

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: Children's Capital of Culture Family Learning Commissioning Community Grants	
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment	Service area: Creative Programming & Engagement; Culture, Sport & Tourism
Lead person: Lisa Howarth, Museums, Arts and Heritage Manager	Contact number: 01709 289882
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
Rotherham Museums, Arts and Heritage has by commissioned by Children's Capital of Culture set up a Family Learning Commissioning Panel to allocate commissions and grant funding to community organisations to deliver creative and play based approaches to intergenerational families in Rotherham. The funding for the panel is through a Children's Capital of Culture Arts Council Place Partnership bid for

Rotherham to deliver the festival year in 2025/2026. A total of £67,500 Arts Council funding was available to distribute to community groups through a grant programme.

The Commissioning panel was formed in January 2025 and brings together a representative of Rotherham community partners with knowledge of the priority needs of Rotherham families in all their diversity, an understanding of family learning principles and experience of delivering high quality activities. Panel members include RMBC Family Hubs, Grimm and Co, AGE UK Rotherham, Clifton Learning Partnership and Children, Young People and Families Consortium. Other panel members were invited to be part of the panel, but due to the required time commitment they were unable to form part of the core panel. The panel also includes two young people who have been recruited as part of the Children's Capital of culture programme. An independent chair has been brought in to support the panel, provide objective and perspective and ensure that the interests of all panel members are being considered.

The grants process was launched in April 2025 and included an open call application process which was open to all community groups who met the essential criteria. A lunch event in April 2025 provided community groups with the opportunity to receive support and guidance on the process. There were 26 applications were received from community groups across the borough which were considered by the panel on 4 June 2025. The applications were for activity across 12 wards.

It is recommended that:

1. To award one Family Learning Grants under £1,000 with a total value of £950 to support community event organisers to undertake activities in their locality.
2. To award seven Family Learning Grants of £2,500 - £5,000 with a total value of £25,830 to support community event organisers to undertake activities in their locality.
3. To award four Family Learning Grants of £5,000 - £10,000 with a total value of £34,122 to support community event organisers to undertake activities in their locality.

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?**

The funding is available through the Family Learning Commissioning Panel for Rotherham organisations to deliver creative and play based activities and programmes for intergenerational families. A paper based and digital application was shared to community groups for a closing date of 27 May 2025.

The grants have been made available borough-wide and communicated through community networks including:

- Posted weekly on Rotherham Museums, Arts and Heritage social media channels to 29,000 followers. Shared on Facebook to 55 Facebook Groups and Community Pages
- Posted regularly on Children’s Capital of Culture social media channels
- Shared through panel members networks and contacts
- A press release shared via Content Soup and RMBC Comms
- Published in the Rotherham Advertiser
- Published on the Children’s Capital of Culture Website
- Shared using the RMBC bulletin
- 750 Flyers were printed to advertise the Funding Programme and Launch Event which were distributed throughout the Rotherham Wards in over 50 locations.

A launch event on 22 April at Clifton Park Museum shared information about the grant application process and identified extra support that community organisations needed to apply. The Rotherham Museums, Arts and Heritage staff team were available throughout the application process to advise and support 28 community organisations to apply.

- **Key findings**

This was the first time that Rotherham Museums, Arts and Heritage service has worked with a panel to offer a community grants programme. As the lead for the panel, Rotherham Museums, Arts & Heritage service has undertaken extensive service transformation over the last three years with targeted groups to better understand their current levels of participation and engagement, representation within the collection and barriers that prevent greater levels of engagement. This insight and knowledge was used to ensure the grant programme reached communities with protected characteristics. The panel members were recruited to bring further inclusive community knowledge that was used to identify needs and potential grant recipients.

The service already had an EIA from previous ODRs, which forms the basis on the Part B for this assessment. The actions from this EIA will be added to the previous EIA action plan.

- **Actions**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners on the Family Learning Commission Panel to evaluate the grant process and identify the gaps within the programme to provide recommendations for future grants commissioning panels. Share this knowledge with cultural partners and RMBC colleagues who deliver community grants programmes. • Work with community partners to provide identified support and training to grant recipients to ensure they are able to improve their knowledge and skills to deliver intergenerational family learning programmes in the future. 	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	06.06.25
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	25.06.25
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Lisa Howarth Museums, Arts and Heritage 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	

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	25/06/25
Report title and date	Children's Capital of Culture Family Learning Commissioning Community Grants
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a	N/A

significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	19/06/25