

Appendix 3 - 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 or has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

Directorate: Communities, Housing and Environment	Service area: Financial Inclusion
Lead person: Lee Hemsworth	Contact number: 0113 3789219

1. Title: Cost of Living and Welfare strategic and operational arrangements

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

 Service / Function

 Other

If other, please specify

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

Linked to the Best City Ambition breakthrough priority to develop an integrated city-wide welfare support approach, strategic and operational groups have been meeting since September 2022 to coordinate actions to mitigate as far as possible the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis for low-income households. The groups all have senior representatives from the Council, health, third sector and the Department for Work and Pensions and have expanded to include other key partners where appropriate such as West Yorkshire Fire Service.

Regarding framing the response in the city, the work areas and actions emerging from the meetings have focussed on ensuring that there is awareness and understanding of the support available, developing practical support which enhances existing services, and

ensuring the short-term funding available is coordinated and maximised. To achieve this the work in the short term has been organised into the following areas;

- Communications and engagement
- Information, Advice and Guidance
- Practical Support
- Funding
- Reporting

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 focus of the work to mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis is to ensure people and communities who will be most impacted are linked to support and advice in the city. The strategic and operational arrangements put in place have representation from across Council and Health services, and across the third sector. This ensures that the approach has been considered from a range of perspectives and concerns/ issues highlighted at the earliest opportunities. The approach to the cost-of-living crisis has also been presented and consulted upon at the Equalities Assembly, and a wide range of groups and forums including those specifically representing the equality characteristics groups.

- **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)

Key findings from the meetings, discussions and engagement sessions highlighted;

- Need for both online and offline communications, information, advice and guidance
- Consideration of language and accessibility for communications, information, advice and guidance.
- Ensure funding supports a wide range of Third Sector organisations both in terms of size, scale and focus.
- Continued engagement and discussion with partner organisations, city and community forums and groups
- Understanding of limitations of local actions within wider national context.

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

The whole focus of the work is to ensure there is consistent and clear communications on the support and advice available to people to help throughout the cost-of-living crisis, and that actions are coordinated. This has resulted in the following;

- Communications- both online and offline campaigns
- Ensuring resources and information sources are up to date and available in a range of formats and languages
- Providing tailored information, awareness and training sessions
- Undertaking regular and wide ranging consultation on the approach
- In terms of practical support, that this is easily accessible such as through the Winter Coats scheme available across Community Hubs and Libraries, and community centres across Leeds.
- The Warm spaces network was focused on helping those most at risk during the cold weather – i.e. those affected by fuel poverty, low income and related issues. Over 65% of the Leeds population was within a 10-minute walk of a Warm Space during winter 2022/23. Targeted support and funding was made available to organisations working in and with underserved places and communities as well as funding to improve accessibility and tailored provisions for those with additional health needs.
- Ensuring the Household Support Fund has supported households on the lowest incomes with support for food fuel and essential items. A proportion of the funding has been directed through third sector organisations to ensure equality groups receive support, this has included funding organisations focused on health and social care, ethnically diverse communities and women.

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
------	-----------	------

Lee Hemsworth	Chief Officer Community Hubs	03.07.23
Date screening completed		03.07.23

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: 04.07.2023
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate Directorate	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	Date sent: