

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 and Environment	Service area: Parks and Countryside
Lead person: Simon Frosdick	Contact number: 0113 3786002

1. Title:
Is this a:
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>Preparations have been underway to open facilities safely in line with the guidance following the government announcement that playgrounds and outdoor gyms could open from 4th July. Legal advice has been provided on the published guidance (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms) and there are significant implications relating to risk assessment, cleaning and social distancing that have needed to be considered and put in place. The council has a total of 200 playgrounds and outdoor gyms comprising of over 2000 pieces of individual equipment located within its parks and green spaces and this provides significant challenges in terms of scale and risk prevention. It is therefore not possible to open all playgrounds at this stage, however Parks and Countryside have been in discussion with Civic Enterprise Leeds (CEL) to put in place enhanced cleaning regimes at a limited number of sites which will be reopened on Thursday 16th July as follows:</p>

- The playground at the Arium
- The playground and adventure playground at Lotherton
- The playground at Middleton Park
- The two playgrounds at Roundhay Park along with outdoor gym equipment.
- The playground at Temple Newsam

Signage will be put in place to remind users about social distancing, hygiene, not eating food or drink and limiting numbers including on relevant pieces of equipment. If the playground or equipment is busy then people are also asked to be patient to enable social distancing but the playgrounds and equipment will not be supervised so this will rely on people acting responsibly. In some cases it will be necessary for example to remove some swing seats to ensure social distancing. The government has not provided any funding to provide enhanced cleaning and there are not sufficient resources available to implement across all other playgrounds and equipment citywide. Any updated government guidance will continue to be reviewed and consideration will be given to opening other playgrounds and equipment in the light of this and the implications on availability of resources to conduct suitable enhanced cleaning measures.

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 council recognises the value and importance of children's play and the provision of fixed play opportunities along with the provision of outdoor gym equipment. Government legislation mandated closure of these facilities and have issued guidance on how these can be reopened. It is also recognised that the COVID-19 virus remains in general circulation and therefore the overriding safety priority is to minimise transmission. The guidance has significant resource implications that mean that only a limited number can reopen and therefore the selected sites have been identified to provide for play and fitness opportunities across the city that are accessible to a large number of residents.

- **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)

It is recognised that the scale of reopened facilities is significantly reduced and that spatial distribution across the city is uneven. The limited number inevitably reduces the level of access of facilities available to the public but is significantly better than all sites remaining closed. The sites chosen have support facilities in place such as car parking and seven day staff presence along with a good standard of facilities and range of accessible provision. This will enable access to the maximum available sites with suitable infrastructure to manage demand with sufficient space to enable social distancing.

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

- Civic Enterprise Leeds (CEL) will be engaged to put in place enhanced cleaning regimes at each available site
- Signage will be put in place supported by clear symbols to inform the public and encourage responsible use of the facilities. This will include signage to remind users about social distancing, hygiene, not eating food or drink and limiting numbers including on relevant pieces of equipment.

- People will be reminded to be patient and wait until equipment becomes available to use at busy times.
- All sites chosen have staff available 7 days a week and they will be tasked to support this work as required.

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
Sean Flesher	Chief Parks and Countryside Officer	22 nd July 2020
Date screening completed		14 th July 2020

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: