

## PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

1. Title	
<b>Title:</b> No Family Left Behind, Child Poverty Strategy	
<b>Directorate:</b> Children and Young People's Services	<b>Service area:</b> Commissioning, Quality and Performance
<b>Lead person:</b> Helen Sweaton	<b>Contact number:</b> 07554436546
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>A council motion was passed in September 2024 calling for Cabinet to co-ordinate the development of a new strategy to reduce the impact of child poverty in Rotherham.</p> <p>The Child Poverty Strategy represents the partnership commitment in Rotherham to address the root causes of poverty. The Strategy highlights the work that has been undertaken and what we will do moving forward to help achieve the ambition of preventing and reducing poverty to ensure that when people do find themselves struggling, we provide assistance, ensuring that no family is left behind.</p>

3. Relevance to equality and diversity		
<p>While poverty can affect anyone, research highlights that certain groups are disproportionately vulnerable due to underlying inequalities. These inequalities not only increase the likelihood of experiencing poverty but also reduce the ability to mitigate its impacts.</p> <p>This strategy reflects Rotherham's unwavering commitment to tackling the root causes of poverty, uniting efforts across the Borough to enhance family prosperity and create a more equitable future for all.</p> <p><b>Priorities</b> To achieve our ambition of ensuring no family is left behind, we focus on four key priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Help</b> – help people when they need it the most by mitigating the impact of poverty.</li> <li>• <b>Opportunities</b> – help people out of poverty through clear pathways that develop skills and capabilities, increasing their chances of finding secure, sustainable employment.</li> <li>• <b>Prevention</b> – prevent poverty by increasing household income and giving people access to the resources they need.</li> <li>• <b>Engagement</b> – address social exclusion by ensuring access to goods, services and facilities and giving young people and their families a voice.</li> </ul>		
Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?	x	
Could the proposal affect service users?	x	

Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	x	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		x
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		x
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		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**.

<p><b>4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity</b></p> <p>Equality and human rights are considered within the strategy. Part A Equalities Screening is attached as appendix 2.</p> <p><b>How have you considered equality and diversity?</b></p> <p>On the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD 2019) Rotherham ranks as the 35th most deprived upper tier local authority in England out of a total of 151 authorities. 35% of Rotherham's neighbourhoods live in the 20% most deprived in England, and 22% live in the 10% most deprived. No neighbourhoods in Rotherham are in the least deprived 10%</p> <p>In 2024, 26% of children live in absolute low-income families (England 19%). Our Free School Meals (FSM) entitlement rate is above the English national average (27.2% compared to 24.7% at Primary, 30.2% compared to 25.9% at Secondary – DfE 2024/25). 25.9% of Rotherham's school age population is from an ethnic minority background (England 359.6%) (DfE 2024/25).</p> <p>Health inequalities are unfair and avoidable differences in health across the population, and between different groups within society. Health inequalities arise because of the conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age. People with protected characteristics can face additional health inequalities.</p> <p>These conditions influence our opportunities for good health, and how we think, feel and act, and this shapes our mental health as well as our physical health and wellbeing. If you are born in poverty, you are more likely to be low birthweight and less likely to survive the first year of life, more likely to suffer from asthma and other childhood diseases and experience poor health in later life as a result.</p> <p>Children living in poverty are more likely to have poor mental health, are at higher risk of psychological distress and do less well in education. They can be more at risk of being targeted by bullies if they do not have things other children do e.g. clothes/ toys/ phones. Living in poverty can make children more vulnerable to exploitation by unscrupulous adults if they are then offered the things others have that they do not.</p>
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## Key findings

Rotherham Together Partnership wants Rotherham to be a great place to grow up, where children and young people have the best chance to reach their full potential. This will mean that children grow up happily, safe, in good health and develop the skills and qualifications they need to be successful. The Strategy articulates how we will address the poverty related barrier to achieving Rotherham's vision for children, young people and families.

Poverty can mean different things to different people. Poverty is not having enough of the things you need, such as money, food, housing, heating, etc, to live and participate in society in the way that other people around you do.

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Poverty affects all aspects of childhood. It affects friendships and opportunities, creating isolation, stigma and sadness.

Although anyone can experience poverty, research indicates there are underlying inequalities which make certain groups are more vulnerable. Inequalities can mean it is more likely people will experience poverty, it can also mean it is less likely people can mitigate the impact of poverty.

Health inequalities are unfair and avoidable differences in health across the population, and between different groups within society. Health inequalities arise because of the conditions that influence a person's actions and opportunities for good mental and physical health.

The strategy articulates the activity already underway to address child poverty and support those experiencing poverty (including those with protected characteristics).

## What are we doing?

- **Help** – help people when they need it the most by mitigating the impact of poverty. Comprising direct, practical assistance this includes financial support to help meet the cost of essentials, including council tax and energy bill. It also includes access to our crisis support offer, providing access to food and crisis loans when people need it the most.
- **Opportunities** – help people out of poverty through clear pathways that develop skills and capabilities, increasing their chances of finding secure, sustainable employment. But this is also about the work to create a more inclusive economy in the borough by supporting the creation of more and better jobs that local people can access. This includes the support provided through the Council's Employment Solutions service and business support programmes.
- **Prevention** – prevent poverty by increasing household income and giving people access to the resources they need. For example, this includes offering neighbourhood-based support through our family hubs, as well as the provision of advice and guidance

from our voluntary and community sector partners on finance and benefits and access to a sustainable supply of food through our borough's social supermarkets.

- **Engagement** – address social exclusion by ensuring access to goods, services and facilities and giving young people and their families a voice. This includes action to improve transport connections, healthy holidays activities and initiatives such as the Looked After Children Council.

### Actions

All stakeholders have an essential role to play in preventing and reducing poverty in Rotherham, the Council and all of its partners, including the NHS, Education, the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, businesses, and communities are already working together to address the causes of poverty and support families to reduce the impact of poverty to ensure no family is left behind.

The Child Poverty Strategy, "No family left behind, Rotherham's commitment to reducing the impact of child poverty" articulates the ongoing work to improve family prosperity and reduce the impact of poverty across the Borough.

This will enable a shared understanding of the work across the Borough to improve family prosperity, reduce the impact for children in poverty now and prevent poverty in the future.

What next?

To assess progress, a range of success measures, set out below, will be embedded in the Council's corporate reporting framework. This will ensure regular oversight as part of the council plan reporting process, given the alignment of this document to the plan. Specific actions will also be included in future years' annual delivery plans.

A child poverty dashboard is updated each April as part of the Rotherham Data Hub (Rotherham's joint strategic needs assessment). This dashboard will also be incorporated within the strategy's reporting framework.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	29 January 2025
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	29 January 2025
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Helen Sweaton, Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Quality and Performance

### 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	31/03/2025

### 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>	29 January 2025
<b>Report title and date</b>	No Family Left Behind, Child Poverty 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>	15 September 2025
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	30 January 2025 Re-sent 11/08/2025