

## 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: New Application for Business Rates Discretionary Hardship Relief for Singhs Medical Ltd**

**Directorate: Finance and Customer Services**

**Service area: Financial Services**

**Lead person: Graham Saxton**

**Contact number: 01709 822034**

Is this a:

☐

**Strategy / Policy**

☐

**Service / Function**

☒

**Other**

**If other, please specify**

**Cabinet Report to consider an application for the award of a Business Rates Hardship Relief**

### 2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The report presents an application for the award of a Business Rates Hardship Relief which has been considered in line with the policy agreed by Cabinet on 12

December 2016.

### 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? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	✓	
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	✓	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>	✓	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>	✓	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		✓
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		✓
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?**

Information provided on the application form and evidence provided by the applicant has been reviewed alongside information that is already within the Adult Care, Housing and Public Health directorate.

- **Key findings**

The pharmacy is on Flanderwell Lane, serving the areas of Flanderwell and Sunnyside with opening hours from 9am to 6pm. The area has pockets of deprivation and might have households who do not have access to a private car. The area has a good bus service and on the street where the pharmacy is located there is a bus stop with buses that go to areas where alternative pharmacies are located.

There are a number of pharmacies on the edge of Flanderwell and Sunnyside, 4 pharmacies within a 1 mile distance and a further pharmacy 1.2 miles away that cover these opening hours and extended hours. A mile walking distance is used as a standard measure for access to a pharmacy in the Public Health Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment., though there is a gradient in this area for walking. Other areas in Rotherham have fewer pharmacies though overall the population in these areas may be less deprived.

In the company's initial application to open the pharmacy it was suggested that there was a need for a community pharmacy in Flanderwell and Sunnyside, however based on the information provided by the applicant the pharmacy does not seem to be very busy.

In May 2019:

- 83 prescriptions were dispensed for over 60 year olds (non care home residents)
- 33 prescriptions were dispensed for under 16 year olds
- Medication was delivered to care homes for 210 residents
- 21 dosette boxes of medication were prepared for customers

No substance misuse treatment is provided by the pharmacy.

Evidence provided by the pharmacy states they have one severely disabled patient for whom they provide medicine administration charts for their carers. They also have other disabled patients who they do not provide medicine administration charts for.

The evidence provided does not suggest that the population in this area has very different needs from other areas in Rotherham and they may currently be using the alternative provisions either in person or via a delivery service.

- **Actions**

Part B of the equality analysis would only be required to be completed in future if the pharmacy were to notify of its intention to stop trading.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	N/A
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Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	N/A
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Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	N/A
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## 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Graham Saxton	Assistant Director	21/08/19

## 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](mailto: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. – email to be established

<b>Date screening completed</b>	30/07/2019
<b>Report title and date</b>	<b>New Application for Business Rates Discretionary Hardship Relief</b>
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	02/09/19
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a> – email to be established	30/07/2019