

## 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: Joint Commissioning Strategy 2024 to 2028</b>	
<b>Directorate:</b> Children and Young People	<b>Service area:</b> Commissioning, performance and quality
<b>Lead person:</b> Helen Sweaton	<b>Contact:</b> Helen.sweaton@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
<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. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>The Rotherham Joint Commissioning Strategy will outline our joint commissioning arrangements. Effective arrangements enable partners to make best use of all the resources available to improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in the most efficient, effective, equitable and sustainable way.</p> <p>Section 26 of the Children and Families Act 2014 requires the local authority and its partner commissioning bodies to engage in joint commissioning arrangements. The act does not specify the form the arrangements should take.</p>

To inspect the effectiveness of local areas in fulfilling their new duties in the ‘Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years’ (the Code of Practice) Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) jointly devised the SEND Local Area Inspection Framework, this was updated in 2023. The inspection framework stipulates the requirement for a local area to be able to evidence:

- joint commissioning arrangements enable partners to make best use of all the resources available to improve outcomes for children and young people in the most efficient, effective, equitable and sustainable way
- joint commissioning arrangements meet the local area’s statutory responsibilities for identifying, assessing and meeting needs

The strategy will apply to commissioning for all children and young people with SEND aged 0 to 25 who have an Education, Health and Care Plan or receive SEND Support. It is set within the challenging context outlined in the Department for Education’s (DfE) SEND Green Paper: Right Support; Right Place; Right Time, published in March 2022 following a national SEND Review.

We are committed to supporting all our children and young people to have the best possible outcomes so that they go on to have fulfilling lives, living healthily and as independently as possible. This strategy will sit alongside our SEND Strategy, Early Help Strategy and SEND Sufficiency Plan and will align with other strategies as they are refreshed and developed including our Co-production, and Autism strategies.

### 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?	x	

<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>		
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.

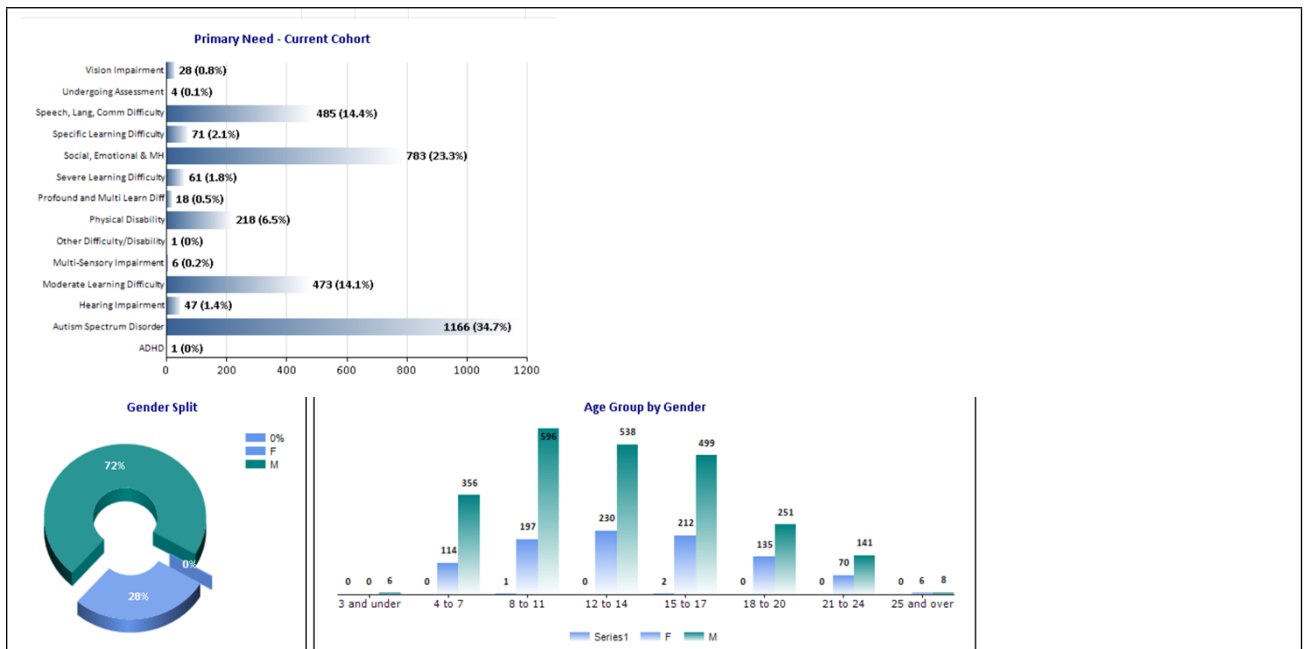
Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- How have you considered equality and diversity?**

To inform the Joint Commissioning Strategy engagement activity with partners was undertaken. The development of the revised Strategy has involved collaborative working across Rotherham's key stakeholders.

The Insight data dashboard breaks down equality and diversity information, gender, age, ethnicity, and primary need and this has help develop the outcomes and indicators for the Strategy.

Ethnicity Profile	No.	
⊕ BME	497	14.8%
⊕ White British	2772	82.5%
⊕ Not yet obtained	93	2.8%
Total	3362	100%



Translation services are utilised as a range of bespoke provision is in place including specific targeted support groups for LGBT young people, BAME young people, Girls and young women, faith-based groups and provision, support for Ukraine and Afghanistan families and young people with autism.

- **Key findings**

Rotherham’s Joint Commissioning Strategy supports some of the most vulnerable children, young people, and families in Rotherham.

The joint commissioning strategy has been agreed by all partners, it sets out the strategic ambition for children and young people with SEND, clear milestones for progression and a co-produced outcomes framework. Arrangements for the agreement of packages of care for children with more complex needs. A Section 75 or other agreement in place setting out which budgets are pooled and how resources and management structures are integrated.

The draft four-year Joint Commissioning Strategy 2024-2028 is a partnership approach to early identification, and support in Rotherham. It will aim to deliver better outcomes for children, young people, and families across Rotherham by ensuring that support is provided to all children and young people and their families, including those who are hardest to reach and/or most in need of help and support.

- **Actions**

A range of approaches will be used to ensure that children and young people with SEND, parents, carers and families influence commissioning, including joint commissioning at both an individual and strategic level.

Individual children and families are engaged and influence the commissioning of individual packages of education/ health and care. The Guiding Voices Group and Children and Young People’s Partnership Board (a sub-group of the Rotherham Together Partnership Board) provide opportunities for children and young people, including those with SEND to influence strategic decision making including key recruitment activity,

engagement in strategy and policy development and oversight of the delivery of the Rotherham Together Partnership Plan.

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. Service users have been involved with the development of the strategy and influence decision making and delivery as well as frontline staff, partner agencies.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	April 2024
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	23/04/2024
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Helen Sweaton Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality

### 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Nicola Curley	Director of Children's Services	

### 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.

<b>Date screening completed</b>	23/04/2024
<b>Report title and date</b>	Joint Commissioning Strategy
<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>	25/04/2024