

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

1. Title	
Title: Children's Strategy	
Directorate: Children and Young People's Services	Service area: Commissioning, Quality and Performance
Lead person: Helen Sweatton	Contact number: 07554436546
Is this a:	
☒ Strategy / Policy	☐ Service / Function
☐ Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
In July 2025 the Children and Young People's Partnership Board agreed to develop a strategy that shows how important children and young people are in Rotherham, what is great about Rotherham (from a children and young people's perspective) and what we are doing to make it even better. The Children and Young People's Strategy 2026 – 2030 sets the key aims for the Children and Young People's Partnership Board and provides an opportunity for children and young people to show why they are proud to live in Rotherham and how important they are.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity		
This strategy reflects Rotherham's unwavering commitment to children and young people, describing the way the partnership works with children and young people, moving away from consultation to shared power, young people are not just heard, they influence and shape strategic decisions at system level. The Children and Young People's Partnership Board brings together a vibrant and diverse range of children and young people from a variety of council and voluntary and community sector groups including Youth Cabinet, Young Inspectors, SEND Guiding Voices, LGBTQ groups, and care-experienced young people. This supports the consideration of equality and diversity during delivery of the aims of the strategy e.g. when the Board provides support and challenge to Officers responsible for the delivery of plans across the Borough.		
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

Equality and human rights are considered within the strategy. Part A Equalities Screening is attached as appendix 2.

How have you considered equality and diversity?

Rotherham's estimated population is 271,195 with 47,100 children (under 15) and 68,600 over 60s. On the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD 2019) Rotherham ranks as the 35th most deprived upper tier local authority in England out of a total of 151 authorities. 35% of Rotherham's neighbourhoods live in the 20% most deprived in England, and 22% live in the 10% most deprived. No neighbourhoods in Rotherham are in the least deprived 10%

Health inequalities are unfair and avoidable differences in health across the population, and between different groups within society. Health inequalities arise because of the conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age. People with protected characteristics can face additional health inequalities.

These conditions influence our opportunities for good health, and how we think, feel and act, and this shapes our mental health as well as our physical health and wellbeing.

31,193 people are from minority ethnic groups (11.7% of the population). Of these the Pakistani community is the second largest ethnic group in Rotherham after White British. 19.4% of Rotherham's school age population is from ethnic minorities background (England 35.1%) (DfE 2020/21).

23% of children live in low-income families (England 18%). Our Free School Meals (FSM) entitlement rate is above the English national average (23.8% compared to 21.6% at Primary, 21.4% compared to 18.9% at Secondary – DfE 2020/21).

The results from the 2025 Lifestyle Survey (a survey completed by children in years 7 and 10) shows that 46.9% said they ate fruit and/or vegetables more than once per day, 17.3% of students said they never eat breakfast, 12.9% drink one high-sugar fizzy drink per day, 28.2% drink one high-energy drink per week. 62.8% of children completing the survey rated their mental health as either excellent or good, 58.5% said "I am comfortable with my body image" and 39.8% have been bullied in the past 6 months. and 10.7% have either used or created a betting account

Under 64.5% of children under 5 at a good level of development. The Best Start Plan aims to increase this to 73.3% by 2028.

70% of Rotherham is open countryside. Rotherham has lots of green space, including urban and country parks, nature reserves and woodlands.

There were 4 million visits to Rotherham's attractions last year, including Wentworth Woodhouse, Gulliver's Valley, and Magna. Rotherham has a strong voluntary and community sector. There are around 1,400 Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations in Rotherham, and tens of thousands of volunteers.

Key findings

Rotherham Together Partnership wants Rotherham to be a great place to grow up, where children and young people have the best chance to reach their full potential. This will mean that children grow up happily, safe, in good health and develop the skills and qualifications they need to be successful. The Strategy articulates how we will ensure children and young people are involved in strategic decision-making influencing plans to make Rotherham even better for children and young people.

In recognition of the population demographic in Rotherham the Children and Young People's Partnership Board will continue to actively encourage participation from members that reflect the population seeking representation from diverse groups and communities including Youth Cabinet, Young Inspectors, SEND Guiding Voices, LGBTQ groups, care-experienced young people and young adults and voluntary and community sector groups in underrepresented communities.

Health inequalities are unfair and avoidable differences in health across the population, and between different groups within society. Health inequalities arise because of the conditions that influence a person's actions and opportunities for good mental and physical health.

The strategy articulates how the Children and Young People's partnership Board will influence the activity already underway to improve the Borough for children and young people (including those with protected characteristics).

Universal youth provision is available to all children and young people, and delivery takes place across the Borough, the grant award process is designed to encourage engagement from underrepresented groups. Improving the available information to help children and young people to make healthy choices and support community inclusion should benefit children and young people accessing universal and targeted youth provision.

Improving communication to children and young people should raise awareness and improve access to green spaces, events and attractions for all children and young people (including those with protected characteristics) should improve the available opportunities to support good mental and physical health.

Actions

Continue to deliver a robust universal youth offer to promote engagement with children and young people (including those with protected characteristics)

Monitor attendance at Children and Young People's Partnership Board to ensure it continues to be representative of the population demographic and include children and young people with protected characteristics.	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	14/05/2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	14/05/2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Helen Sweaton, Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Quality and Performance

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	Job title	Date
Nicola Curley	Director of Children's Services	21 st August 2026
Cllr Cusworth	Cabinet Member Children and Young People's Services	8 th September 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	14/05/2026
Report title and date	Children and Young People's Strategy
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	12 October 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	25 June 2026