

## 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.

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	
<b>Equality Analysis title:</b> Children in Care and Care Leaver Strategy	
<b>Date of Equality Analysis</b> 23/11/23	
<b>Directorate:</b> CYPS	<b>Service area:</b> Children in Care
<b>Lead Manager:</b> Jane Wood	<b>Contact number:</b> 01709 254791
<b>Is this a:</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	
<b>If other, please specify</b>	

**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)
Nicola Curley	RMBC	Strategic Director of Children's Social Care
Helen Sweaton	RMBC	Head of Service for First Response
Laura Gough	RMBC	Head of Service Safeguarding

**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)**

This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

This report screens the activity undertaken to progress the children in care and care leaver strategy. It is important to note that the strategy specifically relates to children in care and care leavers and as such excludes children not in those categories. This strategy incorporates all children in care and care leavers and does not exclude any child or young person within that range.

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

Equality information is captured as part of our existing service delivery and identified priorities. This includes data for all children in care and care leavers, including, though not limited to age, gender, ethnicity and disability status.

Data was used to inform the strategy in respect of identifying gaps in provision and services.

Equality information is available through existing delivery in the following ways:

- Regular monitoring and oversight through the Corporate Parenting Panel
- Children in Care Council and 'Little LAC'
- Performance Practice and Learning
- CYPS performance reporting – Scorecards and Dashboards
- Audit and QA activity
- DfE
- Department for Health & Social Care
- Ofsted
- Staff and SW Health Check 2023

A service plan and pledge will sit alongside the strategy, which will include diversity and equality information. This will also incorporate the views of children in care and care leavers, which will be used to review and monitor progress of the plan.

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

None identified.

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

The Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy will be reviewed quarterly in Corporate Parenting Panel. This will consider oversight and implementation of the strategy.

The service plans which align with the strategy will be reviewed monthly.

Performance and quality monitoring will measure the progress and impact of the strategy.

Existing data and established methodology across the children's workforce will continue to be used to monitor impact on those groups with protected characteristics.

As part of current practice, the voice of children and families is sought through audit activity, and a variety of voice groups. The Children in Care Council will contribute to the service planning and progress of this strategy.

**Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)**

There has been ongoing engagement with partner agencies regarding the implementation of a Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy via Corporate Parenting Panel and other forums.

Previous consultation with children in care and care leavers has informed this strategy, with further consultation planned.

**Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)**

Managers and front line staff have been involved in the preparation of the Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy and service planning. Where appropriate this has also included involvement from wider directorates, including HR, Finance and Legal.

**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? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)**

Service delivery is regulated by a range of Legislation and Guidance, as well as oversight from the regulatory body, Ofsted.

Service delivery is utilising a restorative, inclusive approach. While this strategy is specific to children in care and care leavers, the proposals do not exclude any group within this

category. There is also a focus on meeting the individual needs of children and young people.

The strategy intends to outline the corporate parenting responsibility for RMBC as well as all partner agencies to enable agencies to focus on the individual needs of children in care and care leavers.

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

No, the Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy intends to equip the workforce and wider partner agencies to meet the needs of children in care and care leavers and gain a better understanding of their corporate parenting responsibilities.

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

Yes, the strategy proposes actions which will improve the lives of children in care and care leavers, enable them to participate better in society and achieve their potential. This strategy sets out opportunities to have a positive impact for children and young people, as well as the wider community.

This strategy will support services and partner to remove barriers for children in care and care leavers and to support them to overcome adversity.

**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 Children in Care and Care Leaver Strategy is deliberately focussed on children in care and care leavers and as such does not include children outside of this group. This is because we know children with experience of care are more disadvantaged than children who have not. This also sets out the corporate parenting responsibilities for the workforce as wider partner agencies.

It is expected that this strategy will have a positive impact upon community relations, including increasing the opportunities for children in care and care leavers.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

## 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

<b>Title of analysis:</b> Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2024-2027.
<b>Directorate and service area:</b> CYPs. Children’s Social Care
<b>Lead Manager:</b> Jane Wood
<b>Summary of findings:</b>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2024-2027 implementation	A, D, S, GR, RE, ROB, SO, C, O	<b>March 2024.</b>
Seek to remove barriers for children and young people who may have protected characteristics in terms of accessing services set out in the strategy.	A, D, S, GR, RE, ROB, SO, C, O	<b>March 2024</b>
Ensure that all children and young people are treated fairly and with respect throughout the implementation of this strategy.	A, D, S, GR, RE, ROB, SO, C, O	<b>March 2024</b>
Complete a further equality analysis after 12 months to ensure the success of this plan and identify any issues.	A, D, S, GR, RE, ROB, SO, C, O	<b>March 2024</b>

**\*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
Nicola Curley	Director of Children's Services	November 2023
Kelly White	Head of Service First Response	November 2023
Cllr Cusworth	Lead Member Children's Services	November 2023

## 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](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.

<b>Date Equality Analysis completed</b>	
<b>Report title and date</b>	Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2024-27
<b>Date report sent for publication</b>	2023
<b>Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	2023