

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: RSCP Annual Assurance Report 2024/25	
Directorate: CYPS	Service area: Safeguarding
Lead person: Chris MacDonald, Head of Safeguarding	Contact: Chris.macdonald@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify: Annual Assurance Report	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 expect that each Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership publish an annual report by end September each year. The report should be transparent and easily accessible to families and professionals. The report should be shared with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the Department for Education within 7 days of publication.</p> <p>Governance and approval of the Annual Assurance Report is managed within the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership structures. Cabinet is asked to note the report. It is not a Council strategy or policy.</p>

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

Cabinet are being asked to simply note the report, and this is an annual assurance report as opposed to a policy or strategy, which means that there is no potential for impact on Council services or the public. The report itself has no implications for equality. All Council strategies and policies referred to within the Annual Assurance Report that required Cabinet approval were subject to an individual equality analysis.

The work of the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership has equality and diversity as a constant vein given the functions are to oversee the quality and effectiveness of professionals and agencies safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. There is a legislative and policy backdrop that sets these requirements, and the report covers the demographic data, including protected characteristics. The LSCP uses cross-organisational data to consider how safeguarding effectiveness and intervention interacts with protected characteristics.

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 work of the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership has equality and diversity as a constant vein given the functions are to oversee the quality and effectiveness of professionals and agencies safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. There is a legislative and policy backdrop that sets these requirements, and the report covers the demographic data, including protected characteristics. The LSCP uses cross-organisational data to consider how safeguarding effectiveness and intervention interacts with protected characteristics.

We also see and respond to disproportionality, such as:

- Romani children and young people are over-represented in children in care.
- Children are more likely to experience many forms of abuse than adults.
- Children with disabilities are more likely to experience many forms of abuse than children without a disability.
- Children from a BME background are more likely to have a Child Protection Plan, although there is variation within different communities.

- **Key findings**

The RSCP Annual Assurance Report is one of a number of methods that the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership utilises to promote quality and diversity through highlighting any areas of disproportionality or inequality in safeguarding systems. Within the report, there are sections which address demographic data and disproportionality.

The Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership, and the role and representation of the Council within RSCP, contributes to the Council's mission to reduce inequality and promote the rights of children and their families. Where children are more likely to be vulnerable or suffer harm, RSCP works to coordinate and oversee effective safeguarding systems for children, and where children and families may experience unequal outcomes, RSCP encourages and challenges all partner agencies to work together to address this.

- **Actions**

The Annual Assurance Report is provided to Cabinet to note. It has been finalised and it has been submitted to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the Department for Education.

Cabinet are being asked to simply note the report, and this is an annual assurance report as opposed to a policy or strategy, which means that there is no potential for impact on Council services or the public. The report itself has no implications for equality. All Council strategy and policy referred to within the Annual Assurance Report that required Cabinet approval was subject to an individual equality analysis.

Given this, there is no need for a Part B Equality Analysis.

The work of the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership has equality and diversity as a constant vein given the functions are to oversee the quality and effectiveness of professionals and agencies safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. There is a legislative and policy backdrop that sets these requirements, and the report covers the demographic data, including protected characteristics. The LSOP uses cross-organisational data to consider how safeguarding effectiveness and intervention interacts with protected characteristics.

The Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership will continue to coordinate arrangements to safeguard children and provide oversight and scrutiny, including analysis of disproportionality.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	See above
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	See above
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Chris MacDonald – Head of Safeguarding CYPS

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Nicola Curley	Executive Director of Children & Young Peoples Service	04.12.25

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.

Appendix 2

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	19 th September 2025
Report title and date	RSCP Annual Assurance Report For Cabinet February 2026
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	For Cabinet February 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	19/09/25