

## 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> SEND Hub progress update	
<b>Date of Equality Analysis (EA):</b> July 2024	
<b>Directorate:</b> CYPS	<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 type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b>	<input checked="" 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)
Helen Sweaton	RMBC	Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Quality
Kevin Fisher	RMBC	Assistant Director, Property and Facilities
Niall Devlin	RMBC	Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion
SEND Partnership Board	Multi-agency Strategic Board	

**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.)

The report screens the activities undertaken in progressing the use of Eric Manns building to provide a SEND Activity Hub in the Town Centre that will allow the Council to improve our offer of recreational activities for children and young people with SEND.

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

**The Rotherham Parent Carer Forum (RPCF) membership survey** is undertaken bi-annually to capture feedback from parents and carers of children with SEND. The most recent survey ran for three weeks in March 2023 and there were 141 responses from RPCF Members. 10% of respondents were from other ethnic backgrounds (non-white British).

Current key issues rated by parents and carers in order of importance to them and their families:

Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs)	1 <sup>st</sup>
Mental health and wellbeing of children and young people with SEND	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Availability of SEND education placements	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Access to therapies (including mental health)	4 <sup>th</sup>
Preparation for adulthood	5 <sup>th</sup>
Assessment waiting times	6 <sup>th</sup>
Parent/carer mental health and wellbeing	7 <sup>th</sup>
Support for SEND young people in education settings - Graduated Response	8 <sup>th</sup>
Transport to education settings	9 <sup>th</sup>

RPCF have recently appointed a designated trustee onto their board for equality, diversity and inclusion and will be working with RPCF and Rotherham Adult Neurodiversity Support

Service (RANSS) on ways to further reach and include our marginalised communities through their living experience as residents of Rotherham living with SEND.

Rotherham Parents Forum Ltd (RPFL) operates two distinct but interconnected services - Rotherham Parent Carers Forum (RPCF) and the Rotherham Adult Neurodiversity Support Service (RANSS) The two services work together to create a comprehensive support network for parent carers, children, and neurodivergent adults in Rotherham, enhancing the overall well-being of these families and individuals.

**The Rotherham Parents Forum Ltd Annual Impact Report April 2023 to March 2024 report** highlighted the following:

Neurodivergent Adults Summary – April 2023 to March 2024

- 455 unique adults accessed support from RANSS during the year.
- RANSS delivered 1305 support sessions including counselling, 1:1 peer support and group workshops.
- 205 RANSS Activities and Events were held with 182 unique adult attendees and a total of 1463 attendances.
- 81% of adults who attended activities and events were diagnosed longer than 12 months ago, are self-questioning or awaiting an assessment for autism and/or ADHD.
- 48% of the adults who accessed support with us are in employment or education and 54% are female. The ages of neurodivergent adults accessing RANSS range from 18 to 81 years old.
- In a recent user feedback survey, 84% of responders said they were highly likely to recommend the support they accessed to a friend. Only 2% said they would not recommend the support they received.
- According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 30% of RANSS service users are living in the most deprived (top 10%) of neighbourhoods in England. This is higher than the comparable rate for Rotherham of 22%

RPCF Membership Data - April 2023 to March 2024

- Rotherham Parent Carers Forum has 2252 registered members living in Rotherham.
- 1335 unique parent carers actively engaged with RPCF during the year.
- 601 new members signed up between April 2023 and March 2024, a 27% increase from last year 2022-2023
- In a recent membership survey, 79% of parent carers reported feeling less isolated due to their involvement with RPCF and 72% of parent carer responders were confident RPCF accurately represented parent carer views. 23% were unsure and wanted to know more about this area of work.
- According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 27% of our families are living in the most deprived (top 10%) of neighbourhoods in England. This is higher than the comparable rate for Rotherham of 22%.

**Engagement in the development of the SEND strategy identified that:**

- Rotherham has 57,453 children aged under 18 representing 21.7% of the local population (ONS, mid 2020). 23% of children live in low-income families (England 18%).
- There are 45,763 children and young people attending Rotherham's schools as at January 2024 School Census. 465 children in a maintained nursery school, 24,661

pupils in primary schools, 19,303 pupils in secondary schools, 1,194 pupils in special schools and 140 pupils in Pupil Referral Units (PRUs).

- There are a growing number of requests for Education, Health, and Care Needs Assessment each year. Half of the special schools in Rotherham are regularly full or over their commissioned number and the alternative provision places at the Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) are close to capacity (January 2024).
- 89% of Children and Young People in Rotherham wait longer than 18 weeks to access neurodevelopmental assessment (Q2 2023).
- The percentage of pupils with a Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) achieving a 'Good Level of Development' (GLD) in Rotherham has decreased from 2022 and stands at 2.0% for 2023 (1.8% below national average). The percentage of pupils identified with SEN support and achieving a GLD is at 28.3% (4% above the national average).
- The percentage of pupils in Rotherham with SEND support meeting the required standard in the phonics screening check in 2023 stands at 50.9% which is 2.4% above the national average and is a 4.9% improvement from 2022 position.
- The percentage of pupils in Rotherham with a EHCP meeting the required standard in the 2023 phonics screening check is at 21.1%, (1.3% above the national average) a 5.2% improvement in performance from 2022.
- The percentage of Key Stage 1 Pupils identified with SEND support achieving the Expected Standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (EXS+ in R,W&M) combined is at 19.9% (0.8% below national average) 2.7% higher than 2022. The percentage of pupils in Rotherham with a EHC plan achieving the EXS+ in R, W&M combined has increased by 3.1% from 2022 with achievements at 6.5% (in line with the national average).
- The percentage of Key Stage 2 Pupils in Rotherham with SEND support who have met the Expected Standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (EXS+ in R, W & M) improved in 2023 by 1.1% to stand at 19.7% (3.9% below national average). The percentage of pupils in Rotherham with a EHC plan achieving the EXS+ in R, W&M increased by 0.7% in 2023 - now at 5.7% (2.7% below national average).
- The overall Progress 8 measure has declined in 2023 and is below the national average for the fourth year. Progress of SEND support pupils in 2023 has improved from 2022 but is -0.01 below the national average for that group of children. However, progress of children with a EHCP has slightly decreased by 0.01 to stand at -0.99 but this is 0.14 above their national average counterparts.
- The number of 16–24-year-olds with SEND in Education, Employment and Training is 56.3% (2022/2023).

