

Appendix 2A.

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: Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023-2026	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Housing Options
Lead person: Helen- Caulfield Browne	Contact: Helen.caulfield-browne@rotherham.gov.uk 01709 807831
Is this a:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy is revised every three years and the next version is due to be published in 2023 to cover the period of 2023-2026. The Strategy will set out the Council's priorities for homelessness across the Rotherham borough.

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

N/A

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?**

(think about the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)

The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy sets out the council's long-term vision for addressing the root causes of homelessness. The strategy seeks to develop a partnership approach to reducing homelessness over the next three years, working with all stakeholders and most importantly people who have experienced homelessness to develop effective solutions and to increase the range of available options. The revision of the strategy will affect all residents of the Rotherham Borough.

The revision of the strategy is data and evidence based; this includes using data collected to assess local demographics.

Sources of data include.

- HCLIC data (government reported data including homelessness approaches and cases data)
- RMBC Housing Register
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment
- Local population demographic data
- Data from Children and Adult Care Services

As part of our coproduction approach, we will engage with people who have lived experience of homelessness. There will be two different types of engagement methods to these sessions, one will be an art workshop, providing an opportunity to express thoughts and ideas through art and sharing their own homelessness journey and the other is structured 1-2-1 questions. We will also seek support from the voluntary sector who provide homelessness service provision to engage with people with lived experience and share their feedback.

We will be consulting with a range of partners and stakeholders as part of the codesign and consultation approach to be taken. This will include face to face and virtual engagement sessions.

We will also consult and engage with our internal partners and hold staff engagement

sessions.

A public consultation is set to be carried out with residents via an anonymous online survey and stakeholders will be consulted on the draft strategy and will be invited to comment during scheduled meetings.

The survey responses will be checked to ensure they are representative of the borough in terms of protected characteristics. And where a cross section of the community is underrepresented then additional surveys, or a focus group will be carried out.

- **Key findings**

(think about any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)

The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy's is aimed at improving homelessness services for all residents with housing or housing-related support needs. As such, no group or individual across Borough should be adversely affected or disadvantaged as a result of the strategy. The strategy will actively recognise the difficulties faced by those facing homelessness and rough sleepers in accessing services and promotes inclusion.

The vision of the Strategy is to end homelessness, make sure everyone has a place to call home and that the right support is in place at times of crisis to prevent homelessness from occurring. Homelessness can affect anyone therefore the strategy is inclusive of everyone and considers protected characteristics.

The Strategy will have a positive impact by breaking down some of the barriers that people face in accessing homelessness support, suitable and rapid housing solutions, ending rough sleeping and making welfare work.

The analysis of homelessness provisions by different groups will help ensure that the strategy has a positive impact across all communities and protected characteristics.

The Strategy will align with other key strategies and frameworks across the Council as part of the "One Council" approach. Such as the following:

- Council Plan and Year Ahead Plan
- Housing Service Plan
- Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Housing Strategy
- Financial Inclusion Strategy
- Tenant Engagement Framework

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions <i>(think about how you will promote positive impact and remove/reduce negative impact)</i> • Complete a full Equality Analysis • Ensure evidence used to shape the Strategy is reflective of local demographics • Monitor equality analysis over the life span of the Strategy to ensure actions are completed • Complete co-design with people with lived experiences • Complete consultations with the public 	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	13.06.22
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	15.08.22
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Helen Caulfield-Browne Housing Options, Operational Manager Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Directorate

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Sandra Tolley	Head of Housing Options Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Directorate	01/06/22

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	01-06-2022
Report title and date	Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleepers Strategy 203- 2026 Date: December 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	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	