

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: A&H Commissioning
Lead person: Helen Moran	Contact number: (0113) 37 87851

1. Title: Contract extension of 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 Pharmacy Supervised Consumption Service is a key element in the treatment of opiate substance misuse for those undergoing treatment through Forward Leeds (the alcohol and drug service for Leeds). 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 reduce harm and improve the health and psychological well-being of the service user.

There are currently 159 pharmacies across Leeds contracted to deliver supervised consumption and the current contracts will expire on 30 June 2021. A review of the service is underway and the intention is to extend the current contracts, coming into effect from 1 July 2021.

This screening document considers the potential impact of extending 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?		✓
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?		✓
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		✓
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?		✓
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	✓	

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 Forward Leeds and CPWY (Community Pharmacies West Yorkshire) to establish their views on the existing service and how it might be enhanced. The views of pharmacies are also represented via CPWY.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, consultation with service users has not been possible. However, there is constant dialogue and support between Forward Leeds and service users.

Also, at the last service review in 2017/18, over 100 service users completed and returned questionnaires. Of these, over 90% stated that they received a good service and that it was helping them to be drug free. Ongoing dialogue with FL suggests that this position hasn't changed.

Market intelligence 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 and future demand for the service. This includes the changes that have taken place during C-19.

- **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. Extending 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 for safe and effective treatment 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.

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 our intention when extending the contract to have as many pharmacies as possible offering the service as is the case at present. This will provide small independent pharmacies with the same opportunity to deliver the service as large chains (e.g. Boots).

Service users are free to choose whichever pharmacy they prefer and a number of factors can influence which one they use, from proximity to home or work to being away from where they source their 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.

Even though there have been delivery pressures relating to Covid-19, we do 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 2021. This gives equal opportunity of access irrespective of where a service user lives and minimises 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 challenge any inappropriate behaviour. Some pharmacies even have their own acceptable behaviour agreement, signed and agreed by service users prior to commencing supervision. 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 service users, if required, but also distances the service user 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 proposed extension will encourage as many pharmacies as possible to offer the service. This will help 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.

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
Kate Daly	Commissioning Programme Leader	26 th February 2021
Date screening completed		

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: 2/3/21
All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	Date sent: -