

## 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	
<b>Title:</b> Procurement of a local Healthwatch Service	
<b>Directorate:</b> Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	<b>Service area:</b> Strategic Commissioning
<b>Lead person:</b> Joanne Bell – Strategic Commissioning Manager	<b>Contact number:</b> 01709 823942

Is this a:

**Strategy / Policy**

**Service / Function**

**Other**

**If other, please specify**

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

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 amended the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to make provision for a national Healthwatch England and for a local Healthwatch. This is a statutory service and each Local Authority is mandated to have a local Healthwatch.

Healthwatch Rotherham is expected to be the local consumer champion for patients, service users and the public, covering both health and social care for all ages, including children. It is also expected that they be a member of the Integrated Care Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board.

Their main statutory functions are to

- Obtain the views of people about their needs and experience of local health and social care services and make these views known to those involved in the commissioning and scrutiny of care services.
- Make reports and recommendations about how those services could or should be improved.
- Promote and support the involvement of people in the monitoring, commissioning and provision of local health and social care services.
- Provide information and advice to the public about accessing health and social care services and the options available to them.
- Make the views and experiences of people known to Healthwatch England, helping them to carry out their role as national champion. Healthwatch England may use this evidence to advise the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to carry out special reviews or investigations into areas of concern.

Existing contractual arrangements for the provision of a Local Healthwatch Service is due to reach the end of its current contractual term on 31 March 2024. Approval processes are currently underway to commission the service post March 2024.

### 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).

The service is a statutory function, required by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, it must be available to all and make arrangements to meet the needs of people with protected characteristics that may wish to use the service, such a people with a sensory impairment.

Contractual terms require the providing organisation to monitor the equality and diversity of the people using the service. Any indication that the service is not reaching people with protected characteristics will be dealt with in the Contract Monitoring and Compliance Process.

A remit of the service is to ensure that health and social care services meet the needs of the local community they serve.

They make the views and experiences of people known to Healthwatch England, helping them to carry out their role as national champion. Healthwatch England may use this evidence to advise the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to carry out special reviews or investigations into areas of concern.

- **Key findings**

The proposal to re-commission a Healthwatch service will not have a negative impact on the different equality characteristics of the people accessing the service.

- **Actions**

The tender method statement and the service specification requires that the service fully understands and its role in promoting equality and diversity in the provision of the service and can describe how it will monitor and evidence this.

This will be monitored by the Council over the length of the contract as part of its contract monitoring and quality assurance processes.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	17/7/23
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	25/7/23
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Joanne Bell, Strategic Commissioning Manager

### 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Ian Spicer	Strategic Director – Adult	

	Care, Housing and Public Health	
Cllr David Roche	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	

6. Publishing	
<p>This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.</p> <p>If this screening relates to a <b>Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision</b> a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.</p> <p>A copy of <b>all</b> screenings should also be sent to <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a> For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.</p>	
<b>Date screening completed</b>	17/7/2023
<b>Report title and date</b>	Procurement of a Local Healthwatch Service
<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>	
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	