

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: SEND Strategy 2024 to 2028	
Directorate:	Service area:
Lead person: Cary-Anne Sykes	Contact:
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
Our Rotherham SEND Strategy 2024-2028 development is being supported by the Children for Disabled Council (CDC). This strategy is being co-produced with children and their families, involves all partner agencies in Rotherham who have responsibilities for commissioning and providing services for children and young people with SEND including local authority services, education settings, health providers and the voluntary and community sector. The Strategy will set out our local area vision and priorities for supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families, and how we will work together to deliver these over the next four years.

The strategy will apply to 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 Early Help Strategy and SEND Sufficiency Plan and will align with other strategies as they are refreshed and developed including our Joint Commissioning, 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? <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?	x	

(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)

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.

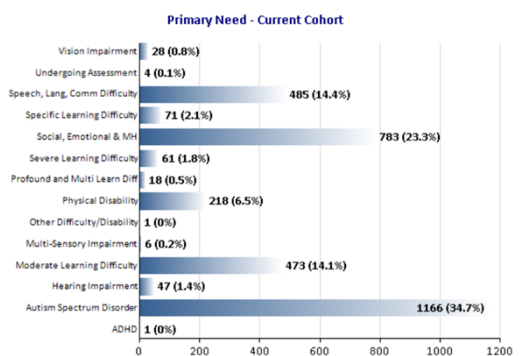
Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

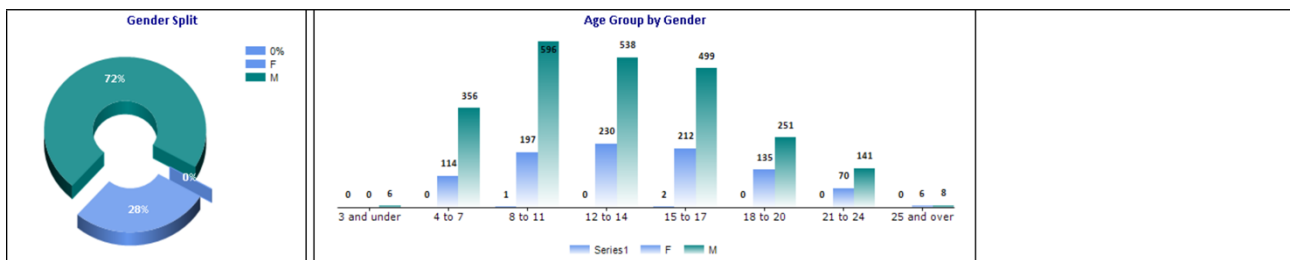
- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

To inform the SEND 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.	
<input type="checkbox"/> BME	497	14.8%
<input type="checkbox"/> White British	2772	82.5%
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 SEND Strategy supports some of the most vulnerable children, young people, and families in Rotherham.

The draft four-year SEND 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.

The outcomes and indicators will aim to improve how services will work together.

1. Consideration needs to be given to whether the indicator is telling us anything about the experience of children and young people and/or parents and carers – is the measure an indication of the outcomes the local area are looking to achieve?
2. Following the development of the new outcomes for Rotherham, it’s important to know which direction is positive or negative for those indicators aligned to each outcome – this will then give confidence to the system that when the numbers change, it is known if the work happening is having a positive or negative impact on children and young people.
3. Ensuring there is a focus on making the important measurable, not the other way around.

• Actions

Further Equality Impact Analysis will be completed as required as part of the development, consultation process and action planning 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. Service users have been involved with the development of the strategy and influence decision making and delivery as well as frontline staff, partner agencies.

Continued engagement with the RPCF

- Continue to ensure that consultation and engagement with the service users is embedded in all SEND action plans.

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):	Cary-Anne Sykes Head of Service SEND
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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 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	23/04/2024
Report title and date	
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 equality@rotherham.gov.uk	