

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: Neglect Strategy 2023-2026	
Directorate: Children and Young People's Services	Service area: Safeguarding
Lead person: Laura Gough	Contact number: 07920037934
Is this a:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input 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 Neglect Strategy 2023-2026 describes the responsibility of agencies to work together and safeguard children under Working together 2018.</p> <p>Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:</p> <p>The Neglect Strategy 2023-2028 is aligned to legislation Working Together 2018, and Children Act 1989 and 2004, which provide the framework for safeguarding children. The strategy describes the local authority's responsibility to promote inter-agency partnership working to improve the welfare of all children under section 10 of the Children Act 2004.</p>

The Neglect Strategy is owned by the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership, is driven by the Neglect Delivery Group.

The Child Exploitation Strategy 2023-2028 builds on the strong foundations and established partnership arrangements in place from the previous Neglect strategy and local safeguarding arrangements in Rotherham.

The Neglect Delivery Group will drive the implementation of the work plan reporting to the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership, and other governance arrangements as required.

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>	x	
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>	x	
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>	x	
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>	x	
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>	x	
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>	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?**

There are approximately 5,300 children open to children's service, from Early Help, Child in Need, Child Protection, Children in Our Care and Care Leavers. (as at October 2023). 151, 40% of children subject to children protection plans are due to concerns of Neglect.

No. of Children Subject to Child Protection Plans Neglect	Average Age	Gender Breakdown
151	6.2	46.4% Male 47.7% Female

To inform the Neglect Strategy a consultation and engagement activity with partners was undertaken. The development of the Strategy has involved collaborative working across Rotherham's key stakeholders:

- A stake holder event held on the 6th September 2023 and included representatives from RMBC, SY Police, NHS and wider Health colleagues, Probation, Youth Justice Service, Voluntary consortium, Community Safety.
- It has been presented to the Neglect delivery group.
- It has been presented to the RSCP
- RSPC delivery Groups

We understand that the strategy needs to reflect the communities that it serves.

Where concerns of Neglect are identified, information regarding protected characteristics

are captured in Early Help Assessment, The Neglect Graded Care Profile and social Care Children and Families Assessment form. This information informs the plan of support that is coproduced with the family members and the child / young person where applicable.

Translation services are utilised as are a range of bespoke provision including specific targeted support groups for LGBT young people, BAME young people, Girls and young women, faith-based groups.

- **Key findings**

Rotherham’s Neglect Offer supports some of the most vulnerable children, young people and families in Rotherham.

The Strategy 2023-2026 is a partnership approach to raising awareness, coordinating partnership response, training, identification, prevention and safeguarding, and support for children and young people.

It aims to ensure communities, and services, both voluntary and statutory are empowered through information sharing and training to spot the signs of Neglect and are equipped with knowledge what to do when they have concerns about the neglect of children.

The Strategy aims to build on the solid partnership foundations, and support agencies in working together to safeguard children.

- **Actions**

Further Equality Impact Analysis will be completed as required as part of the delivery associated with the Strategy.

A range of approaches will be used to ensure that children, young people and families play a key part in the evaluation of the strategy.

The development of the strategy has been undertaken with children and young people and their families in mind, and in conjunction with frontline staff, partner agencies and the voluntary sector alongside using information from children in what works well.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	Completed
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	March 2024
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Laura Gough, Head of Service, Safeguarding, Quality and Learning

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Nicola Curley	Strategic Director for Childrens Services	October 2023

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 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	31 October 2023
Report title and date	Neglect Strategy 2023-2026
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	November 2023
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	