakeholder organisations.
- 1.3 The Association screened all of its policies during 2004-05. The results of this exercise, including the proposed EQIA programme, were subject to a 12 week period of public consultation between July and September 2005.
- 1.4 The aim of the Care and Support policy is:

To deliver to people with care and / or support needs appropriate services which maximise their quality of life, whilst operating within available resources

This report provides the following information:

- Background information on the equality duties and Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Limited
- A description of the Association's current Care and support policies via Joint Management Partnership working
- Information on the scope of this review
- The sources of quantitative and qualitative data considered during the review
- Assessment of the impact of the policy on the 9 equality dimensions. This includes potential differential impacts based on disability and race
- Proposed mitigating measures
- Details on the consultation process
- The next stages of the EQIA.

2. INTRODUCTION

Statutory Equality Duties

2.1 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act requires Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Limited, in carrying out its functions, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between:

- Persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- Men and women generally;
- Persons with a disability and persons without;
- Persons with dependants and persons without.

2.2 The Association must also, in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

2.3 In line with its equality scheme obligations, the Association screened all of its existing policies to assess whether they impacted on the promotion of equality of opportunity or the duty to promote good relations. The following questions were asked during the screening exercise:

- Is there any evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by different groups?
- Is there evidence that different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to the particular policy issue?
- Is there an opportunity to promote equality of opportunity between the relevant different groups, either by altering the policy, or by working with others in government or in the larger community, in the context of the policy?
- Have consultations with relevant groups, organisations or individuals indicated that policies of that type create problems specific to any relevant groups.

A report describing the results of the screening process is available from Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Ltd (see contact details on page 2).

2.4 Following this screening process and the associated consultation, the Association developed a 5 Year Equality Impact Assessment

programme. The Care and Support policies were scheduled for assessment in year three of this programme.

2.5 This impact assessment has been carried out in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Equality guidance. The eight separate stages of the Equality Impact Assessment are:

1. Determining the aims of the policy
2. Collecting available data
3. Assessing the impact of the policy
4. Consideration of measures to mitigate any adverse impacts and/or alternative policies that might better achieve the promotion of equality of opportunity
5. Formal Consultation
6. Analysis of responses and decision by Association
7. Publication of results of the Equality Impact Assessment
8. Ongoing monitoring of adverse impact.

2.6 The purpose of conducting the Equality Impact Assessment is as follows:

- To identify adverse impacts and to consider mitigating factors which will eliminate adverse impact
- To consider alternative policies which would better promote equality of opportunity.

2.7 This document is a draft for consultation and contains details of the first four elements of the Equality Impact Assessment. The remaining stages will be implemented following consideration of consultation responses.

2.8 About Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Limited

Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Ltd. is a registered housing association established in 1976 subject to the provisions of the housing Orders (NI) 1976, 1992 and 2003 and the Industrial and Provident Societies Act (NI) 1969 and 1976. In 1997 Habinteg was successfully assessed as an Investor in People organisation. In 2000, 2003 and 2005 we were successfully reassessed to the standard. In 2000 Habinteg was awarded a Charter Mark for excellence in customer services. We were successfully reassessed to Charter Mark status in 2003 and again in 2006

3. THE POLICY

Description of Policy

The Care and Support policies describe the Care and Support service the Association provides to its tenants and the wider community.

Policy Aim

3.1 The aim of the Care and Support policies is:

To deliver to people with care and / or support needs appropriate services which maximise their quality of life, whilst operating within available resources.

The scope of the Care and Support activities covered in the policy include:

- **Housing Support** – This covers support services funded by Supporting People grant* which is managed by the NIHE. By housing support we mean:
 - sheltered housing for older people

Underpinning objectives include:

A key objective of housing association support services is to make a positive difference by addressing adverse impact.

