

## APPENDIX 1

### 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		
<b>Title:</b> Local Authority Better Care Fund 2025/26 - Discharge Grant Commitments		
<b>Directorate:</b> Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	<b>Service area:</b> Strategic Commissioning	
<b>Lead person:</b> Scott Matthewman	<b>Contact:</b> Scott.Matthewman@rotherham.gov.uk	
Is this a:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
<b>If other, please specify</b>		
Schemes funded via the Local Authority Better Care Fund 2025/26 – Discharge Grant.		

### 2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

In January 2023, Central Government announced additional funding through a new £200m Discharge Grant for Local Authorities. The fund was intended to increase capacity in post discharge care and support, improve discharge performance, patient safety, experience and outcomes.

From 2025/26, the grant has been included in the Local Authority Better Care Fund at the same level as the 2024/25 allocation which is £3,383,583 for Rotherham.

However, in effect the fund that was the Discharge Grant no longer exists. The ringfence for the grant has been removed but national conditions and use of the funding still need to be reported through the Better Care Fund governance into the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England. This is executed through the Health and Wellbeing Board, Better Care Fund Partnership Agreement and Section 75.

The Cabinet report identifies a number of adult social care commitments that should continue to be delivered on a permanent basis due to the removal of the grant ringfence.

### 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?**

Equality, diversity and inclusion are fundamental principles of the Care Act 2014 and adult social care practice. Practitioners support people based on assessed need and ensure care and support plans are personalised and strength based – clearly focussed on outcomes people want to achieve in their daily lives.

- **Key findings**

The schemes are part of the broader portfolio of adult social care services. Quality assurance is embedded in practice with care and support plans focused on individual need. Care and support plans are reviewed to ensure they continue to meet need, are strength based and promote the ethos of personalisation.

- **Actions**

Continue to ensure care and support plans meet individual assessed need. Monitor and report on the profile of residents accessing care and support.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	9 December 2025
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	10 December 2025
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Scott Matthewman, Assistant Director, Strategic Commissioning, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

#### 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Ian Spicer	Strategic Director, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	17 December 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](mailto: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.

<b>Date screening completed</b>	10 December 2025
<b>Report title and date</b>	Local Authority Better Care Fund 2025/26 - Discharge Grant Commitments. Cabinet - 9 February 2026
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	Cabinet - 9 February 2026
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	10 December 2025