

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: The Safer Rotherham Partnership - Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy Refresh	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Community Safety
Lead person: Kayley Charlton	Contact: kayley.charlton@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Safer Rotherham Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy (2022–2027) is concluding earlier than planned due to successful delivery of its action plan, with key outcomes achieved and embedded into routine practice. A refreshed three-year strategy (2026 – 2029) has been developed in consultation with the Local Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership Board to ensure responsiveness to evolving needs. It incorporates commitments to address Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and aligns with the commissioning of the Domestic Abuse Support Service to maintain continuity and effectiveness. As such requires an Equality Impact assessment to assess its effects.

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 strategy is designed to support all individuals affected by Domestic Abuse, regardless of their protected characteristics. The strategy aims to ensure equitable access to support and interventions, with a focus on enhancing outcomes for all victim-survivors. Consideration has been given to inclusivity and the diverse needs of different communities through consultation and partnership working. With this, the strategy will be available online with access to translatable tools and an 'easy read' version of the strategy will be developed to ensure accessibility to anyone who is neurodiverse.

How equality and diversity have been considered:

Protected Characteristic	Consideration
Age	Any age can be affected by abuse; However, National Crime statistics show that abuse in younger people and single parents is disproportionately affected. Local data also shows a lack of reporting from older people (over 60). To consider these, Early Help involvement, a specific children and young people pathway for support, Operation Encompass and targeted campaigns are within the strategy. Specific targeting campaigns for older people along side work with Rotherham older people's forum are in place to ensure the right messages are delivered.
Disability	Victims with mental health needs or learning disabilities may face barriers to accessing support. to consider this Trauma-informed services, assertive outreach teams and specialist training for staff will be in place within the strategy
Gender	Women are disproportionately affected by domestic and sexual abuse. VAWG is now embedded in strategy; however, male victims are also supported through inclusive housing and outreach.
Gender Reassignment	Trans individuals may face discrimination or lack of tailored support. Inclusive service design and a range of training will be embedded in the strategy
Marriage/Civil Partnership	Abuse can occur within all relationship types. Strategy applies universally, with tailored support based on need.

Pregnancy/Maternity	Pregnant individuals may be at increased risk. Priority access to safe accommodation and health services will be given.
Race	BAME communities may face cultural and systemic barriers. Cultural narrative workshops delivered by “by and for” services will be delivered within the strategy
Religion/Belief	Faith-based stigma may prevent disclosure. Inclusive engagement and training for frontline staff will be delivered.
Sexual Orientation	LGBTQ+ individuals may face unique risks and underreporting. Inclusive campaigns, inclusive support pathways, staff training will be delivered.

• **Key findings**

The strategy and consultation process actively considered the needs of individuals across all protected characteristic groups, ensuring that services are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the diverse experiences of those affected by domestic abuse.

This collaborative approach ensured that priority areas and actions reflect the real-world needs of those affected by domestic and sexual abuse.

During the consultation process key findings and areas of development came to light which has led the strategy to ensure focus is given to:

- Children as victims in their own right. The strategy aims to strengthen support for children and families, with a focus on preventing intergenerational cycles of abuse.
- Homelessness Prevention. Thirteen dedicated properties and additional refuge units are established to support victim-survivors experiencing homelessness due to domestic abuse. Security enhancements are being installed to improve safety within the home, and families are receiving essential goods through the Homeless Prevention Fund to support stability and recovery.
- Workforce Development and Cultural Competency. Plans are in place to deliver cultural competency training specifically to frontline caseworkers, ensuring services are sensitive to the needs of diverse communities.

• **Actions**

In addition to actions taken within the strategy as shown in the above table, a comprehensive needs assessment was completed in March 2024, identifying several priority areas requiring a more targeted and inclusive approach. Key findings include:

- The need to establish a clear and accessible support pathway for children and young people affected by domestic abuse.
- The importance of embedding the voices of survivors and individuals with lived experience throughout the strategy’s development and implementation.

- The requirement to ensure appropriate support for individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), including proactive engagement with ‘by and for’ organisations that represent marginalised communities.
- The necessity of maintaining timely access to support services and safe accommodation for all individuals affected by domestic abuse

Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with service users, key stakeholders, and members of the public. These sessions provided valuable insights into public perceptions of domestic abuse, identified barriers to accessing support, and captured community views on priorities for addressing domestic and sexual abuse, including Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Performance Monitoring

Ongoing performance monitoring and data analysis continue to inform service delivery, highlight gaps, and support continuous improvement. Insights from this process are used to shape training, enhance service responsiveness, and ensure equitable access across all communities.

Strategic Action Plan

The strategy will be underpinned by a stakeholder-developed action plan, which will set out clear partnership responsibilities and accountability measures. This ensures that strategic aims are translated into tangible actions and outcomes.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	09.10.2025
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	09.10.2025
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Kayley Charlton Community Safety Officer

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Lisa Elliott	Strategic Commissioning Manager	22/10/2025
Emma Ellis	Head Of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services	22/10/2025

6. Publishing	
<p>This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Date screening completed	09.10.2025
Report title and date	The Safer Rotherham Partnership - Domestic and Sexual Offences/Abuse Strategy 04.02.2026
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Report date 04.02.2026 Cabinet date – 16.04.2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	22/10/2025