

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: Environment & Housing	Service area: Strategy & Commissioning
Lead person: Alison Ferguson	Contact number: 0113 3950477

1. Title: Extension of the Refuge Service contract with Home Group Ltd

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

This screening relates to the request to enter into the first of two 12 month extensions available for the current contract between Leeds City Council and Home Group Ltd for the provision of emergency short stay refuge service to women and families who experience domestic violence.

This contract extension is being requested in order to ensure continuity of service whilst a review and subsequent procurement of domestic violence and abuse services is undertaken. The 12 month extension will involve no change for clients, staff, the provider or the Council.

Due regard has been given to equality through all stages of this contract, from the sector review through to the procurement of the service. Ongoing contract management arrangements ensure that this continues to be monitored.

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">• Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment• Advancing equality of opportunity• Fostering good relations		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**.

As indicated, a full EIA does not need to be carried out. The main reason for this is that the proposed new short term contract will result in no changes to current service delivery which could negatively impact upon clients, staff, the provider, partner organisations or the council. In addition, the provider has in place robust policies around fair access and fair exit. As a result, it is felt there will be no adverse effect on any particular groups of people within the city by the proposal to continue with existing services, pending the completion of the service review and re-commissioning of domestic violence and abuse services. A full EIA will be undertaken in relation to the service review.

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)

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

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		
Name	Job title	Date
Chris Dickinson	Head of Commissioning	

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 . For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file (but not published).	
Date screening completed	17/10/2014
If relates to a Key Decision - date sent to Corporate Governance	
Any other decision – date sent to Equality Team (equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk)	