

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: Crisis and Resilience Fund	
Directorate: Policy, Strategy and Engagement	Service area: Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Lead person: Sunday Alonge	Contact: sunday.alonge@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
☐ Strategy / Policy	☒ Service / Function
☐ Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) has been made available to local authorities (LAs) in England to support low-income households who encounter a financial shock and to support activity that builds individual and community financial resilience. This funding covers the period of 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029. This includes specified funding for housing support. The CRF is classified as Local Welfare Provision (LWP) and could be used to enhance existing Local Welfare Assistance (LWA) schemes. However, it is not

Appendix 1

intended to replace existing LWA schemes, which play an important role as established discretionary crisis support mechanisms. Rotherham's CRF allocation for 2026/27 is £5.2m.

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		
N/A		

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**.

Appendix 1

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 report provides information on the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) which was announced in the June 2025 government spending review as a successor to the Household Support Fund (HSF). It will initially operate for three years, from April 2026 to March 2029. The fund is to be used to support vulnerable households in three main areas of Crisis Support, Resilience Services and Community Coordination.

Rotherham has been awarded £5.2m for the borough for the 2026/27 financial year. The report sets out specific proposals for use of the funding in 2026/27 and a broad approach to determining the best use of the funding over the full three years in order to support vulnerable individuals and households in the borough.

- **Key findings**

Addressing inequalities is central to the implementation of the CRF. Based on the guidance provided, the CRF will represent a significant evolution in the government's approach to local welfare provision. Building on the experience of HSF, the CRF introduces a more sustainable, integrated, and outcomes-focused framework that balances short-term crisis response with long-term financial resilience.

- **Actions**

A full equality analysis screening (Part B) has been carried out and attached.

To further ensure equality, diversity, and inclusion, consideration will be given to how the Council can deliberately target disadvantaged groups and those with protected characteristics in the implementation of the CRF, and to particularly target families with children who need crisis support to cope with the ongoing high cost-of-living.

Apart from crisis support, the CRF will offer free, confidential drop-in sessions, providing debt advice, energy-saving tips, and financial inclusion services in safe, welcoming spaces like local libraries and food banks. The aim will be to empower individuals to achieve financial stability and self-sufficiency. This is in line with the resilience services aspect of the CRF.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	March 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	March 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Michael Holmes, Policy and Strategy Officer

Appendix 1

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Michael Holmes	Policy and Strategy Officer	16 th March, 2026

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	16 th March 2026
Report title and date	Crisis and Resilience Fund
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 th April Cabinet meeting
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	16 th March 2026