* Supporting People funding may be available to help the following types of people:

- Older people
- People with learning difficulties
- People with mental health problems
- People with physical disabilities
- Women fleeing domestic violence
- Homeless people
- People struggling to meet their tenancy conditions
- People leaving institutional care
- Young People leaving care

Scope of Review

3.2 The main stakeholders in relation to the policy include anyone seeking or receiving the Association's Care and Support service or any other stakeholder of the Association. This can be any of the following:

External

- AccessNI (ANI)
- Applicants for support services listed at 3.1 above
- Current service users
- Department of Employment and Learning (DEL)
- Department for Social Development (DSD)
- Elected representatives
- General public
- Health and Social Care Trusts
- Inspection and assessment bodies
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)
- Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC)
- Other Housing Associations
- Other statutory agencies
- Partners or providers of Housing Support Services
- Past service users
- Recognised service user groups/organisations
- Relatives and carers
- Representatives of the local community
- S75 representative groups
- Suppliers

Internal

- Board members
- Management
- Staff

Department for Social Development

Housing Associations are subject to a high degree of regulation with the DSD having specific responsibility for monitoring their activities. The DSD gathers information on a wide range of Association services including Care and Support.

Inspection and Assessment bodies

There are also other bodies that can look at aspects of the Association's Care and Support service:

-
- The NIHE's Supporting People Team
 - Environmental Health

Ombudsman

Anyone dissatisfied with the way in which the Association carries out its Care and Support service (after having exhausted the Association's Complaints Procedure) can make a complaint directly to the Ombudsman for an independent review.

Other Third Parties

There may be occasions to deal with third parties when reviewing the Association's Care and Support policies.

The lists shown under 3.2 are not exhaustive. These lists are in alphabetical order.

What this EQIA does not cover

3.3 We anticipate that some aspects of Care and Support may be considered during all equality impact assessments. Whilst considered to be important by the Association, the following areas do not come under the scope of this equality impact assessment:

- **Access & Communications generally** - The Year 1 EQIA on this policy dealt with overall issues relating to accessing the association's services (including care and support) and communicating with the organisation. Please note criteria for accessing these services are based on need and set by the Supporting People Commissioners not the associations
- **Complaints about Care and Support** – This was covered by the Year 1 EQIA on Complaints
- **Care and Support services which are totally provided by a Joint Management Partner** – This is when the association provides the building but another organisation provides the support service. **Maintenance in a Care and Support setting** – This was covered by a Year 2 EQIA
- **Setting support and other charges** - This will be covered in a separate EQIA

3.4 Care and Support policies are intrinsically linked to all of the Association's key policies and processes, depending on the nature of the service.

Legislative and Regulatory Requirements

3.5 The Association is required to comply with a range of legislative and regulatory requirements. Those listed below are relevant to Care and Support service provision:

- Health & Personal Social Services (NI) Order 1972
- Enduring Powers of Attorney (NI) Order 1987
- Sexual Offences (NI) Order 1978
- The Fire Regulations and the Fire Precautions Order 1984
- The Housing Benefit (General) (Amendment No.2) Regulations (NI) 1987
- Social Security Claims and Payments Regulations (NI) 1987
- The Food Safety (NI) Order 1991
- Health & Safety at Work Regulations (NI) 1992
- Registered Homes (NI) Order 1992
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- Mental Health Order 1996
- Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Order 1997
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998
- Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations (NI) 2001
- Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001
- Sex Offenders Act 2001
- Housing Support Services (NI) Order 2002
- Health & Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (NI) Order 2003 and associated regulations
- Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003
- Health & Safety Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (NI) 2003 (COSHH)
- The Children's (NI) Order 2003
- Residential Care Homes Regulations (NI) Order 2005
- DSD Regulatory Framework (2006)
- Food Hygiene Regulations 2006
- The Health & Safety at Work & Fire Precautions (Workplace) (Amendment Regulations (NI) 2003
- The Smoking NI Order 2006
- Domiciliary Care Regulations (NI) 2007
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007

This list is not exhaustive.

3.6 In addition to Care and Support generally, Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Limited must also meet certain obligations, under its Equality Scheme, to ensure that complaints made about failure to meet its equality duties are dealt with effectively.

Reasons for Equality Impact Assessment

3.7 The screening report gave the following reasons for carrying out an impact assessment on the policy:

- (a) Whilst there are Care and Support policies in place, as part of our commitment to delivering an excellent customer service the Equality Impact Assessment presented an opportunity to improve the existing policies.
- (b) The Association believes that access to services, including Care and Support, is of high importance to S75 groups.
- (c) Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Limited also believes that its Care and Support policies merited an equality impact assessment to demonstrate its commitment to providing an efficient and effective service to its tenants. The Association provides services to a diverse range of customers including many client groups with special needs.
- (d) Due to the absence of available data at the time of screening the policy, the decision was taken to assess actual adverse impacts during the conduct of the equality impact assessment.

