

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: Children Services</b>	<b>Service area: Commissioning &amp; Market Management</b>
<b>Lead person: Maz Asghar</b>	<b>Contact number: 0113 247 5621</b>

<b>1. Title: Home-Start Commissioned Service</b>
Is this a:
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>
<b>If other, please specify</b>

<b>2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening</b>
<p>Ensuring that the Home-Start commissioned service continues to support and provide services for all relevant priority groups (re. gender, ethnicity, sexuality, disability, religion, etc.).</p>

### 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)

- **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 proposal aims to ensure that Home-start continue to provide services to all relevant priority / equality groups, indeed, as they have done so for the previous years of the contract. Home-start provide a support service to vulnerable groups (children, young people and their families);

Home-Start offers a unique 'volunteer home visiting family support service'. Volunteers who are usually parents themselves are well trained, supported and supervised by highly skilled paid co-ordinators, provide a home visiting family support service for young families facing difficulties and struggling to cope with the demands of family life.

Providing a 'whole family' approach, the service supports parents from amongst some of the most marginalised and disadvantaged communities, coping on a daily basis with issues such as poverty, isolation, poor health, disability and abuse.

Referrals to the service are made with the families consent. Referrals are made where there are concerns in relation of a child or children and at least one child is subject to a plan such as CAF, Family Group Conferencing, etc..

Family issues that may result in concern would include:

- Mental illness,
- Disability,
- Domestic abuse
- Substance/alcohol misuse
- Learning difficulties
- Very young parents/parenting alone/social isolation
- Poverty

- **Actions**

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

**N/A**

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

Name	Job title	Date

**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.  
  
Please send a copy to the Equality Team for publishing

<b>Date screening completed</b>	27.03.14
<b>Date sent to Equality Team</b>	
<b>Date published</b> (To be completed by the Equality Team)	