

Appendix 1a.

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 considered 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: Future Rothercare Model	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Provider Services
Lead person: Deborah Ramskill	Contact: Deborah.ramskill@rotherham.gov.uk
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>Adult Social Care has an ambition to fully utilise the benefits and opportunities provided by assistive technology to enable individuals to live healthy, fulfilled, and independent lives within their homes.</p> <p>The Council intends to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase awareness of assistive technology and its benefits. · Explore new ways to support people to prevent, reduce and delay the need for formal care Expand the provision of assistive technology across formal and informal

care sectors.

- Develop a Strategy for Technology Enabled Care, to give a clear vision for provision of assistive technology in Rotherham.

Assistive Technology has a strong evidence base demonstrating its ability to increase wellbeing, reduce more costly health and care interventions and maintain people's independence for longer. Benchmarking against other local authorities has indicated that greater investment in assistive technology delivers significant efficiencies, especially in terms of cost avoidance (Local Government Association - LGA. 2018)

The Rothercare service has been reviewed and a proposed model will be presented to Cabinet on 16 September 2024.

This assessment is screening the potential impact - subject to Cabinet approving the new Rothercare business model, on people receiving the services and the staff delivering it. If approved a new provider will deliver parts of the service, whilst key elements of Rothercare will continue to be delivered in house, such as triage, monitoring and mobile response.

The proposed new model will have a clear focus on expanding the current Assistive Technology offer, allowing people to remain independent in their own home for longer. There is recognition the impact of digital inclusion needs to be considered and how it can be addressed.

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?	X	
Could the proposal affect service users?	X	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	X	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?	X	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	X	

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

A recent review of the Rothercare service has identified opportunities to address operational challenges and remodel the assistive technology offer to optimise success and cost avoidance.

This report follows a Cabinet Report presented on 22 January 2024, Digitalisation of the Rothercare Service. This report indicated a new strategic approach to delivering the Rothercare service would be presented to Cabinet in the Summer 2024.

At that time a 90-day public consultation took place between 5 August 2023 and 13 November 2023. The outcome of the consultation supported the Council’s strategic approach in relation to the digitalisation of the Rothercare service in response to the national digital agenda.

The consultation was accessible borough-wide in a range of formats, including online, public drop-in sessions and home visits for those who are most isolated. The consultation breadth covered all age ranges from 18 and above and was open to people with the full range of protected characteristics.

A range of engagement events have taken place to develop the new assistive technology model. These included health and social care practitioners, health professional, therapists and industry experts. These stakeholders represented a wide range of people accessing services, with protected characteristics.

A wider range of assistive technology will further support people to remain independent within their own property for longer. To achieve this vision their needs to be a significant increase in the technology deployed. Expanding the assistive technology offer is an

important step in supporting people with protect characteristics including people with disabilities including, mental ill health, learning disability, autism and prevent reduce and delay the need for more formal types of care to keep people independently in their communities as far as possible.

Changes to how the Rothercare and the assistive technology model is delivered will impact positively on people.

- **Key findings**

These proposals will affect people boroughwide in relation to support to live independently in their own homes, reassurance, and safety. Therefore, it is critical that the service is accessible affordable and operates using the most efficient systems and digital connectivity.

- **Actions**

The output of the previous formal, public consultation was acknowledged by Cabinet on 22 January 2024, see [Cabinet Report](#).

Full screening (Part B) will ensure the proposed model considers equality, diversity and inclusion.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis	05 May 2024
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	08 August 2024
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title)	Deborah Ramskill - Interim Head of Provider Services

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Cllr Baker-Rogers	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health	9 September 2024
Ian Spicer	Strategic Director, Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	6 September 2024

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	08 July 2024
Report title and date	Rothercare review and proposed business model
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Report date: 14 October 2024 Publication date: 30 September 2024
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	16 August 2024