

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 or has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

Directorate: Adults and Health	Service area: Commissioning Team
Lead person: Helen Moran	Contact number: 0113 3787851

1. Title: Award of Contracts for Pharmacy Supervised Consumption Service

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

There are currently 164 pharmacies across Leeds contracted to deliver a supervised consumption service and the current contracts will expire on 31 March 2018. This screening document considers the potential impact of awarding interim contracts to existing providers for a period of three months from 1 April 2018 to 30 June 2018 to ensure continuity of provision whilst longer term requirements of the service are determined.

A review of provision is underway but further work is needed so that a fully-informed decision regarding the required service specification and pricing model that will deliver best value for the longer term commissioning of the service can be made. The intention being to complete the review late February 2018, seek approvals in March/April and go out to tender in April / May with new contracts effective from 1 July 2018.

3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

All the council's strategies and policies, service and functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – city wide or more local. These will also have a greater or 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. Also those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being.

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 Positive Impact	

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)

The supervised consumption service is a key element in the treatment of opiate substance misuse for those undergoing treatment through the Forward Leeds service. Many service users have multiple complex needs and are from priority client groups including those who are homeless / vulnerably housed, affected by domestic violence or with a history of offending. Many

have enduring mental and or physical health needs and are from some of the most deprived areas of Leeds. Any break in the continuity of treatment can lead to set backs in treatment and clients disengaging which can have adverse impacts on health and well-being.

Ensuring continuity of provision will ensure that this vulnerable client group continues to have access to safe and effective drug treatment services in accordance with recommended best practice for safe and effective treatment as set out in the Department of Health's Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management (updated 2017).

- **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 main impact is positive in that all key groups will be able to continue their treatment and have choice over where this takes place. Service users are free to choose whichever pharmacy they prefer and a number of factors can influence which one they use, from proximity to home or work to being away from where they source their drugs. Maximising the number of pharmacies able to offer the service increases the choice that service users have and the likelihood of them remaining engaged in treatment and resulting in a positive outcome. This gives equal opportunity of access irrespective of where a service user lives and minimises travel costs that might be incurred for those on low incomes.

Engaging people in treatment provides them with improved opportunities to overcome their dependency and make a positive contribution to their family and community. Helping people lead drug free lives brings wider benefits to communities in Leeds by reducing the burden on other services and contributes to a reduction in crime. It is estimated by Public Health England that 72,804 crimes were prevented in Leeds in 2016/17 as a result of drug users being in treatment in the city.

The proposal will also help maintain the trust and confidence of pharmacies in their business relationship with the Council which may be damaged if existing contracts are allowed to lapse without formalising ongoing arrangements. Many of them are small independent pharmacies for which reassurance of business arrangements is key.

It is not anticipated that there will be a differential impact between different client groups.

- **Actions**

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

Issuing of the contracts will be overseen by officers in the Commissioning Team within Adults and Health. The return of signed documentation will be carefully monitored to ensure that all pharmacies are continuing to offer the service for the benefit of these vulnerable client groups.

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
Julie Staton	Head of Commissioning	7 February 2018
Date screening completed		5 February 2018

7. Publishing

Though **all** key decisions are required to give due regard to equality the council **only** publishes those related to **Executive Board, Full Council, Key Delegated Decisions or a Significant Operational Decision.**

A copy of this equality screening should be attached as an appendix to the decision making report:

- Governance Services will publish those relating to Executive Board and Full Council.
- The appropriate directorate will publish those relating to Delegated Decisions and Significant Operational Decisions.
- A copy of all other equality screenings that are not to be published should be sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk for record.

Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached screening was sent:

For Executive Board or Full Council – sent to Governance Services	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate Directorate	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	Date sent: