

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: Children and Families	Service area: Schools Finance
Lead person: Louise Hornsey	Contact number: 0113 3788689

1. Title: School funding 2020/21 – local funding formula

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

 Service / Function

 Other

If other, please specify – local authority schools funding formula for 2018/19

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

The proposal being screened is the 2020/21 formula for allocating funding to mainstream schools and academies.

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)

All schools and Schools Forum were consulted with on two options for the 2020/21 schools funding formula. Figures provided for the two formula options during the consultation demonstrated the impact on all schools. All schools were given the opportunity to comment.

The two options that the council consulted on both proposed to move as close as possible to the National Funding Formula (NFF) which has been established by the Department for Education (DfE), as this was the approach taken for 2018/19 and 2019/20

which was supported by the majority of schools that responded to the consultation and also Schools Forum. The areas that were varied in the consultation were a reduction in the maximum gains per-pupil and the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), which ensures that schools receive a minimum increase in their per-pupil funding

The two options modelled for consultation both included a proposed adjustment to remove the PFI funding received through the formula from the calculation of the MFG. The proposed adjustment takes into account any additional funding previously paid by the council outside of the funding formula for some PFI schools in 2019/20. This adjustment will ensure that all schools receive the correct level of funding protection in 2020/21 in line with the Government's National Funding Formula (NFF). Schools Forum were advised that this adjustment was proposed, no objections were raised and they voted unanimously for one of the formula options put forward.

PFI schools are supportive of this adjustment as it ensures they are treated on an equal basis to non-PFI schools. The precedent for removing the PFI factor from the MFG calculation was set for the 2019/20 funding formula. Schools have had opportunity to comment through the funding consultations for both 2019/20 and 2020/21 and no objections have been raised. A separate briefing session for PFI schools was also held during 2019/20 and PFI schools were supportive of the approach.

- **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 Local Authority aims to fund all schools and academies in accordance with the principles of the NFF. The local formula will not be able to fully mirror the NFF as Schools Forum has agreed to transfer funding of 0.48% (£2.65m) from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to support pressures in that area. However the LA intends to distribute the remaining funds through a formula which matches the NFF as closely as possible. We have fully consulted with schools and Schools Forum on our approach and by mirroring the NFF as closely as possible we have ensured we have taken into account the equality considerations built into the NFF.

The request to remove the PFI funding received through the formula from the calculation of the MFG will ensure that all mainstream schools and academies in Leeds are treated equally in the funding formula and are neither advantaged or disadvantaged by their PFI status.

- **Actions**

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

The positive impact of this proposal has been communicated to schools and Schools Forum through the consultations and briefings noted above. The adjustment proposed ensures there is no negative impact to address.

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:	n/a
Date to complete your impact assessment	n/a
Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	n/a

6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening

Name	Job title	Date
Date screening completed		29/11/19

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: