

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: Household Support Fund	
Directorate: ACX	Service area: PPI
Lead person: Steve Eling	Contact number: 01709 254419
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
<p>The Government provided a second allocation of Household Support Fund (HSF) grant together with conditions and guidance on 1st April 2022. The funding covers the period 1st April to 30th September 2022. The funding must be used or allocated during that time.</p> <p>A report making allocations of the fund was presented to Cabinet on 16th May 2022. Cabinet agreed provisional allocations and held a reserve to be considered in a further report. This report provides for the reserve fund to be allocated.</p>

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

The objectives of the use of the grants and targeting towards vulnerable households including families with children will contribute to addressing economic and social inequalities. It will have a positive equalities impact.

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?**

Owing to the limited timescale between Government announcement of the of the funding streams, knowledge of tackling the COVID pandemic to date including support to low-income households from earlier grants streams has been used to inform the proposed uses of the grant funding now available.

- **Key findings**

There are specific impacts for low income households with children, from BAME communities and low income pensioners. The current increase in energy prices as part of cost of living increases are likely to have greatest impact on the lowest income and most vulnerable households.

- **Actions**

Equalities data will be collected as part of delivering the proposed support packages. An equality analysis will be completed on the basis of the data collected to inform delivery of the funding streams and at the end of the funding period. It is not possible to complete a full EA ahead of delivering the grant funded support

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	30 th April 2023
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	30 th April 2023
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Steve Eling Policy and Equalities Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Jo Brown	Assistant Chief Executive	22 nd June 2022

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	22 nd June 2022
Report title and date	Household Support Fund 11 th July 2022
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet Household Support Fund 11 th July 2022
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	22 nd June 2022