

# Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening



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, diversity, cohesion and integration.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provides 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, diversity, cohesion and integration.
- whether or not equality, diversity, cohesion and integration is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

<b>Directorate:</b> Environment and Neighbourhoods	<b>Service area:</b> Strategy and Commissioning
<b>Lead person:</b> Robert Curtis	<b>Contact number:</b> 3957159

## 1. Title: Affordable Warmth In Leeds - Report

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

**If other, please specify:** Update Report on Fuel Poverty in Leeds

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

The report updates Members on the significant external funding opportunities available to increase domestic energy efficiency and improve access to affordable warmth.

The report also ensures that all all Members are aware of the leading role the Council has taken in developing and delivering ECO funding initiatives and the opportunities and challenges that this funding presents.

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### 3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

All the council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – city wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

Questions	Yes	No
Is there an existing or likely differential impact for the different equality characteristics?	X	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?		X
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		X
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?		X
Does the proposal involve or will it have an impact on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment</li> <li>• Advancing equality of opportunity</li> <li>• Fostering good relations</li> </ul>	X	

If you have answered **no** to the questions above please complete **sections 6 and 7**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above and;

- Believe you have already considered the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 4**.
- Are not already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 5**.

#### 4. Considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

If you can demonstrate you have considered how your proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you have carried out an impact assessment.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below (use the prompts for guidance).

- **How have you considered equality, diversity, cohesion and integration?** (think about the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)

We undertake EDCI screening for all of major projects aimed at improving domestic energy efficiency which identify where households in fuel poverty (including many low income and some BME groups) live and what energy efficiency measures are required to improve them.

We also use and collect data to target future schemes towards areas where households are likely to be in fuel poverty, for example, information fed back from contractors working on the Wrap Up Leeds free cavity wall and loft insulation scheme, confirmed that many low income households lived in hard to treat inner city terraces and this information will guide our current and future Energy Company Obligation (ECO) based schemes.

- **Key findings** (think about any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)

The experience and information gleaned from previous schemes such as the Green Deal Demonstrator has helped us to develop suitable loan and grant offers to ensure that low income and vulnerable households, in particular those living in hard to treat properties at risk of fuel poverty, have equality of opportunity in accessing energy efficiency measures.

In addition, promoting schemes aimed at providing lower fuel tariffs and fuel bill/debt advice, will further ensure that a wider range of vulnerable households can achieve affordable warmth.

- **Actions** (think about how you will promote positive impact and remove/ reduce negative impact)

Our approach is to look at ways of using available funds and resources to provide as much assistance as possible to low income and vulnerable households. By promoting affordable warmth for these households, we aim to reduce inequality across the City.

There is no obvious negative impact.

All major energy efficiency projects aimed at promoting affordable warmth will include EDCI screening as appropriate.

**5. If you are **not** already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you **will need to carry out an impact assessment**.**

Date to scope and plan your impact assessment:	
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Date to complete your impact assessment	
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Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	
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**6. Governance, ownership and approval**

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening

Name	Job title	Date
Robert Curtis	Fuel Poverty Officer	24/10/2013

**7. Publishing**

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If you are not carrying out an independent impact assessment the screening document will need to be published.

If this screening relates to a **Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, full Council** or a **Significant Operational Decision** a copy should be emailed to Corporate Governance and will be published along with the relevant report.

A copy of **all other** screening's should be sent to [equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk). For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file (but not published).

<b>Date screening completed</b>	24/10/2013
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If relates to a Key Decision - <b>date sent to</b>	25/10/2013
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<b>Corporate Governance</b>	
Any other decision – date sent to Equality Team ( <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a> )	