

## 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:** Update on the Family Help Strategy in relation to The Families First Partnership (FFP) Programme Guide

**Directorate:**  
CYPS

**Service area:**  
Family Help

**Lead person:**  
Kelly White – Assistant Director, Family Help

**Contact:**  
01709 822318

Is this a:

☐

**Strategy / Policy**

☒

**Service / Function**

☐

**Other**

**If other, please specify**

### 2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024-2029, approved by Cabinet in March 2024, was developed in response to revised government guidance, including the Department for Education (DfE) new edition 'Working Together to Safeguard Children December 2023'.

Following the launch of the Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024-2029 in November 2024, the government published 'Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive'. This policy statement set out the Government's ambitious

approach to rebalancing the children's social care system toward earlier intervention through Family Help.

In February 2025, the government published the grant determination for the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant for 2025-26. This grant is for direct investment in additional prevention activity for children and families through the implementation of Family Help and Child Protection reforms. It is intended to fund local authorities to deliver against the planned new legislative duties. This grant does not replace the Children and Families Grant, which comprises previously Department for Education grants including Supporting Families and are intended to enable continuation of existing prevention services.

In March 2025, the government published the Families First Partnership Programme Guide. The aim of the programme is to support safeguarding partners to implement Family Help and multi-agency child protection reforms and make greater use of Family Group Decision Making. The programme guide describes the vision and objectives and sets out the practice change government expect to see to improve the support provided to children and their families. The timeline for delivery of the transformation is ambitious, with significant progress anticipated within this financial year.

This report provides an update on the published guidance and requests approval of the governance structure for the management, oversight and scrutiny of the Families First Partnership Transformation Programme, and delegation to the Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Lead Member, Children and Young People and the Assistant Director Financial Services to determine the use of the new Children's Social Care Prevention Grant, in accordance with the requirements of the Families First Partnership Programme Guide, Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill 2024, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and the Children's Social Care: national framework.

Any significant changes to services and/ or workforce as part of the delivery of the transformation programme would be subject to further approval.

### 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		
<p>This is a progress update report and so has no equality implications. Equality and diversity will continue to be monitored, and the governance and delegated authority proposed in this paper would enable commissioning of a population needs assessment to inform the transformation. This would ensure that the needs of diverse groups and individuals are considered throughout delivery of the transformation.</p>		

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
<p>If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.</p> <p>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).</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How have you considered equality and diversity?</b></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Key findings</b></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Action</b></li> </ul>	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	N/A

## 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, Children & Young Peoples Service	29/04/2025

## 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>	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
<b>Report title and date</b>	Update on the Family Help Strategy in relation to The Families First Partnership (FFP) Programme Guide
<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>	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2025