

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: Domestic Abuse New Duty Funding	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Community Safety
Lead person: Sam Barstow	Contact number: 07748143370
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
As a result of the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 the Council has received additional 'new burdens' funding from the Government. The report sets out options for expenditure in order to meet the national requirements.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	X	
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	X	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>	X	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		X

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

The paper presents short term funding options in order that the Council can make best use of the allocated funding for this financial year. A full needs assessment is currently underway which will analyse equality and diversity issues in relation to provision of DA accommodation related services.

Some of the proposals relate to staffing resources within the Council to strengthen both contract management and overall service provision. One of the key areas to seek to improve in relation to contract management is understanding of accessibility of services, particularly refuge accommodation and linked to the above needs assessment, which will inform future medium to long term commissioning options and is due to be completed in by August 2021 however, due to the funding allocation for this year, quicker decisions need to be made on short term expenditure options.

The current accommodation offer has been assessed.

- **Key findings**

The current core accommodation offer for domestic abuse is based on a refuge building, which is for female victims only and their children however no male children can be permitted over a certain age. In addition within the Refuge contract the Council currently provides two dispersed properties to ensure there is some provision for male victims or families with older male children, alongside offering choice to service users. Whilst this does meet minimum legal requirements relating to Equality duties there is a clear need to strengthen the range and offer.

- **Actions**

As a result of the above considerations, the safer options project, which provides a further 8 dispersed properties is therefore recommended. In addition, the extra accommodation recommended to be developed through the Council's housing stock will ensure a range of accessible properties to ensure elderly or disabled individuals can access the services and a further £10,000 funding has been made available to ensure installation of appropriate measures where required.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	12/07/21
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Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	13/07/21
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Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):		Sam Barstow, Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services
5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	Job title	Date
Tom Smith	Assistant Director for Community Safety and Street Scene	22 nd July 2021

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	09/07/21
Report title and date	DA New Duty Funding Options August 2021
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	22 nd July 2021