Implementation of the policy

3.8 The Care and Support policies have been defined by the Association's Board and / or management team. It is implemented by relevant staff throughout the Association.

The association also works to the following standards:

The Quality Assurance Framework which is a self assessment document used to check the quality of service funded under Supporting People. This inspection process is used the NIHE to ensure compliance with the standards set for providers of support services. The NIHE's Supporting People team usually follow up with a verification visit.

3.9 Care and Support policies documents are developed in compliance with legal requirements and agreed by Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Limited Board and Senior Management Team.

3.10 Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Limited provides accommodation for people with a variety of housing needs developed in areas where housing need has been identified by the NIHE and (where possible) these homes are built to a lifetime homes standard. As the statutory housing authority the NIHE is responsible for collecting data and identifying housing need and supporting the Association in the delivery of the housing development programme.

3.11 Housing Support

Housing Support is designed to help people live independently. It is usually provided to those living in particular types of accommodation, such as sheltered housing schemes for older people or supported housing schemes for people with support needs. A Housing Support worker will assist those living in these types of schemes to remain independent. Housing support services are not time limited, they are available for as long as the person needs them. Housing support covers a range of activities including some or all of the following

- giving general counselling
- providing advice and support
- making daily calls
- maintaining safety of equipment,
- maintaining the security of dwellings
- offering help with benefits
- arranging activities for tenants
- life skills training such as budgeting, shopping, cooking

4. CONSIDERATION OF AVAILABLE DATA AND RESEARCH

Sources of information

4.1 The following were used in considering available data relevant to the impact of the Care and Support policies:

- a) Pre-consultation research commissioned by NIFHA and undertaken by IMS Consultants during March 2008
- b) Internal events to assess the impact of Care & Support policies held during November 2007
- c) The Association's internal management information on the profile of tenants and service users
- d) NICORE reports – statistics of all lettings made by the Association
- e) Housing Waiting list data
- f) Annual Regulatory Returns
- g) Data from NIFHA's annual benchmarking exercise

-
- h) Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Limited's Customer Satisfaction Surveys
 - i) Complaints and compliments register
 - j) Equality Commission Codes of Practice

The key issues highlighted by analysis of the above data sources are presented in the following sections.

IMS Pre-consultation Survey

4.2 A Report from IMS Consultants, prepared for NIFHA's EQIA Co-ordination Group (ECG), providing consultation feedback on the impact of Care and Support and Human Resource policies dated April 2008 highlighted various issues that may affect the groups within the Section 75 categories. The full report, which includes responses from the ECG, is available at Appendix A. The issues raised in relation to the respective S75 groups are detailed below.

Internal Data collection events

4.3 Housing associations held two meetings during November 2007 where a range of staff undertook an assessment of the impact of both the Care and Support and the Human Resources – Recruitment and Selection policies.

The Feedback collected at those events has also been taken into account and when considering the impact of these policies.

The table shown below summarises the outcomes of the work detailed at 4.2 and 4.3.

Key issues highlighted for each of the nine Section 75 categories

S75 Category	Source of data	Issues highlighted
Age	IMS pre-consultation survey	Lack of care at home (generally) Mobility and access Living in run-down accommodation due to financial pressures Need to work with housing associations that cater for elderly Chinese community Consultees cited access to services (in general) as a issue affecting young
	Housing association meetings in Nov 2007	Sheltered accommodation is only available to people above a certain age Foyer accommodation is only available to those aged 16 -25 Housing associations are not allowed to provide care or support services to those under 16
Dependents	IMS pre-consultation survey	Consultees cited no issues that affected people with dependents however the difficulty of getting a new home suitable for a divorced person with children was mentioned in relation to marital status
	Housing association meetings in Nov 2007	Identified potential for adverse impact if carers could not be accommodated due to the limitations of the building or the tenancy
Disability	IMS pre-consultation survey	Mobility and access Whether personal care is available Whether policies accommodate mental health issues
	Housing association meetings in Nov 2007	Some care services will cause adverse impact because that is the aim of the service – for example meeting a particular health need such as helping those with mental health difficulties
Gender	IMS pre-consultation survey	Consultees suggested there is a need to keep separate policies for men and women Homophobic attacks on homes
	Housing association meetings in Nov 2007	Some service users may have issues about personal care due to the fact that most staff in care situations tend to be female

S75 Category	Source of data	Issues highlighted
Marital status	IMS pre-consultation survey	Availability of housing and support for single people The difficulty of getting a new home suitable for a divorced person with children
	Housing association meetings in Nov 2007	There is potential for adverse impact for a married couple who want to share a room in a care home as most facilities are not set up to meet this need
Political opinion	IMS pre-consultation survey	Consultees cited no issues
	Housing association meetings in Nov 2007	No issues were identified
Racial Group	IMS pre-consultation survey	Lack of awareness of what sort of care and support is available to those who have been victims of racism or hate crimes Language barriers in terms of understanding how to access information and also in relation to the quality of information available Specific consideration should be given to ethnic groups with other problems Migrant workers should have access to training and employment support (N.B. this appeared to be a general comment) Majority of information provided is not available in Chinese
	Housing association meetings in Nov 2007	Staff recognised there could be access issues but felt these had been addressed in the Year 1 EQIA on this topic The level of English required for the post could have adverse impact for some people Staff identified potential for adverse impact for migrant workers Staff also recognised that problems may arise as a result of service users not wanting staff from a different background

S75 Category	Source of data	Issues highlighted
Religious belief	IMS pre-consultation survey	Consultees cited no issues in this area
	Housing association meetings in Nov 2007	<p>Association staff felt there was potential for adverse impact in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dietary requirements • Prayer rooms • Managing death • Gender issues • Storage of food <p>The relevance of these points would depend on the type of scheme and the religion of the individual</p> <p>Transporting service users to religious venues may cause difficulty for care staff whose beliefs differ from that of the client</p>
Sexual orientation	IMS pre-consultation survey	<p>Lack of housing / care support for younger people who have been put out of their home because of their sexual orientation</p> <p>Higher consideration needs to be given to those who are the victims of hate crimes or homophobic attacks on their home</p> <p>Older people used to a society that is not accepting of same sex relationships may feel they have to hide their true identity if they have to move to a residential home</p>
	Housing association meetings in Nov 2007	No issues were identified

Profile of Service Users

4.4 Managed by Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Ltd

BELFAST (Beechmount) **Ardnaclowney Drive**. 59 dwellings including 9 for people with disabilities (completed 1997)

Ardnaclowney House demonstrates many of Habinteg's ideals in bringing **universal housing solutions** to an ever increasing range of housing needs - offering high quality, adaptable and affordable housing, having regard to peoples' abilities or disabilities.

The scheme was completed in 1997 and comprises:

3 two person/one bedroom wheelchair flats

14 one person/one bedroom flats

18 two person/one bedroom flats

-
- 4.7 The Association's tenant base in relation to other Section 75 Categories are as follows:

Section 75 Categories

Dependents: Of the 528 lettings made by the Association, 372 were made to households with dependents under the age of 16. There was a total of 467 dependents under the age of 16.

Disability: As stated at 4.3, the Association has 274 units of accommodation which are specifically designed to meet the needs of wheelchair users. Profiles of users are recorded and reported to the Board of Management and in the Business Plan. At 1 April 2007, the number of people with disabilities living in wheelchair accommodation was 311 (some households have more than one person with a disability). The number of people under the age of 18 with a disability was 61, between 18 and 60 there were 196, and over 60 there were 54. The type of disability is also monitored, as is the use of wheelchair accommodation.

During the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2007 the Association made lettings to 707 tenants of new or existing dwellings. Profiles of households are monitored internally and through the NICORE system. These households are broken down as follows:

Gender: 485 (69%) new tenants were females, while 222 (31%) were males.

Marital Status: Of the 528 new tenancies, 235 (33%) were to people who are single, 314 (44%) were married people, 126 (18%) were to people who are divorced or separated and 32 (5%) were to people who are widowed.

Religion: 503 (71%) households were catholic, 171 (24%) were protestant, 25 (4%) had no religion and 8 (1%) were of religion which is 'other'.

Racial Group: 698 (99%) of new tenants were of white ethnic origin and 9(1%) were to ethnic minority groups including Irish Traveller, Indian, Pakistan, Chinese (2) and Thai.

- 4.8 At present, Habinteg does not collect data on political opinion or sexual orientation.
- 4.9 Statistics from the 2006 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey in relation to the S75 categories are shown at Appendix B
- 4.10 A research report by Youthnet argues that analysis of the Census 2001 indicates that between 2 and 10% of the population may be lesbian, gay or bisexual.

4.11 Research from the Belfast Islamic Centre in 2007 estimates circa 6,000 residents who are Muslim as opposed to 1,943 cited in the 2001 census.

Complaints

4.12 As stated at 3.3 the overall handling of complaints was dealt with in a previous EQIA. However, during the last three years the Association has received no complaints about its Care and Support service that would indicate adverse impact arising from these policies

User Satisfaction Surveys

4.13 The Association's Customer Satisfaction Surveys invite residents to state if they are satisfied with the Association's standard of service. Most recent surveys indicate that the Association's service is excellent or good.

Ombudsman Report

4.15 There have been no complaints raised with/complaints where Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Limited was found to be at fault by the Ombudsman in relation to the Care and Support practices of this association.

5. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

5.1 This section outlines our assessment of the impact of the Association's Care and Support policies on the 9 Section 75 groups based on the evidence considered above.

5.2 It has become apparent, following the conduct of this EQIA, that there are very few adverse impacts that are directly related to the Care and Support policies.

5.3 Many of the issues raised during the IMS Pre-consultation survey highlighted concerns around Access & Communications in relation to services rather than specifically to Care and Support. Access & Communications was addressed as part of the associations' Year 1 EQIAs. As a result the majority of the concerns mentioned by respondents were either covered by the Mitigating Measures proposed at that time or have been identified for action as part of that process.

5.4 Other issues reflect general concerns that are outside the scope of this particular EQIA or even the remit of the individual association e.g. lack of

healthcare identification of housing/support needs or even training requirements. Where relevant associations will raise these matters with the appropriate authority. In addition, NIFHA and/or association representatives participate in a wide range of inter-agency groups aimed at addressing issues such as community safety, housing of sex offenders or the provision of care and support.

5.5 We also feel it is important to state that the very nature of some care or support services will bring a certain amount of adverse impact as they were set up to address the needs of a particular group. For example sheltered housing is intended to be for older or disabled people therefore it would not be suitable for other groups. Similarly schemes to assist individuals with learning disabilities would not be appropriate for those who do not have that need.

5.6 Where we indicate that there is no evidence of adverse impact, this does not mean that no action will be taken. The Association is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all and excellence in customer service, and will seek, where possible, to put measures in place to ensure that all sections of society have an equal opportunity to access appropriate redress when problems occur.

5.7 The issues that we have identified as having the potential to cause adverse impact are:

- Age restrictions generally
- The age at which people can access sheltered housing
- Provision of personal care by staff of a different gender to the recipient
- Married couples who wish to share accommodation in a residential or nursing setting
- Balancing our commitment to equality of opportunity for potential employees whose ability to communicate may be limited against the needs of service users and legal obligations under Health & Safety
- Managing situations where service users attitudes may cause adverse impact for staff providing care
- Accommodating the religious needs of an increasingly diverse community

6. CONSIDERATION OF MEASURES TO MITIGATE AGAINST ADVERSE IMPACT

The following are options that could potentially mitigate adverse impact arising from the Care and Support policies:

- Provision of information in alternative formats where appropriate (usually care and support plans will have identified what is required by the individual user).
- Offer flexibility in the level of support provided i.e. dependent on the needs of the user(s). Where possible, and whilst operating within available resources, adapt the service to suit the specific needs of the user.
- Conduct ongoing training programmes to ensure awareness of diversity and cultural issues – these should to include services users as well as staff.
- Work in partnership with other Housing Associations to arrange cultural awareness days/activities; invite representatives from groups to attend meeting in a joint approach to raise the profile of Housing Associations and to increase awareness of different groups and the range of their needs.
- Promote the work of Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Limited within the local communities to ensure that potential service users from all S75 categories are aware of the care and support that is available.
- Work with the local community to promote social inclusion and good relations.
- Promote and support activities that encourage greater understanding, tolerance and respect for Section 75 groups

