

## Appendix 1.

### 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.

<b>1. Title</b>	
<b>Title:</b> Establishment of a Financial Exploitation and Abuse Service in Rotherham	
<b>Directorate:</b> Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	<b>Service area:</b> Business and Commercial
<b>Lead person:</b> Paul Elliott <a href="mailto:Paul.elliott@rotherham.gov.uk">Paul.elliott@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	<b>Contact:</b> 822494
Is this a: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b>             <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b>             <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> </div>	
<b>If other, please specify</b>	

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

A proposal to establish a service to prevent and respond to instances of financial exploitation and abuse of any Rotherham residents.

The proposal is to make a direct award to specialist provider. A service has been established in West Yorkshire, under the West Yorkshire Joint Services since 2016. They have a track record of successful delivery and West Yorkshire have worked with us to develop the proposal on the basis of their experience as to what we would

need to do to establish the same service offer in Rotherham.

The project will include the following activities:

Recruit a Criminal investigator dedicated to investigating Rotherham cases

Review of historic Rotherham data to identify any cases that might warrant further investigation

Delivery of training to staff and other organisations in Rotherham to raise awareness amongst services of the issue

Investigation of cases that might warrant further investigation

A review the current procedures in Rotherham for responding to cases where financial exploitation or abuse is a 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		

This is a new service that will look to respond to cases of suspected abuse. This will add to the current safeguarding service offers for adults. The service will be used to further

investigate safeguarding cases where financial abuse and exploitation is part of the concern. Access to the service should be dictated by what is seen by the investigating officer in Adult Safeguarding who will liaise with the appointed provider. Who is benefitting from the service will be monitored alongside the current monitoring of adult care / safeguarding cases to see that no section of the community is being overlooked in the delivery of this service.

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?**

Yes, we have considered equality and diversity. The service will look to support those who may have been the victim of financial abuse or exploitation. Information on how to protect yourself from exploitation will be available to all through media campaigns. More specific support will be provided to individuals who are suspected as being the victims of financial exploitation or abuse. The characteristics of who is being helped by the service will be monitored to see this is in line with the demographic profile of those being supported by the wider Adult Care Safeguarding service.

- Key findings**

Circa 264,000 people live in Rotherham Borough, about half living in and around the main urban area of Rotherham. The remainder live in smaller towns such as Wath, Dinnington and Maltby, and in numerous large villages and rural communities, all of which have their own distinct identities.

120,600 Rotherham residents are in employment whilst 106,000 people have workplaces in the Borough, giving a net outflow of 14,700 workers. One in five workers who live in Rotherham are employed in Sheffield and another one in five works elsewhere outside Rotherham.

45,259 children attend 117 Rotherham schools.

Rotherham has a similar age profile to the national average and in common with the national trends, the population is ageing. Central Rotherham has a younger population than average whilst the more suburban and rural areas, mainly in the south of the borough, have older age profiles.

One in four residents (25.2%) are aged 60 years or over and 22,500 people (8.5%) are aged 75 years or over. Rotherham has 56,900 children aged 0-17 (21.6% of the population).

Rotherham's Black and minority ethnic (BME) population was 8.1% in 2011 and is now estimated at around 11%. The central area of Rotherham is far more ethnically diverse than the rest of the Borough. The largest minority ethnic group is Pakistani & Kashmiri (4% of the population), followed by the Slovak & Czech Roma (1.5% of the population). Rotherham also has smaller Black African, Indian, Chinese, Irish and Arab communities, all with between 500 and 2,000 people.

The 2011 Census showed that 56,588 (22%) of Rotherham's population had a long term health problem or disability and 11.3% said their day-to-day activities were limited a lot by long term conditions (8.3% nationally). In November 2016, 30,306 Rotherham residents (11.6%) claimed Disability Living Allowance (16,680), Personal Independence Payment (6,100) or Attendance Allowance (7,516).

One in six homes is rented from the council and although house prices have risen over the years, they are about half the national average.

Rotherham Borough has 63 councillors representing 21 wards. 43% of councillors are women and 5% are BME. There are 30 parish councils in Rotherham covering half the population.

Most neighbourhoods in Rotherham offer a good living environment and 78% of adults are satisfied with their local area as a place to live.

Despite improvements overall, some areas of Rotherham are affected by high economic and social deprivation. Rotherham is the 52nd most deprived district in England according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015, which showed 19.5% of residents living in the 10% most deprived areas nationally.

Central Rotherham forms the main area of high deprivation although there are also pockets in Maltby, Rawmarsh, Dinnington, Thurncroft, Wath, Swinton and Aston. The main forms of deprivation affecting Rotherham are low levels of qualification, poor health, high rates of disability and high worklessness, notably long term sickness.

Adult qualification levels in Rotherham are below average, including the proportion of the population with higher qualifications which reflects Rotherham's industrial legacy. However, most pupils attending Rotherham's schools have attainment slightly above the national average. Rotherham colleges provide good quality further education and the new University Centre offer higher education courses.

The need for this project is illustrated by the proportion of Adult Safeguarding concerns that have an element of financial abuse. For the past three years the proportion of cases where financial abuse is suspected has been almost half of all safeguarding concerns at 43/44% of cases.

Cabinet Members for Adult Care and Housing have been consulted on the project proposal.

- **Actions**

As part of the ongoing evaluation of the project the profile of those whose cases are coming through to the project will be monitored to see that no community is being overlooked.

The project will also monitor the amount of money being returned to individuals because of the project interventions.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	September 15 <sup>th</sup> 2022
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	October 10 <sup>th</sup> 2022
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Sue Shelley Business Development Manager ACH&PH

## 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Paul Elliott	Interim Head of Housing Operations	

## 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.

Date screening completed	October 10 <sup>th</sup> 2022
Report title and date	Establishment of a Financial Exploitation and Abuse Service in Rotherham
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 <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	October 24th 2022