

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: Adults & Health	Service area: Integrated Commissioning
Lead person: Joanne Buck, Programme Leader	Contact number: 0113 3789372

1. Title: Provision of a 9 Bed Move on Accommodation Service for men who are homeless, living vulnerably or rough sleeping

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy
 Service / Function
 Other

If other, please specify

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

This screening assessment is considering the authority to procure a new service to provide accommodation and support men who are homeless, vulnerably housed or rough sleeping.

On the 27th March 2020, in responding to the government guidance with regard to the Covid-19 pandemic, Leeds City Council moved all people placed in shared units of emergency accommodation into hotel rooms that had self-contained amenities. As we received further guidance throughout the lock down period, it has become clear that we are unable to return to communal shared facilities due to the increased risk of spreading the virus to an already vulnerable cohort of people. The challenge presented to the Local Authority is how we now move customers away from the hotels into self-contained and sustainable accommodation with the right support in place to meet their needs.

The opportunity to secure a 9 bed accommodation service has presented itself to meet the immediate accommodation need for a cohort of rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping. The property will comprise of a 9 bed self-contained unit that will be leased to a commissioned provider to deliver emergency and supported accommodation for males with low to medium complex needs. A further 2 units of accommodation will be available for emergency safeguarding and severe weather protocols. The onsite staff office will allow for support to be provided on a 24/7 basis. The units will be leased on a license, meaning that the provider has the ability to claim Housing Benefit and end the lease at short notice.

The main objective of the provision of this accommodation is to accommodate vulnerable males and to comply with the National Rough Sleeping Strategy: The government published its national rough sleeper strategy in August 2018. The national strategy includes targets to halve rough sleeper numbers (from the 2017 baseline) by 2022 and to end rough sleeping by 2027. The national strategy is rooted in three 'pillars':

- To prevent new people from starting to sleep rough
- To intervene rapidly when people start to sleep rough to help them off the street
- To promote a person's recovery once they are off the street to build positive lives and do not return to rough sleeping.

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?	Y	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?		N
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by		N

whom?		
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?		N
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 		N

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)

There is evidence of need that more move on accommodation specific for men with complex needs is required in the city and this proposal will provide a much needed additional 9 units of accommodation for vulnerable males.

The accommodation will be aimed at males with low to medium complex needs, including those with alcohol and substance misuse issues, and mental and physical ill health. This will be managed through a multi-agency approach, combining a referral and assessment process, observation and perceptions at referral and throughout the stay, with Out of Hours screening and emergency services support as a last resort.

This accommodation will provide an additional resource that will assist Leeds City Council to better meet the 'No Second Night Out' policy for homeless and vulnerable people.

Consultation has been carried out with strategic and third sector partners through the Covid-19 Silver Group partners, all of whom are in agreement with the proposal.

- **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 have a positive impact on vulnerable males. It will offer good quality emergency and short term supported move on accommodation that will meet the following objectives:

- To **prevent** vulnerable males from starting to sleep rough
- To **intervene** rapidly when vulnerable males start to sleep rough to help them off the street
- To promote a person's **recovery** once they are off the street to build positive lives that stop them returning to rough sleeping

- **Actions**

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

To ensure this project is successful and meets the needs of vulnerable men, the support provided will be part of a well-established support network that is already in operation to meet the needs of the cohort of males that will access the accommodation. A full assessment of needs will be undertaken at the referral stage and a restorative, holistic support package will be agreed. This will be a multi-agency package to ensure clients:

- Have a personal housing plan in place to prevent them from rough sleeping in the future.
- Have a pathway to secure accommodation that is suitable to their needs, such as social housing, private rented accommodation, Beacon supported housing.
- Engage with services that provide support to live independently, become "tenancy ready" and to sustain a tenancy, such as DWP, Engage Leeds.
- Engage with move on support via Engage Leeds.
- Engage with services that provide health and wellbeing support and specialist services that prevent homelessness, such as Bevan Health Care Nurses, Street Outreach Workers, and Forward Leeds Substance Misuse Workers,

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
Joanne Buck	Commissioning Programme Leader	01.04.2021
Date screening completed: 06.04.21		

7. Publishing	
<p>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.</p> <p>A copy of this equality screening should be attached as an appendix to the decision making report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached screening was sent:</p>	
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: