

## 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: Play Area Improvement Programme**

**Directorate:**  
**Regeneration & Environment**

**Service area:**  
**Culture Sport & Tourism**

**Lead person:**  
**Leanne Buchan**

**Contact number:**  
**01709 822056**

Is this a:

☐

**Strategy / Policy**

☒

**Service / Function**

☐

**Other**

**If other, please specify**

### 2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

Proposals for the remainder of funding as part of the Play Area Improvement Programme.

### 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 questions above where the service has answered 'no' are explained below:

**Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?**

The Play Area Improvement Programme has to date responded to casework requests identifying local need as it arises. The remainder is proposed to address a backlog of health and safety issues identified through inspection records and is applied universally across the borough. All play areas are maintained to British Standard ensuring an equal standard of provision. As repairs are undertaken care is taken to ensure the introduction of additional accessible play equipment to ensure access for all children and young people.

**Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?**

All proposed improvements have or will be consulted on with local Ward Members at the time of undertaking to ensure they are appropriate to the needs of the local community. All caseworks relating to play equipment have been responded to as part of the first wave of the improvements.

**Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?**

All play equipment will be procured in line with the Council's Financial and Procurement Regulations.

**Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?**

The Play Service will continue to operate within its current industry practices, meeting British Standards.

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).

The questions above where the service has answered yes are explained below:

**Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?**

As the Play Area Improvement Programme is delivered consideration is given in each location to improving greater disability access. Many of the improvements already undertaken have included accessible play equipment where space allows and more is planned within the proposed improvements.

**Could the proposal affect service users?**

During the programme certain areas may be out of action while improvements take place. The service will aim for repairs and replacements to be undertaken as swiftly as possible with minimal disruption to the surrounding parkland.

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

The aim of the Play Area Improvement Plan is to ensure safe and easy access to high quality play provision within five minutes' walk for all children and young people. Ensuring all families have access to play provision locally promotes increased physical activity and

boots mental health and wellbeing. In addition, where space allows, a number of play areas have also received accessible play equipment to support greater disability access.

- **Key findings**

The Play Area Improvement Programme aims to make a positive contribution to localities across the borough with investment in 28 of the 35 play areas owned by the Council's Green Spaces service. Where space allows consideration has been given to the introduction of accessible play equipment ensuring that play is available for disabled children on their doorstep and integrated within the main play area.

The programme will ensure that play equipment is repaired or replaced to maintain the quality and quantity of equipment available to support healthy lifestyles in young people.

- **Actions**

The service will undertake the following actions:

- Assess each play area for the potential to incorporate accessible play as part of any repair or replacement programme
- Work closely with colleagues in Neighbourhoods and Elected Members to identify the most appropriate play equipment for local need.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2022
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Andy Lee, Green Spaces Manager

## 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Leanne Buchan	Head of Creative Programming & Engagement	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2022
Steve Eling	Policy & Equalities Manager	

## 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](mailto: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.

<b>Date screening completed</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2022
<b>Report title and date</b>	Play Area Improvement Plan
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	N/A
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2022