

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.

Directorate: Public Health	Service area: Strategy and Commissioning
Lead person: Veena Kumar	Contact number: 247 6199

1. Title: Request approval to enter into a 6 month extension period to the existing 4 (x6) month contract for the Supply and Management of Furnished Temporary Accommodation Services

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

The Housing Act 1996 part VII (as amended by the 2002 Homelessness Act) requires all councils to ensure that interim accommodation is available to homeless households seeking assistance under the homeless legislation and, if a statutory homeless duty is accepted, that provision of temporary accommodation must continue until the homeless household is offered either a secure tenancy, or assured tenancy; or agrees to take an assured short hold tenancy.

A Framework Contract is currently in place for the Supply and Management of Furnished Temporary Accommodation (TA) Services. This contract is commissioned and managed by Public Health, Strategy and Commissioning Service. The initial extension period will expire on the 30th September 2014 and will enter its third 6

month extension from the 1st October 2014 with a guarantee number of 21 units.

Placements to temporary accommodation within this contract for homeless households are made by Environment and Housing via the Leeds Housing Options Team, Children Services and Adult Social Care

During 2013 there has been a steady decrease in the number of units being utilised under this contract but at present the Council still requires access to Temporary Accommodation. Over the last 12 months there have been a consistent number of referrals and placements made to the service with close monitoring of demand undertaken by the Temporary Accommodation Board.

A strategic sector review of homelessness services was undertaken by Strategy and Commissioning in 2012. This review was undertaken with key stakeholders including service users. The review concluded that access to dispersed accommodation with an appropriate package of support provided a more effective way of delivering services to homeless households rather than large hostel services.

The Strategic review involved consultation with key partners and stakeholders of housing related support services for homeless single people and families in Leeds.

This decision will ensure the continuation of an existing service and will not introduce a new service or decommission an existing service.

The service specification contains clear requirements to ensure the provider has Equality policies and procedures in place and a responsive service is delivered to all equality groups. To date RD Willis has provided a good quality accessible service.

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?		
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?		
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?		

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:

Date to complete your impact assessment

Lead person for your impact assessment
(Include name and job title)

6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Type of Decision being assessed

Please tick as appropriate

Key (Incurring expenditure or making savings over £250,000 each year and or outcome will have significant effect on communities living in an area comprising two or more wards)

Major (incurring expenditure or making savings over £100,000 per year)

Significant Other (as Delegated Decision Making definition set out in Pt 3 of Constitution)

Administrative (not in conflict with approved policies and do not raise new issues of policy)

Name	Job title	Date
Julie Staton	Head of Commissioning	2 nd September 2014

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.

Date screening completed

Date sent to Equality Team

Date published

(To be completed by the Equality Team)