

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 Duty Funding Proposals for the financial year 2024-25	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Community Safety
Lead person: Carol Adamson, Community Safety Service Manager	Contact: Carol Adamson, Community Safety Service Manager
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify Proposals for Domestic Abuse New Burdens Funding Allocation 2024-25	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced new requirements for local authorities in relation to domestic abuse services. As a result of the new requirements, the Government made new burdens funding available to Rotherham Council of £617,069 in the financial year 2021-2022 and £619,679 in 2022-2023. In December 2022, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) announced further

new burdens funding for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years of £632,075 and £644,001 respectively. This report sets out proposals for continuing allocation of funding to projects commissioned in 2023-24. The recommended proposals consider the Council’s statutory duty under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and the need to take longer term decisions to ensure best value for money and to provide the best chance of improving outcomes for victims of domestic abuse.

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?**

Yes - the services covered by these proposals affect anyone accessing safe accommodation as a result of Domestic Abuse from all protected characteristic groups.

The intended outcome is to enhance the support to victims-survivors of domestic abuse living in safe accommodation and to fund the additional management and administrative burden associated with the new DA Act 2021 statutory duty.

- **Key findings**

This report sets out proposals to continue the allocation of funding to projects commissioned in 2023-24. The recommended proposals consider the Council's statutory duty under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and the need to take longer term decisions in order to ensure best value for money and to provide the best chance of improving outcomes for victims of domestic abuse. The proposals prioritise projects previously identified as recurring projects.

- **Actions**

Project monitoring and performance management information for all projects is collated quarterly and reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Domestic Abuse Priority Group and Safer Rotherham Partnership Board as part of governance arrangements. Monitoring data is collected by protected characteristic group where appropriate and analysed for equality of access and outcomes.

A needs assessment was carried out that informed commissioning decisions in 2021 and will be refreshed and reported to DHLUC in 2024. Carrying out a needs assessment at 3-year intervals is a statutory duty under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and is designed to

facilitate local authorities to consider the specific accommodation-based support needs of all victims in the area, including those with particular protected characteristics, and/or multiple complex needs.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	12.12.23
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	12.12.23
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Carol Adamson Community Safety Service Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Emma Ellis	Interim Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services	

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	12.12.23
Report title and date	Domestic Abuse Duty Funding Proposals for the financial year 2024-25
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	15.12.23
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