

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: Re-procurement of the 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

The supervised consumption service is a key element in the treatment of opiate substance misuse for those undergoing treatment through the Forward Leeds service. It involves a pharmacist observing and supporting the consumption of prescribed substitute medication for opiates to service users where supervision has been requested by the prescriber. This is usual for the first 12 weeks of treatment but may be for longer where appropriate. The primary function of the service is to reduce (and eventually replace) illicit opiate use and in so doing reduce harm and improve the health and psychological well-being of the service user.

There are currently 164 pharmacies across Leeds contracted to deliver the supervised consumption service and the current contractual arrangements expire on 30 June 2018. A review of the service has been completed and the intention is to re-procure the service with new contracts coming into effect from 1 July 2018.

This screening document considers the potential impact of re-procuring this service.

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)

Consultation has been undertaken with existing service users, pharmacies and Forward Leeds to establish their views on the existing service and how it might be enhanced. Over a hundred service users completed and returned questionnaires with over 90% saying they received a good service and that it was helping them to be drug free.

Pharmacies were also asked to complete questionnaires and face-to-face interviews were conducted with a cross section of outlets. The response was generally positive with pharmacies expressing an interest in continuing to deliver the service. Discussions have also been held with Forward Leeds and the interim assistant director is a member of the project team that has undertaken the review.

Service data from pharmacies and Forward Leeds has been analysed including the volumes and values of transactions and demographic data to provide a better understanding of the profile of opiate users, trends over time. It is clear there is an ongoing need and demand for the service.

The findings from the consultation and analysis of service data have been considered by the project team undertaking the review including the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration as set out below.

- **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)

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 may have a history of offending. Many have enduring mental and or physical health needs and are from some of the most deprived areas of Leeds. Re-procuring this service will ensure that this vulnerable client group continues to have access to safe and effective drug treatment services in accordance with recommended best practice as set out in the Department of Health's Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management (updated 2017).

Engaging people in treatment provides them with improved opportunities to overcome their dependency, lead healthier and happy lives, receive other support such as housing or employment and training support and enable them to make a positive contribution to their family and community. Not going ahead with re-procurement would jeopardise the effectiveness of treatment services in Leeds and have an adverse impact on clients' health including the risk of increased drug related deaths

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.

It is our intention when re-procuring the service to have as many pharmacies as possible offering the service as is the case at present. There will be no comparable scoring or

competitive selection of tenders and all pharmacies that are able to confirm compliance with our requirements will be eligible to offer the service. This will provide small independent pharmacies with the same opportunity to deliver the service as large chains such as Boots or Lloyds.

Service users are free to choose whichever pharmacy they prefer and a number of factors can influence which one they use including opening hours and proximity to home and transport routes or being away from where they source illegal 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. Based on our consultation we would not expect there to be any significant change to the number or spread of pharmacies across the city wishing to provide this service from 1 July 2018. This will give equal opportunity of access irrespective of where a service user lives and minimise travel costs that might be incurred for those on low incomes.

On occasions members of the public have been known to object to / complain about drug treatment services located in their neighbourhood however based on current experience the likelihood of this happening in relation to this service is considered very low. Service users are well prepared by Forward Leeds on what to expect prior to commencing supervised consumption and pharmacists will usually challenge any inappropriate behaviour. Some pharmacies even provide their own acceptable behaviour charter which service users are required to sign when commencing supervised consumption. In addition, pharmacies are, and will continue to be, required to provide a separate space / room for this service. This not only provides privacy for the client but distances the service from other pharmacy users who may have reservations about this type of service being available in their local pharmacy thereby minimising the likelihood of them objecting.

- **Actions**

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

The opportunity for pharmacies to respond to the tender opportunity is being promoted through Community Pharmacies West Yorkshire (CPWY) which represents all local pharmacies from small independents to larger chains. By encouraging as many pharmacies as possible to offer the service this helps maximise the opportunities for service users, in particular those from vulnerable client groups to remain engaged in treatment and to derive the positive benefits this leads to for themselves, their families and the wider community.

Follow up work will be undertaken during 2018/19 to review how the re-commissioned service is performing and to ensure that the intended benefits are being realised with steps being taken as appropriate to address any negative impacts arising.

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	3 April 2018
Date screening completed		9 March 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: 11 April 2018
All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	Date sent: