Appendix 2

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. Part A status for this report: to be confirmed.

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: Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Assurance Report 2025-26	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 08.10.2026	
Directorate: Children and Young People's Services	**Service area: Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Learning**
Lead Manager: Vicky Chew	**Contact number: Vicky.chew@rotherham.gov.uk**
Is this a: **Other: Annual assurance report**	

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)**
Vicky Chew	RMBC – CYPS	Head of Safeguarding
Lee Durrant	RMBC – CYPS	Service and Business Manager Safeguarding Unit
Chris Seekings	RMBC – Performance	Data Analyst

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)

The report describes the safeguarding activity, assurance and partnership priorities of the RSCP during 2025–26. It is addressed to partners, decision-makers and the public. It does not itself change eligibility for services or make an individual decision about a child or family. Its purpose is to provide transparency, evidence progress and identify areas where partners need to improve safeguarding responses for children and young people in Rotherham.

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

The report brings together local performance information, audit findings, subgroup updates and partner contributions. It reports, among other matters, safeguarding activity, education and children out of sight, neglect, exploitation, quality assurance, learning and the voice of children and families. It identifies rising numbers of children electively home educated and emerging concerns about children missing education and NEET. It also recognises deprivation as a factor that can increase vulnerability to exploitation.

The report describes plans to strengthen children's influence, including presenting the report to Young Inspectors and developing further scrutiny and engagement arrangements in 2026–27. The report does not provide a complete partnership-wide analysis of access, experience or outcomes by all protected characteristics.

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?

The report does not provide a consistent multi-agency baseline showing safeguarding access, timeliness, experience and outcomes by protected characteristic. Information on disability, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, religion or belief, sexual orientation and socio-economic circumstances is not consistently presented across all workstreams.

Children's feedback and lived experience are not yet embedded in every area of partnership assurance. The available information may therefore identify overall trends without showing whether particular groups experience different barriers or outcomes.

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

The RSCP will monitor the priorities and improvement activity described in the annual report through partnership performance information, audits, subgroup reporting and scrutiny. Where lawful, proportionate and statistically meaningful, partners should disaggregate information by relevant protected characteristics and review differences in identification, access, timeliness, experience and outcomes.

Children's feedback, complaints, audit findings and service-user experience should inform the annual assurance cycle. Material gaps or unequal outcomes should be escalated through the relevant partnership governance arrangements.

Engagement undertaken with customers (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	The report records planned engagement for 2026–27, including presenting the annual report to Young Inspectors and developing children's participation in partnership scrutiny. It also identifies consultation and engagement linked to the Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and Families First Partnership Programme. These are recorded as planned activity; this analysis does not treat them as completed consultation on the annual report. Existing feedback and learning from children and families are reflected in the report, but a consistent account of engagement by protected characteristic is not available.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	The report draws on contributions from RSCP partners and subgroups, performance information, audits, review learning and practice updates. It describes multi-agency work across safeguarding, education, health, police and community settings. The report does not provide a separate staff consultation log for this equality analysis; contributors and the process used to review this analysis should be confirmed before publication.

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?

The annual report supports equal access to protection and support by making partnership activity, emerging needs and improvement priorities visible. It recognises that children who are out of sight of universal services, including some children who are electively home educated, missing education or NEET, may need additional safeguarding attention. It also highlights the importance of children's voice, accessible support and partnership working. A child-friendly or accessible summary would help make the report's findings more available to children and families.

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

The report is a long, technical document and may be difficult for children, some families and people with literacy, language, communication or accessibility needs to use. If data is not routinely disaggregated, the partnership may miss unequal identification, access or outcomes. Children who are less visible to universal services may be under-represented in performance and engagement information. Reporting deprivation alongside exploitation also needs careful wording so that communities are not stigmatised.

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

The report provides a shared account of progress and areas for improvement, supporting scrutiny and coordinated action across agencies. Its focus on children out of sight, exploitation, neglect, education and children's voice can help partners identify barriers and strengthen support. The planned presentation to Young Inspectors and the development of children's scrutiny arrangements offer opportunities to make future assurance more accessible and informed by lived experience.

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 intended effect is positive because the report promotes shared responsibility and transparent scrutiny. There is a risk that communities facing deprivation, or particular groups of children, could be described mainly through risk or deficit. The report and any summary should use balanced, non-stigmatising language, explain the limits of the available data and include children's strengths, views and experiences wherever possible.

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: Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Assurance Report 2025-26
Directorate and service area: Children and Young People's Services – Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Learning
Lead Manager: Vicky Chew (to confirm)
Summary of findings:
The annual report is expected to have a positive equality impact by supporting transparency, scrutiny and improvement across the safeguarding partnership. It does not itself change services or individual entitlements. It highlights children who may be less visible to universal services and the need to strengthen children's voice and influence. The main equality limitation is that the report does not provide a consistent multi-agency picture of access, experience and outcomes by protected characteristic. Accessible communication, stronger lived-experience evidence and proportionate disaggregated monitoring should be built into the 2026–27 assurance cycle. Names of contributors and governance approvals remain to be confirmed.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Agree how the RSCP annual assurance cycle will identify and report material differences in access, experience and outcomes by protected characteristic, where data is lawful and meaningful.	**A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO, PM, CPM, C, O**	**During 2026–27**
Develop an accessible child-friendly summary of the annual report and use Young Inspectors or existing participation arrangements to gather feedback on its findings.	**A, D, RE, C, O**	**During 2026–27**
Strengthen routine recording of children's views and lived experience within audit, subgroup and partnership assurance activity.	**A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO, C, O**	**During 2026–27**

Review whether children who are electively home educated, missing education or NEET are represented in relevant safeguarding assurance and engagement activity.	**A, D, RE, C, O**	**During 2026–27**
Review equality evidence, feedback and actions during preparation of the next RSCP annual report.	**All**	**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
Vicky Chew	RSCP governance lead	14 October 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	08.10.2026 (draft)
Report title and date	Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Assurance Report 2025-26 (publication date to be confirmed)
Publication and equality submission dates	14 October 2026