

Appendix 2

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: Oaktrees Extra Care Scheme	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Adult Care and Integration
Lead person: Deborah Ramskill – Interim Head of Service, Provider Services	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>Oaktrees was built and developed as an Extra Care Housing scheme in 2006, by Together Housing, Housing Association. The scheme comprised a main building (referred to as the Resource Centre) which contained the typical communal facilities associated with an Extra Care Scheme and 8 individual flats. Adjacent to the Resource Centre are 20 bungalows.</p> <p>Following a fire risk assessment, it was determined that the building would pose significant risk to users and occupiers in the event of a fire. The Resource Centre was therefore closed by Together Housing on 30 October 2020.</p>

At the time, the Council's care and support team, which operated from the resource centre, were relocated to a nearby Extra Care Scheme at Bakersfield Court. Support to tenants has continued with staff travelling to the Oaktrees site if wellbeing visits or a call for assistance is required.

After further review and risk assessment in January 2023, Together Housing decided to permanently close the Resource Centre and in September 2023, Cabinet noted this decision and approved a change in the type of housing scheme from Extra Care to General Housing. Cabinet also approved the permanent change in service delivery to tenants of Oaktrees to an offsite, wrap around care and support service.

Together Housing will consult with tenants of the bungalows regarding the future use of the land.

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?

The individual social care needs of tenants continue to be supported along with regular communication and engagement.

Key findings

The current service delivery model continues to meet the care and support needs required by tenants which includes wellbeing calls, visits and emergency social care-related responses, as and when required.

A range of activities have been offered at the Bakersfield Court Extra Care Housing scheme and details of local community events have been shared with tenants.

Actions

Complete an Equality Analysis, Part B.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	4 June 2025
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	10 June 2025
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Deborah Ramskill, Interim Head of Service, Adult Care Provider Services

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Kirsty Littlewood	Assistant Director, Adult Care and Integration	14 August 2025

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	10 June 2025
Report title and date	Oaktrees Extra Care Scheme
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	13 October 2025
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	14 August 2025