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Limited has endeavoured to give careful consideration to the measures that might be taken to make the Care and Support policies most efficient, effective and equitable. The measures outlined in section 6 are not intended to be definitive or exhaustive. The Association formally consulted on its findings over a 12 week period, which ended on 29 August 2008.
- 7.2 The purpose of the joint consultation is to ensure that Habinteg Housing Association [Ulster] Ltd consults effectively with those groups directly affected by its Care and Support policies and their representatives.
- 7.3 If you require any further information, you may contact the Association using the contact details given in page 2.
- 7.4 If you require information about housing associations generally or about the Joint Equality Exercise co-ordinated by NIFHA please contact:

The Northern Ireland Federation of housing Associations
38 Hill Street
Belfast
BT1 2LB
 **028 9023 0446**
 **www.nifha.org**

8. RESULTS OF EQIA CONSULTATION

8.1 The Association did not receive any feedback directly on this EQIA within the Consultation period but two other randomly selected Housing Associations did receive feedback from Disability Action where Habinteg Housing Association [Ulster] Ltd can also adopt the recommendations and good practice advice.

These include:

- Not only stating that information can be provided in Alternative Formats but list the range of Alternative formats available. For e.g. large print, audio cassette, Braille computer disc etc.
- Providing a text phone number to enable deaf people the same access as those who are hearing
- Advising on the degree that the Association's website meets European Union Standards on accessibility for disabled people.
- Monitoring the future impact of this policy to enable informed comment

Appendix B

The following tables have been taken from the 2006 Northern Ireland Life and Times survey. This survey has been used only to give indicative information in relation to the 9 Section 75 categories. Fieldwork for the 2006 survey was carried out between October 2006 and mid March 2007. 1230 adults were interviewed. The modules included were:

- Informal carers
- Community relations
- Healthcare
- Attitudes to Minority Ethnic People
- Political attitudes
- [Background information on the respondents](#)

AGE

Age of respondent (in age categories)

	%
18-24	14
25-34	14
35-44	19
45-54	20
55-64	15
65+	19

DEPENDENTS

Some people have extra family responsibilities because they look after someone who's sick, handicapped or elderly. May I check, is there anyone living with you who is sick, handicapped or elderly whom you look after or give special help to (for example, a sick, disabled or elderly relative, wife, husband, child, friend)?

	%
Yes	11
No	89

What about people not living with you, do you provide some regular service or help for any sick, disabled or elderly relative, friend or neighbour not living with you?

	%
Yes	14
No	86

DISABILITY

Do you have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? By long-standing I mean anything that has troubled you over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time?

	%
Yes	32

No	68
----	----

GENDER

Sex of respondent

	%
Male	43
Female	57

MARITAL STATUS

Marital status of respondent

	%
Single (never married)	28
Married	53
Living as married	4
Separated	4
Divorced	4
Widowed	7

POLITICAL OPINION

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a unionist, a nationalist or neither?

	%
Unionist	36
Nationalist	23
Neither	40
Don't know	1

RACIAL GROUP

To which of these groups do you consider you belong?

	Number of respondents*
White	1206
Black	2
Asian	5
Chinese	2
Irish Traveller	2
Other (please specify)	8
None of these	4
Don't know	1

RELIGIOUS BELIEF

Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion? If yes, which?

	%
No religion	13
Catholic	40
Church of Ireland or Anglican or Episcopal	15
Baptist	1
Methodist	3
Presbyterian	22
Free Presbyterian	2
Brethren	0
United Reform Church (URC) or Congregational	1
Pentecostal	1
Church of Scotland	0
Elim Pentecostal	0
Reformed Presbyterian	0
Non-subscribing Presbyterian	0
Church of Nazarene	0
Jehovah s Witness	0
Protestant - no-denomination	0
Christian - no denomination	1
Hindu	0
Other, please specify	0
Don't know	0
Refused	0

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Can you tell me which of these best describes you?

	%
I am 'gay' or 'lesbian' (homosexual)	0
I am heterosexual or 'straight'	98
I am bi-sexual	0
I do not wish to answer this question	2