Voice of Children, Young People and Families:

- Children, young people and their families in Rotherham do not experience equal access to a consistent, high-quality range of educational support, health services and specialist provision. Access varies too much depending on where families live, and the schools' children attend. Families tell us about the 'postcode lottery'.
- We know that outcomes for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are not yet good enough.
- Children wait too long to access health services for example therapy services and neurodevelopmental assessment.
- Children, young people and their families have told us that they don't always feel included in their local communities and that they do not always have the same

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<p>opportunities. This includes within the community, in some education establishments, for training and in the workplace.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children, young people and families are not always confident that mainstream schools can meet their SEND needs. There are a growing number of requests for Education, Health, and Care Needs Assessment each year. Half of the special schools in Rotherham are regularly full or over their commissioned number and the alternative provision places at the Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) are close to capacity (January 2024).</li> <li>• Preparation for adulthood does not always work well. Lots of young people and families do not feel well prepared to transition to adulthood.</li> </ul> <p>The following three commitments have been identified as priority areas of development and monitoring.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reducing number of permanent exclusions and part time timetables for children and young people with special educational needs.</li> <li>2. Reducing number of disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs missing school due to health concerns, including mental health.</li> <li>3. Having a clear process for engagement with children and young people.</li> </ol> <p>Equality information is collated as part of our statutory returns on our SEND cohort to the Department for Education and for internal monitoring as part of the EHCP process. This includes pupil level data such as name, DOB, address, SEND Primary need type, Ethnicity and Gender. Information will be updated through performance management arrangements with the schools approved to host a resource provision.</p>	
<p><b>Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?</b></p> <p>None identified</p>	
<p><b>What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?</b></p> <p>A multi – agency SEND Partnership Board retains oversight of proposals, implementation and impact.</p>	
<p><b>Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</b></p>	<p>RPCF membership survey of parents and carers of children with SEND is undertaken bi-annually, the latest was in March 2023. Key issues identified were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs)</li> <li>• Mental health and wellbeing of children and young people with SEND</li> <li>• Availability of SEND education placements</li> <li>• Access to therapies (including mental health)</li> <li>• Preparation for adulthood</li> <li>• Assessment waiting times</li> <li>• Parent/carer mental health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Support for SEND young people in education settings - Graduated Response</li> <li>• Transport to education settings</li> </ul>

	<p>Rotherham Parents Forum Ltd Annual Impact Report April 2023 to March 2024 report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RANSS - 455 unique adults accessed support from RANSS during the year.</li> <li>• RPCF - Rotherham Parent Carers Forum has 2252 registered members living in Rotherham, and 1335 unique parent carers actively engaged with RPCF during the year.</li> </ul> <p>To inform the SEND Strategy, a consultation and engagement activity with children and young people was undertaken through co-production workshops across the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7th December 2023</li> <li>• 5th February 2024</li> <li>• 20th February 2024</li> <li>• 11th March 2024</li> <li>• 15th April 2024.</li> </ul> <p>Feedback identified the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “postcode lottery” in terms of access to SEND support;</li> <li>• outcomes for children with SEND not yet good enough;</li> <li>• lengthy waits for health services;</li> <li>• children and young people with SEND do not always feel included in their local communities and do not always have the same opportunities;</li> <li>• lack of confidence that mainstream schools can SEND needs;</li> <li>• lots of children and families with SEND do not feel well prepared to transition to adulthood.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)</b></p>	<p>Staff in both the LA and RPCF have been involved (as above) and where necessary / appropriate this has also included involvement from wider staffing including RMBC HR, legal, Finance, Asset Management, planning and RMBC Education and Inclusion</p>

**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)

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In Rotherham 20.4% of pupils have either a statutory plan for Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND), known as an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), or are receiving SEND support (previously known as school action and school action plus). This compares to an average of 17.1% across all England Authorities.

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

No –the development of the SEND Hub aims to create an additional local place to support children, young people, young adults and families.

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

Yes – the development of the SEND Hub aims to create an additional local place to support children, young people, young adults and families. This will also support access to other town centre opportunities.

**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 development of the SEND Hub provides an opportunity for the community to co-locate to maximise the offer for children, young people, young adults and families.

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> Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Sufficiency Planning to Grow Social, Emotional and Mental Health Provision
<b>Directorate and service area:</b> CYPs. Commissioning, Performance and Quality
<b>Lead Manager:</b> Mark Cummins
<b>Summary of findings:</b>
The report screens the activities undertaken in progressing the use of Herringthorpe Youth Centre and Library for education provision to meet identified need and create additional SEND school capacity for young people aged 14-25. The development is part of SEND Sufficiency Phase 4.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
<b>Delivery of additional school capacity and improved SEND provision through utilising the Herringthorpe Youth Centre and Library site school places for young people aged 14-25.</b>	A, D, S, GR, RE,	<b>Academic year 2024/2025.</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**



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**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
Helen Sweaton	Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Quality	29/07/2024
Nicola Curley		
Cllr Victoria Cusworth		

**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>	26/07/2024
<b>Report title and date</b>	SEND Hub
<b>Date report sent for publication</b>	27/07/2024
<b>Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	27/07/2024