

Appendix 3

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: Homelessness Prevention & Rough Sleeper Strategy Review and Consultation 2026-2031	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Housing Options
Lead person: Richard Leighton-Cox	Contact: 01709334598
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
This EIA is screening the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Review and Consultation for 2026-2031.
The current priorities set out in the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023-26 are
1. Make homelessness a rare occurrence by focusing on prevention and early intervention.

2. Minimise the use and improve the quality of temporary accommodation and end the use of hotels.
3. Increase access to affordable housing options.
4. Improve access to housing support, employment, and health services.
5. Support people with complex needs.
6. End rough sleeping in Rotherham.

The current Strategy was approved by Cabinet in March 2023 and published in April 2023. (3-year strategy). The Strategy is set to expire, necessitating a review and refresh. Under Section 1(1) of the 2002 Act, the Council is obligated to: (a) Conduct a homelessness review for their district. (b) Formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the review's findings.

Although significant progress has been achieved during the current strategy period, housing services have encountered new challenges related to the six priorities. These challenges include the continued cost-of-living crisis impacting households, a shortage of affordable housing, and changes in the private rental market.

A review of the existing strategy and understanding the current challenges, both nationally, regionally and locally will help to outline new priorities and initiatives to tackle homelessness more effectively, which will be reflected in the new proposed strategy.

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 review of the Strategy will consider the effects on different groups, particularly those protected under equality legislation. The aim will be to ensure that the new proposed strategy does not disproportionately disadvantage any group and actively promotes equality.

The review will assess the impact on various groups, including race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion, and other relevant characteristics, including victims of domestic abuse, individuals with multiple support needs, rough sleepers and those who may be more at greater risk of homelessness.

A data analysis will help to inform this review alongside the consultation.

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 Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Review and 2026-31 Consultation will have a positive Equalities and Diversity impact, as it will lay out the achievements and successes of the Strategy so far, whilst identifying key challenges and barriers to better support households at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping.

The Homelessness Code of Guidance, states that Housing authorities must consult public or local authorities, voluntary organisations, or other persons as they consider appropriate before adopting or modifying a homelessness strategy. It also states that Housing authorities may also wish to consult with service users and specialist agencies that provide support to homeless people in the district.

Best practice includes engaging with people with lived experience of homelessness. This was demonstrated in the development of the current Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023-2026 and will form part of the proposed strategy refresh. To ensure that the impact on Equality and Diversity are understood, an analysis of Homelessness Data submitted quarterly to central government has been undertaken to identify overrepresented groups within the homeless cohort. This will evidence how the Strategy will have a positive impact on protected characteristic groups. It is noted that limited information is available at this stage, and focuses on Age, Sexual Orientation and Ethnicity data recorded in Quarter 1, Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 of 2024/25.

- **Key findings**

Data shows that people aged 16-24, 25-34 and 35-44 are overrepresented in homeless data, compared to their prevalence in the general population of Rotherham. Those aged 16-24 made up 20.6% of homeless households between April and December 2024, compared to 10.7% of the population as per the 2021 UK Census (please note that census data records this age category as 15-24). Similarly, people aged 25-34 made up 31.6% of homeless households in the same time period, compared to 13.0% of the general population. People aged 35-44 made up 27.2% of homeless households, compared to 12.1% of the general population.

Data on Ethnicity shows that 72.7% of households that were assessed as homeless and owed a duty between April and December 2024 were White British, significantly lower than the 91.1% of the general Rotherham population recorded in the 2021 UK Census. 19.2% of homeless households were from BME backgrounds, compared to 8.9% of general population. This data demonstrates that people from BME backgrounds are overrepresented in homeless data in Rotherham.

Data on Sexual Orientation shows that 74.8% of homeless households owed a duty between April and December 2024 identified as being heterosexual/straight. This is a significant difference compared to the general Rotherham population of 91.6%. 4.7% of households identified as being LGBTQ+, higher than the general Rotherham population of 2.3%. 19.4% of homeless households recorded they preferred not to disclose their sexual orientation.

- **Actions**

- Completion of Part B of the Equalities Impact Assessment.
- Further research of local data regarding homelessness and rough sleeping in Rotherham
- Attain equalities data relating to homelessness in Rotherham through 2024/25.
- Attain further data to look into wider protected characteristics for full picture of equality impacts.
- Consider national and regional trends

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	02/06/2025
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	30/09/2025
/Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Richard Leighton-Cox Housing Options Development Officer

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Helen Caulfield-Browne	Housing Options Operational Manager	03/06/25
Kim Firth	Homeless Team Manager	04/06/25
Chloe Harrop	Corporate Improvement Officer	09/06/2025

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	02.06.2025
Report title and date	Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Review and Consultation 2026-31
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	02.06.2025

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics 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. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Review and Consultation 2026-2031	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 18/06/2025	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Housing Options
Lead Manager: Helen Caulfield-Browne	Contact number: 01709 807831
Is this a:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Richard Leighton-Cox	RMBC	Housing Options Development Officer
Helen Caulfield-Browne	RMBC	Housing Options Operational Manager
Kim Firth	RMBC	Homelessness Prevention and Resettlement Manager

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, other groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The Council has a statutory duty under the Homelessness Act 2002, as amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, to review homelessness in its area and to develop, publish, at least every five years. This duty is reinforced by the Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities, which sets clear expectations that local authorities must undertake a robust review of homelessness, informed by meaningful engagement with people affected by homelessness and those who work with them, and translate this evidence into a clear, actionable strategy.

The Code of Guidance is explicit that the review and development of a homelessness strategy should be comprehensive and inclusive. This may include engagement with individuals or groups identified by a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010, as well as other groups and stakeholders such as people with lived experience of homelessness, service users, employees, partner organisations, elected Members, and the wider community. The strategy must reflect local need, inequality, and risk, and demonstrate how homelessness will be prevented and rough sleeping reduced through partnership working and targeted intervention.

The new Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy is a key statutory document that sets out Rotherham’s vision for preventing homelessness and tackling rough sleeping. It provides a shared framework for action across the Council and its partners, setting out clear priorities, expected outcomes, and measures that will be used to monitor delivery and impact.

Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategies are designed to remove barriers to households affected by homelessness. The Strategy must ensure that the priorities, aims and objectives are relevant to the local and national context surrounding homelessness. Additional steer from the recently published Government Homelessness Plan helps to shape this approach, alongside a comprehensive consultation to ensure

lived experience of homelessness is incorporated. Below, the key priorities of the Strategy are outlined:

- Priority 1: Prevent homelessness through early, proactive intervention.
- Priority 2: Increase the of and access to suitable, affordable housing
- Priority 3: Ensure support reaches those most in need at the right time
- Priority 4: Tackle rough sleeping through prevention and rapid response

The Strategy outlines the Councils collaborative approach with partners to prevent homelessness earlier, reduce inequality, and provide timely, person-centred support. It also defines the processes for monitoring performance and reviewing progress to promote continuous improvement.

The Strategy has been shaped and developed following a public consultation that took place between July 2025 and the end of August 2025, alongside targeted engagement with partners and stakeholders. Feedback from people with lived experience of homelessness and frontline services has informed the strategic priorities and actions.

Relevant Legislative Framework

- **Homelessness Act 2002** – Requires local authorities to review homelessness in their area and publish a homelessness strategy at least every five years.
- **Homelessness Reduction Act 2017** – Strengthens prevention duties and requires earlier intervention and partnership working with public bodies to prevent homelessness.
- **Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities** – Sets out expectations for homelessness reviews and strategy development, including consultation, equality considerations, partnership working, and evidence-based action planning.

What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)

Equality data is available from homelessness information, sent to Central Government via HCLIC quarterly, the 2021 UK Census, information provided by respondents consenting to provide equalities information when completing the consultation survey and data reports based on information pulled from Homeless Advice Cases.

The below links are referenced for information source purposes:

- [UK census data - Office for National Statistics](#)
- [Tables on homelessness - GOV.UK - HCLIC data](#)
- [Rough Sleeping Data Framework, January to March 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Consultation

The Strategy has been shaped by an eight-week public consultation, which ran from 7 July to 1 September. A total of 203 responses were received, with 47% of respondents reporting lived experience of homelessness.

The feedback gathered through the consultation has provided valuable insight into the real barriers faced by people with lived experience in Rotherham. This has ensured that the Strategy's priorities are grounded in what residents identify as most important, reflecting both their needs and their experiences.

Participation in the consultation saw a total combination of 415 interactions, across survey responses, focus group sessions and other methods of engagement. The consultation was conducted in a semi-structured manner, a blend of structured questions and multiple-choice options with an opportunity for add additional comments to be feedback, as well as open discussions that formed the main parameters for discussion.

The consultation was structured to engage groups that often experience barriers to participation. This includes those that are most at risk of homelessness and individuals with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. A mixed method approach was used to reduce barriers to engagement and maximise participation. The main method of consultation was through the promotion of the online survey was via the Councils website, social media platforms and partner networks, however, to tackle barriers around digital exclusion, a broad range of in-person sessions were arranged at different locations such as food banks and support services, allowing people to share their views in safe, familiar setting. The details of the timeline of consultation engagement sessions and dates are listed in under section - ***Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings) – refer to page 14.***

Targeted focus groups and engagement delivered through partner organisations enabled stronger participation from groups who are often under-represented in formal consultations, including people with lived experience of homelessness. Alternative ways of providing feedback such as creative and artistic expression were also offered to ensure individuals could communicate their views in ways that felt accessible and meaningful.

This approach helped ensure that consultation responses reflected a wide range of experiences and perspectives, supporting the identification of key barriers, priorities, and areas for improvement. The survey included an optional question on equality and diversity; respondents were not required to provide this information. Targeted focus groups were also encouraged and supported to participate with the online survey.

HCLIC data (Homelessness Case Level Information Collection)

H-CLIC data is the national case-level dataset submitted by local authorities in England to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. It is used to monitor statutory homelessness and local authority duties under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

In relation to protected characteristics, these datasets include information on age, ethnic background, and sexual orientation for individuals who presented to the Council as homeless between April 2022 and March 2025.

UK Census Data 2021

Data collected during the 2021 UK Census can be used to provide further supporting evidence in overrepresentation of certain protected characteristics within people

presenting as homeless in Rotherham. The data can be used as a rough indicator, as the data is not directly comparable due to a change in population year on year. The tables below provide a breakdown of the data that is available that can be used to better understand the impacts on different protected characteristics.

Homeless Advice Cases data (internal data)

Homeless households that approach the Council will have an Advice Case opened to record information provided by the household and advice given by the relevant officer. Information stored has been pulled into an overview summary, giving better context to the range of support needs that are prevalent within the homeless cohort by year of presentation. This information can be used where appropriate. The datasets do include all households who have a homeless assessment completed. This includes households who were not owed a homeless duty by the Council. The data can be used to support evidence of need, growing demand or prevalence of certain groups.

Protected characteristic	Evaluation
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<p>Age</p>	<p>HCLIC Age data is available from 2022/23 through to 2024/25. Across the 3-year period, 20.3% (863) people aged between 16-24 were owed a duty under homeless legislation as a result of presenting to the Council as homeless. People aged 65+ made up 3.1% (132) of the homeless cohort across the 3-year period. The largest cohort group by age was people aged 25-34, making up 32.2% (1,386) of homeless households. Households aged 35-44 made up 26.4% (1,123) of households, with 12.1% (515) being aged between 45-54. The final group of people aged 55-64 made up 5.9% (252) of homeless households in Rotherham.</p> <p>The 2021 UK Census data provides the following breakdown of information on age of Rotherham residents.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="608 1449 1477 1792"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="608 1449 1018 1485">Age</th> <th data-bbox="1018 1449 1477 1485">Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1485 1018 1523">16-24</td> <td data-bbox="1018 1485 1477 1523">13.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1523 1018 1561">25-34</td> <td data-bbox="1018 1523 1477 1561">15.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1561 1018 1599">35-44</td> <td data-bbox="1018 1561 1477 1599">14.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1599 1018 1637">45-54</td> <td data-bbox="1018 1599 1477 1637">16.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1637 1018 1675">55-59</td> <td data-bbox="1018 1637 1477 1675">8.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1675 1018 1713">60-64</td> <td data-bbox="1018 1675 1477 1713">7.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1713 1018 1751">65-74</td> <td data-bbox="1018 1713 1477 1751">12.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1751 1018 1789">75+</td> <td data-bbox="1018 1751 1477 1789">11.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A comparison of the datasets shows that those aged 25-34 are overrepresented in homelessness data, as they are not the largest population group in the general population.</p> <p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy</p>	Age	Percentage	16-24	13.0%	25-34	15.8%	35-44	14.7%	45-54	16.5%	55-59	8.5%	60-64	7.5%	65-74	12.9%	75+	11.0%
Age	Percentage																		
16-24	13.0%																		
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65-74	12.9%																		
75+	11.0%																		

	<p>2026-2031 anticipates no expected or possible negative impacts.</p>																
<p>Ethnic background</p>	<p>HCLIC data on ethnic background across the 3-year period shows that 72.3% of households owed a homeless duty in Rotherham were White British. The second highest group in terms of prevalence were households identifying as Asian or Asian British, accounting for 8.8% of homeless households. Overall, 19.5% of homeless households in Rotherham were from different Ethnic Minority Backgrounds.</p> <p>The 2021 UK Census data provides the following breakdown of the Ethnic Background of Rotherham residents.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="608 712 1476 1093"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="608 712 1043 752">Ethnic background</th> <th data-bbox="1043 712 1476 752">Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 752 1043 792">White</td> <td data-bbox="1043 752 1476 792">91.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 792 1043 864">Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups</td> <td data-bbox="1043 792 1476 864">1.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 864 1043 936">Black African, Caribbean, Black British</td> <td data-bbox="1043 864 1476 936">1.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 936 1043 976">Prefer not to say</td> <td data-bbox="1043 936 1476 976">0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 976 1043 1016">Other Ethnic Group</td> <td data-bbox="1043 976 1476 1016">1.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1016 1043 1057">Not known</td> <td data-bbox="1043 1016 1476 1057">0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1057 1043 1093">Asian or Asian British</td> <td data-bbox="1043 1057 1476 1093">5.3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Comparison of the data shows that people from ethnic backgrounds are overrepresented in homelessness data, compared to the overall population of Rotherham.</p> <p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 anticipates no expected or possible negative impacts.</p>	Ethnic background	Percentage	White	91.0%	Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups	1.4%	Black African, Caribbean, Black British	1.1%	Prefer not to say	0%	Other Ethnic Group	1.1%	Not known	0%	Asian or Asian British	5.3%
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<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>HCLIC data is available on sexual orientation, however, the recording metric changed between 2022/23 and 2023/24 to include a separate recording for people identifying as bisexual. In 2022/23, 61.2% of households were recorded as being heterosexual/straight, with 1.7% recorded as homosexual (gay/lesbian). 24.7% of households were recorded as Other, with a further 11.9% stating they preferred not to say. Across 2023/24 and 2024/25, 76.7% of households were recorded as heterosexual/straight. 4.8% were recorded as being homosexual, bisexual or other, with 18.1% stating they preferred not to say.</p> <p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 anticipates no expected or possible negative impacts.</p>																

<p>Gender</p>	<p>HCLIC data shows that across the 3-year period of 2022/23 to 2024/25, the gender split shows an average figure of 55.1% of homeless cases were for males. It is worth noting however, that this data only captures the lead applicants gender.</p> <p>The 2021 UK Census data provides the following breakdown of the gender split of Rotherham residents.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="608 521 1477 636"> <thead> <tr> <th>Gender</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>49%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 anticipates no expected or possible negative impacts.</p>	Gender	Percentage	Female	51%	Male	49%																
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<p>Religion</p>	<p>The 2021 UK Census data provides the following breakdown of the religion of Rotherham residents.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="608 931 1477 1391"> <thead> <tr> <th>Religion</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>None</td> <td>39.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christianity (all denominations)</td> <td>49%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muslim</td> <td>5.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prefer not to say</td> <td>5.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Any other religion</td> <td>0.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hindu</td> <td>0.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sikh</td> <td>0.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buddhist</td> <td>0.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jewish</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unknown</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 anticipates no expected or possible negative impacts.</p>	Religion	Percentage	None	39.8%	Christianity (all denominations)	49%	Muslim	5.1%	Prefer not to say	5.2%	Any other religion	0.4%	Hindu	0.3%	Sikh	0.2%	Buddhist	0.2%	Jewish	0%	Unknown	0%
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None	39.8%																						
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Sikh	0.2%																						
Buddhist	0.2%																						
Jewish	0%																						
Unknown	0%																						
<p>Disabled under the Equality Act 2010</p>	<p>The 2021 UK Census data provides the following breakdown of Rotherham residents who are disabled under the Equality Act 2010.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="608 1682 1477 1839"> <thead> <tr> <th>Disabled under the Equality Act</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>21.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>78.9%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 anticipates no expected or possible negative impacts.</p>	Disabled under the Equality Act	Percentage	Yes	21.1%	No	78.9%																
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No	78.9%																						

Transgender	<p>Data on transgender households is available for April 2024 to March 2025, as it was not mandatory to report this information in the previous years. The data shows 1.4% of households presenting as homeless in this time period identified as being transgender.</p> <p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 anticipates no expected or possible negative impacts.</p>
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Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?

Using the data provided in the consultation, Census data, HCLIC data and Homeless Advice Case data, a wide range of comprehensive data is available to help understand who the policy is seeking to support. The various datasets also provide a good level of context to the varying needs, patterns of change over a 3-year period and where certain groups or protected characteristics might be overrepresented within the local population of households who have experienced homelessness.

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

The Strategy is designed to be inclusive of all protected characteristics. Its central aim is to improve outcomes for all households in Rotherham affected by homelessness, ensuring that support is accessible, fair, and responsive to the diverse needs of the population.

To ensure this commitment is delivered in practice, the Strategy will be supported by a cross-service action plan and overseen through a tiered governance structure. This structure will provide regular and robust monitoring to identify whether any groups with protected characteristics are disproportionately affected or face barriers in accessing support.

Regular monitoring will include consideration of:

- Progress against the cross-service action plan
- Achievement of key milestones within the Strategy
- Performance against measurable indicators related to homelessness prevention and relief
- Identification of emerging risks, barriers, or inequalities, particularly for groups statistically at higher risk of homelessness
- Feedback from service users, frontline staff, and partner organisations, helping to highlight lived experience and any differential impacts

Governance Structure:

- Homelessness Operational Board – Quarterly
- Homelessness Strategic Board – Quarterly
- Homelessness Forums – Biannually

Use of Data and Insight

Analysis of homelessness data, led by the Homelessness Team Manager with support from the Performance Team, will monitor trends and patterns in service demand. This analysis enables early identification of shifts that may disproportionately affect particular groups or communities according to their protected characteristics. Where such patterns emerge, the service will respond proactively for example, through targeted prevention activity or tailored support offers.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)

Overall, 212 people engaged in the different sessions delivered during the consultation.

Organisation	Date
Housing Options – RMBC	July 2025
Shiloh*	July 2025
Rotherham Homeless Forum	July 2025
Strategic Housing Forum	July 2025
Safeguarding Board – RMBC	July 2025
Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance (REMA)	July 2025
Action Housing Breakfast Club (supported housing)	July 2025
Social supermarket	July 2025
Shiloh	August 2025
Queen Street rough sleeper hostel	August 2025
Homeless strategic board	August 2025
RMBC employee session	August 2025
Young People’s focus group (Rush House & Roundabout)	August 2025
Elliot Court (supported housing)	August 2025
Social supermarket	August 2025
Armed Forces Covenant	August 2025
RMBC employee session	August 2025
*Rotherham Show	September 2025
*Rotherham Mental Health, Learning Disability and Neurodiversity transformation group	November 2025

**Represents valued feedback received after the formal consultation period*

Refer to page 9, which provides a summary of the findings through engagement sessions.

203 completed survey responses were received also. The summary of findings from the consultation are outlined below:

The Vision

89.8% of respondents agreed that the current vision remains relevant for the 2026–2031 strategy. Residents, people with lived experience, and professionals all showed strong support, emphasising partnership working, affordable housing, and appropriate support as the core approach to preventing homelessness and improving outcomes.

This aligns closely with feedback from the Rotherham Homeless Forum and Housing Options staff, further confirming that the vision remains fit for purpose.

Additional suggested themes for the vision included:

- Stronger partnership working and communication
- Respectful, empathetic approaches
- Focus on tenancy sustainment
- More specialist supported accommodation
- Better staff training
- More affordable housing options
- Improved access to early advice and information

These suggestions provide evidence for future workstream's and priorities aimed at improving tenancy sustainability.

Priorities

Respondents identified five key strategic priorities:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Increasing access to affordable housing
- Better coordinated support for homeless households and rough sleepers
- Ensuring homelessness is brief and not repeated
- A joined-up approach for people with complex needs

These priorities closely reflect the current strategy and were reinforced through stakeholder sessions with the Rotherham Homeless Forum and Housing Options service.

Main barriers

Understanding barriers helps shape future service delivery. Respondents highlighted key issues including:

- Lack of affordable housing, cost of living pressures, and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> limited employment • Insufficient support services • Addiction and mental health problems • Domestic abuse • Difficulties obtaining ID/documentation • Language, technology, and information access barriers <p>Stakeholder organisations reported similar themes, indicating consistent challenges across the borough.</p> <p>Solutions to mitigating barriers</p> <p>To address these barriers, respondents suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger relationships with private landlords • Developing more social housing • Improving accommodation options • Better cross-partner collaboration • Person-centred approaches • Enhanced support for managing complex needs <p>These solutions highlight the need for a coordinated, borough-wide approach involving the council, partners, voluntary sector, and community organisations.</p> <p>Accessing affordable housing</p> <p>Respondents stressed that improved access to affordable housing across social housing, private rent, supported accommodation, and affordable ownership is key to meeting local needs. Better access to support services was also seen as crucial for tenancy sustainment, preventing homelessness, and ensuring timely interventions.</p>
<p>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p>	<p>Staff from across RMBC were invited to a session to understand more about the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy consultation. The session included an overview of the legal requirements, what the consultation will seek to achieve and an understanding of key achievements, data and challenges since 2022.</p> <p>Engagement included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Options Staff Session – 02.07.25 • Council-wide online session – 08.08.25 • Strategic Housing Forum – 07.07.25 • Rotherham Safeguarding Board 0 16.07.25 • Homeless Strategic Board – 06.08.25 <p>The feedback received helped to shape the key priorities, ensure the vision remains relevant and that strategy is values-led.</p>

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?

No problems or barriers to communities or groups has been identified.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?

The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy has a positive impact by promoting inclusive, accessible, and preventative homelessness services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and others identified as vulnerable through homelessness legislation. This includes families with children, pregnant people, care leavers, victims of domestic abuse, people affected by mental or physical health needs, older age or disability, people with experience of the criminal justice system or armed forces, and those who lose their home due to an emergency.

The Strategy identifies and supports practical solutions to remove barriers that can prevent households from accessing help at the earliest opportunity, including systemic, communication, and engagement barriers. It promotes early intervention and targeted prevention for groups most at risk, such as young people, care leavers, LGBTQ+ individuals, survivors of domestic abuse, people leaving institutions, former members of the armed forces, and those with complex needs. Where homelessness cannot be prevented, the Strategy seeks to reduce the risk of repeat homelessness through timely, coordinated, and person-centred support, helping people to secure and sustain suitable accommodation.

The Strategy takes a flexible and adaptive approach that recognises the changing nature and complexity of homelessness, including shifts in need and changes in the characteristics of households affected. A key priority focuses on providing timely and effective support for vulnerable households to prevent escalation of need and improve outcomes.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy is designed to have a positive effect on community relations by promoting early intervention, inclusion, and fair access to support for people at risk of homelessness across Rotherham. By focusing on

prevention and reducing repeat homelessness, the Strategy supports improved stability for individuals and families, which in turn contributes to safer and more cohesive communities.

The Strategy emphasises partnership working between the Council, statutory services, voluntary and community sector organisations, and people with lived experience of homelessness. This collaborative approach supports shared understanding of homelessness, reduces stigma, and encourages constructive engagement between services, communities, and those affected by homelessness.

Targeted support and increased access to information for groups most at risk, alongside ongoing engagement with diverse communities, helps ensure that the needs of different groups are recognised and addressed fairly. This approach, promotes equality, and strengthens community confidence in how homelessness is prevented and managed locally.

Improving the Boroughs availability of good quality, affordable housing will enable more long-term, sustainable outcomes to be achieved. This considers affordable rents, supported accommodation and better financial opportunity for households in the borough, enabling tenancy sustainment and community cohesion.

Having a responsive framework towards rough sleeping, alongside improved early intervention and prevention, will improve not only individual outcomes around health, housing and wellbeing, but also improve public perceptions around homelessness, issues identified around community safety and image of the town centre.

The Strategy aligns with relevant local plans and policies ensuring that Rotherham's approach reflects both local priorities direction.

- [Council Plan – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)
- [Rotherham Housing Strategy – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)
- [Housing Allocation Policy – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

Title of analysis: Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031
Directorate and service area: Adult Care, Housing & Public Health
Lead Manager: Helen Caulfield-Browne – Operational Manager Kim Firth – Homelessness Manager
Summary of findings:
<p>Different data streams have been analysed in line with the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy, including HCLIC submission data, Advice Case data, Consultation data and UK Census data. This is to provide a comprehensive understanding into the reasons for homelessness, the support needs amongst the cohort and to understand the demographic/equality information. Despite the varying forms of data, we do not hold a full picture of the protected characteristics amongst the homeless cohort in Rotherham between 2022/23 and 2024/25; this is due to changes in the requirements of recording and the appropriateness of capturing certain personal information.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the Strategy, no negative impacts or barriers have been identified. The Strategy aims to be inclusive and seeks to remove barriers to homelessness services and support across the Borough, including groups that are considered to be harder to reach or marginalised.</p>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Ensure regular monitoring of homelessness data is undertaken to identify changes and trends, which may specifically impact a certain protected characteristic group.	All	Annually
Ensure that key issues that are identified regarding homelessness in Rotherham are raised through the appropriate Governance channels and escalated as necessary, to mitigate and reduce harm.	All	Quarterly and annually

***A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.

Name	Job title	Date
Cllr Linda Beresford	Cabinet Member for Housing	25 th March 2026
Ian Spicer	Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	27 th March 2026

7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this Equality Analysis 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 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 Equality Analysis completed	05.01.2026
Report title and date	Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	23/02/2026 – approved 26.02.26

Failure to delivery the aims of the Strategy may however have consequences for particular cohort groups in Rotherham. Comparing homelessness data against the 2021 UK Census, it shows that households identifying as Asian or Asian British are overrepresented. This highlights the importance of the governance process overseeing the delivery and management of the Strategy, alongside key external partners.