

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	
Equality Analysis title: SEND Sufficiency Update	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): November 2024	
Directorate: CYPS	Service area: Education and Inclusion
Lead Manager: Mark Cummins	Contact number: 01709 807123
Is this a: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

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)
Niall Devlin	RMBC	Director Education and Inclusion
Helen Sweatton	RMBC	Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion
Cary-Anne Sykes	RMBC	Head of Service - SEND
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.)

To provide an update to Cabinet on the latest phase of SEND Sufficiency and seek approval for the development of a new SEND Sufficiency Strategy to be effective from 01/04/2026

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

As part of developing proposals for SEND sufficiency programmes phases 1,2, 3 and 4 equalities impact assessments were completed in line with DfE requirements aligned to the free school presumption process for SEND phase 3 and in line with RMBC requirements for SEND sufficiency phases 1, 2, 3 and 4. The Equality impact assessments were appendices to subsequent cabinet reports.

There has been wide reaching and ongoing consultation with stakeholders since the development of SEND sufficiency phase 1. Consultation activity is planned to support the development of a new long term SEND Sufficiency Strategy with the timelines for this included in the report to Cabinet. Consultation has taken place and is planned with the following groups:

Parents/carers
Parents / Carers Forum
Community engagement
Schools
Pupil Referral Units
Elected Members
DfE
Ofsted
Staff

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 and outcome

<p>indicators identified through the consultation and included within the new Strategy once developed.</p>	
<p>Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?</p> <p>None identified</p>	
<p>What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?</p> <p>A multi – agency SEND Strategic Board retains oversight of proposals, implementation and impact.</p>	
<p>Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p>	<p>There has been ongoing engagement across SEND Sufficiency phases 1,2, 3 and 4. This has included continuous sessions with stakeholders such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsors / schools Staff Elected members Local residents Parent/carer forum Parents/children who will be attending the schools / settings Neighbouring schools across the authority Wider community engagement Transport Ofsted DfE Schools Forum Education Consultative Committee Rotherham Education Strategic Partnership <p>The ongoing engagement will be used as part of the process to bring about the proposals for future rounds of SEND Sufficiency outlined within the Cabinet update.</p>
<p>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p>	<p>Staff in both the LA and schools/settings 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)

In Rotherham 22.2% 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 18.4% across all England Authorities.

In order that the educational needs of children and young people in the borough with SEND can continue to be met, the Council has a responsibility to create a sufficiency of education provision to meet the needs of all pupils.

The SEND Sufficiency Strategy will identify the future needs for SEND provision in Rotherham, aligned to the projections on both demand and different types of need. The Strategy will take into consideration protected characteristics, demography and SEND need types.

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

No – places created under the SEND sufficiency strategy are for pupils with identified SEND needs. The SEND sufficiency strategy aims to create additional local places to support pupil needs.

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

Yes – the SEND sufficiency programme creates more specialist provision meaning children who will attend are able to access specialist provision in borough in line with their needs.

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)

As part of the ongoing SEND sufficiency strategy work, wider community consultation and parent/carers representation is sought when developing sufficiency plans. The SEND sufficiency strategy and previous programmes to create additional capacity have been received and supported positively as they create resources for children with specific needs within borough.

The ongoing work has helped to identify the additional capacity required to further enhance this work in SEND sufficiency phase 4 and 5. There has been ongoing consultation with all stakeholders since the commencement of SEND Sufficiency phase 1 to ensure any concerns have been addressed in advance of development and implementation of the previous phases.

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

Title of analysis: SEND Sufficiency Update
Directorate and service area: CYPS. Commissioning, Performance and Quality
Lead Manager: Mark Cummins
<div style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">Summary of findings:</div> <p>The report screens the progress made on the latest round of SEND Sufficiency as approved by Cabinet, the report also identifies how equalities will be considered as a core element of the development of a new long term SEND Sufficiency Strategy</p>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
<p>The proposed profile of provision informed by current SEND needs and provision mapping has helped to create the following provision map as approved under SEND Sufficiency Phase 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Primary phase Social Emotional Mental Health resource base provisions – 20 places in total • 2 Secondary phase Social Emotional Mental Health resource base provisions – 20 places in total • 2 Primary phase Communication and interaction resource base provisions – 20 places in total • 2 Secondary phase Communication and interaction resource base provisions - 	A, D, S, GR, RE,	

20 places in total • 2 Secondary Moderate Learning Difficulty resource base provisions -20 places in total Total minimum places – 100 places		
• Implementation of School's Accessibility Capital Funding Strategy across both mainstream and special schools	A, D, S, GR, RE,	

***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
Niall Devlin	Assistant Director Education and Inclusion	December 2024
Helen Sweaton	Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Quality	December 2024
Cllr Victoria Cusworth	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	December 2024

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 For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date Equality Analysis completed	November 2024
Report title and date	SEND Sufficiency Update
Date report sent for publication	February 2025
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	December 2024