

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: Proposals for use of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to aid the Council's on-going response to Covid-19 and to support recovery in the borough from the impacts of the pandemic	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Public Health
Lead person: Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health	Contact number: 07826 953015
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>The 16th August Cabinet paper set out the proposals for expenditure of currently unallocated Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) funding of £3.276m during 2021/22. It is expected that spending will be in line with the published national roadmap and be committed by 31st March 2022.</p> <p>Rotherham has been eligible for payments from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to support proactive containment and intervention measures since October 2020.</p> <p>To date £5.177m had been spent against the COMF in 2020/21 with £1.146m remaining uncommitted. An additional £2.129m of COMF funding has been allocated for 2021/22. The money is to continue to help reduce the spread of coronavirus (Covid-19) and support public</p>

health activities with the latter being left to the judgement of Local Authorities in conjunction with their Director of Public Health.

Commitments already made ensure that Rotherham's Covid-19 Response functions are in place until March 2022, by which time it is expected that the workload and capacity required will reduce unless there is another significant Variant of Concern.

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

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 proposals for spend of the COMF are wide ranging, with potential to impact on all residents of the borough. Whilst some of the proposals are universal, others are more targeted with the aim of managing and/or mitigating some of the impacts of the pandemic on the residents of Rotherham. In terms of equality and diversity consideration has been given to which groups have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic to ensure that the proposed interventions have maximum benefit in terms of response to and recovery from Covid-19 in Rotherham.

Within the set of proposals there are a number that will specifically target certain groups based on specific needs arising through the pandemic and periods of local and national restrictions. Those particularly targeted include:

- Children and young people
- Older and vulnerable adults
- Carers and young carers
- The homeless and those with insecure housing
- Those who are unemployed, have been furloughed or have lost income or incurred debts during the pandemic
- Those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities or with Social and Emotional and Mental Health needs
- Adults who have had to shield or have become isolated during the pandemic or have mental health needs

- **Key findings**

The proposals set out for the potential COMF expenditure commitments will between them provide a range of positive benefits universally as well as being targeted for the specific groups mentioned above. Implementation of the full set of proposals will support people to engage in a range of positive activities in the borough, bringing many out of social isolation and supporting engagement within and between communities. The proposals recognise the adverse impacts of the pandemic on the whole borough with heightened significance for some communities with protected characteristics.

- **Actions**

It is suggested that a full Equality Analysis is completed to cover the range of proposals for the COMF expenditure commitments. This will be split in line with the Cabinet paper by impacts on Children and Young People, Adults and Universal provision. The Equality Analysis is recommended due to the level of proposed expenditure and potential coverage which is borough wide and will therefore impact, positively, on all cohorts of people with protected characteristics.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	14/07/21
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	14/07/21
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Ben Anderson	Director of Public Health	09/07/2021
Nathan Atkinson	Covid-19 Lead	14/07/2021
Jackie Mould	Head of Performance, Policy & Intelligence	21/07/2021

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	09/07/2021
Report title and date	Proposals for use of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to aid the Council's on-going response to Covid-19 and to support recovery in the borough from the impacts of the pandemic 16 th August 2021
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet 16 th August 2021 Sent for publication 2 nd August 2021
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	