

Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) 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 or has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

Directorate: Children & Families	Service area: Youth Justice Service
Lead person: Helen Burton	Contact number: 0113 3784059

1. Title: Youth Justice Service Plan 2024-27

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

The Youth Justice Plan 2024-27 is the strategic document which guides the work of the youth justice service in Leeds. It provides an overview of the 'Youth Justice Plan 2024-25,' which includes the refreshed multi-year strategy for the YJS covering 2024-27, and the work that sits underneath the strategy.

This report gives an update on each of the workstreams under the previous multi-year strategy 2021-24 in terms of recent activities, outcomes and next steps, and provides rationale for the refreshed strategy. It also considers the impacts that the national cost of living crisis is having on children and their families, and how that impacts on offending behaviours, paired with links with child exploitation and serious youth violence on offending behaviours.

This report provides information on the youth justice service, both at a preventative and statutory level, and supports and strengthens existing strategies within Leeds, including

the Children and Young People’s Plan, the Safer, Stronger Communities Plan and contributes to the Best City Ambition.

This report is developed to meet the core grant terms and conditions as set out by the Youth Justice Board.

The proposed areas for change have been identified through conversations across the youth justice partnership, with senior officers and leaders of the Council, and elected members through the Youth Justice Partnership Board and Scrutiny (Children and Families).

A six-week public consultation on the proposed changes will take place to establish the level of support for the proposed changes. Scrutiny will consider outputs from that consultation in June 2024. The refreshed plan will be approved at Full Council in November 2024, and will cover the period 2024-27.

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	

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 Youth Justice Plan 2024-27 is the strategic plan for improving outcomes for children within the youth justice system, and their families, and designed to promote community safety across the city. This plan strategically aligns and supports the Children & Young People's Plan, the Safer, Stronger Communities Plan and contributes to the Best City Ambition.

This plan covers all children living and growing up in Leeds. This strategy addresses the areas of concern in relation to both children within the youth justice system, and also those at risk of becoming first-time entrants. Within the plan there is a specific strategic priority focusing on disproportionality; identifying and addressing inequalities in the youth justice system.

The proposed changes to the Youth Justice Plan have been developed following discussions with Scrutiny (Children & Families), Children & Families Leadership Team, the Youth Justice Partnership Board, the Youth Justice Service workforce and through consultation with children currently working with the Youth Justice Service.

- **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 Youth Justice Plan 2024-27 refreshes the strategy for the service. Disproportionality and addressing inequalities within the youth justice system was a priority for the Youth Justice Plan 2021-24, and although this aspect of the strategy has been refreshed, the ECDI remains a priority focus area for the service.

The Youth Justice Service governance arrangements means that there is strategic oversight of the service through the Youth Justice Partnership Board who receive regular updates on progress made against the priorities of the Plan. Scrutiny (Children and Families) receives an annual update on the plan and progress made against the priorities.

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

The reporting on the outcomes and priorities within this plan focuses on the outcomes highlighted within this plan, for which ECDI is a key focus.

Scrutiny (Children and Families) provides high support and high challenge when updates are provided (annually). The Youth Justice Partnership Board monitors and evaluates EDCI issues and suggests work programmes to address these issues and improve the way services respond to need and vulnerability (quarterly).

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 Longworth	Director of Children & Families	28/06/24
Date screening completed		15/5/24

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: