

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: Adults and Health	Service area: Commissioning
Lead person: Lisa Fisher	Contact number: 0113 378 9532

1. Title: Rapid Rehousing Pathway Grant – Targeted support for rough sleepers, and those at risk of rough sleeping to access the support and settled housing they need to leave the streets for good

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

An opportunity has arisen to fund some additional targeted work with women who are rough sleeping, homeless or vulnerably housed as a result of a grant from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) from the Rapid Rehousing Pathway.

St Anne’s Community Services will use the grant to set up a Somewhere Safe to Stay HUB at the St Anne’s Resource Centre and will provide 5 bed spaces. These arrangements would be in place as a pilot. An assessment of demand and need which will be conducted by Adults and Health Commissioning Team as part of the Street Based Review 2019 / 2020.

This work with St Anne’s Resource Centre will enable them to support the Council’s ambition to reduce rough sleeping numbers.

There is an increasing number of people rough sleeping and begging nationally and in Leeds. Some people have entrenched and complex issues and do not engage with offers of assistance. Additional resource will mean that more work and support can be provided specifically for women.

Funding will run for 12 months.

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. 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 number of people sleeping rough in Leeds has risen substantially in recent years based upon the November headcounts yet we have seen a decrease in people accessing emergency accommodation. Feedback from existing core services has been of the view that Leeds does not have alternative emergency provision for females and that women in Leeds choose to sleep on the streets or remain in vulnerable housing conditions opposed to accessing emergency accommodation through current provision. Throughout the winter period, 40 women accessed the Hub at St George's Crypt as opposed to 172 Males. In January, Street Outreach Team were supporting 16 females, 3 of which were found to be rough sleeping. There has been further research to suggest that there are a significant number of women who are homeless or living vulnerably that are not seeking any housing assistance at all. Leeds is heavily reliant on St George's Crypt for emergency accommodation which is male dominated and following a recent temporary closure of its service, it has become a priority to source alternative provision, primarily for females as a matter of urgency.

• **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 proposal will strengthen links within the current housing pathway and develop further partnerships with gender specific services. This increased contact with services will bring communities together and encourage females to address their needs, access accommodation and prevent rough sleeping / living in vulnerable conditions. The new service will bridge the gap in service provision for females and tighten the disparity between male to female ratios of rough sleepers we find in Leeds today by encouraging women to come forward and present as homeless.

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

This service will positively address the gap in emergency provision for females in Leeds and will offer the City with 5 additional beds to help end rough sleeping. This service is a pilot to assess need and demand for female's requiring emergency accommodation. It is the first female HUB and the only female HUB being set up out of the Rapid Rehousing Pathway. As such MHCLG, Leeds City Council and stakeholders stand to learn and benefit from this proposal.

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	14/05/2019
Date screening completed		14/05/2019

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:

