

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: Children's Services	Service area: Complex Needs
Lead person: Daniel Clark	Contact number: 39 52920

1. Title: Request to invoke the two 12 month period extensions presented to Scope and vary the contract, in order to realise savings.

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

The impending decision to vary the existing Inclusion Support contract, provided by Scope, to remove the one point of contact and invoke 2 x 12 month extensions in order to realise savings.

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**.

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)

This contract directly impacts children and young people with disabilities and their

families. Families have been consulted with and Scope agree to, and are in support of, the variance to the contract.

- **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 one point of contact service is also delivered by SENDIAS, and therefore, the Scope provision is not being utilised by families and proving costly. Furthermore, Having more than one point of contact for children and families was also deemed to be confusing and potentially detrimental to the expedience in which children and young people accessed services.

There is a potential risk that this will be seen as a cut to the short breaks budget and local offer. This could have reputational implications. To address this we will work in partnership with Scope and SENDIAS to ensure the message is clear to all young people, families and service providers that there is no cut to the service, or to the funds for short breaks as a whole, and that the local offer is communicated effectively to highlight routes to information, advice and support.

- **Actions**

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

- Regular contact with Scope and robust contract management.
- Dissemination of key messages and local offer.

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
Barbara Newton	Head of Complex Needs	11/11/2015
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		
Date screening completed		
Date sent to Equality Team		
Date published (To be completed by the Equality Team)		