

Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) 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, Housing and Environment	Service area: Adults and Health Commissioning
Lead person: Simon Pickering	Contact number: 0113 378 7854

1. Title:

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

 Service / Function

 Other

If other, please specify

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

This decision seeks approval to accept further Government grant funding to continue the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders (AfEO) project from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025.

The AfEO project, an initiative open to all Local Authorities, has been running in Leeds since 2021. In early 2021, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (now DLUHC) launched the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders Fund, a £13 million programme to fund local authority led schemes to develop sustainable accommodation provision in areas of high need by increasing access to private rented sector (PRS) tenancies for ex-offenders who are, or are at risk of becoming, homeless.

The Council was successful in attracting funding of £271,000 with the pilot starting in September 2021. It involves close partnership work between officers in Housing Options who identify suitable people leaving prison, in partnership with Probation colleagues, and the liaison with landlords who offer properties to the scheme.

Two support workers employed by BARCA, part of Engage Leeds, provide support to people housed through the scheme, helping them set up a tenancy and gain independent living skills, and comply with any probation requirements.

The Leeds scheme continued beyond 1st September 2022, into a further six-month period using existing funding surplus, and to date has successfully accommodated in the region of 40 people into tenancies.

DLUHC requested interest in September 2022 to submit a bid for further funding to extend the service beyond March 2023, for two further years from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025.

The Council and delivery partners submitted a successful bid to continue the service from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025 which was based on the experience of running the project, demand for properties and meeting a realistic target.

Approval is being sought to accept this Government grant funding for the next two years. This will enable the service to continue accepting placements for people leaving prison to be accommodated and receive support. This will have a beneficial impact on strategic goals of reducing re-offending, minimising homelessness and rough sleeping, and tackling any substance misuse issues with referrals into treatment services.

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		X

whom?		
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)

This decision allows continuation of the existing service, there will be no disruption or change in delivery model. Support provided by BARCA Leeds to individuals in the scheme takes into account any support needs and barriers regarding discrimination and identifying solutions to improve support.

- **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)

There should be no negative impact on anyone with protected characteristics by accepting this continued funding and the service continuing for further 2 years.

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

The existing support provider, BARCA Leeds, have current policies and procedures concerning support planning and risk assessment which identify any support needs or barriers appertaining to equality, diversity, and inclusion. Regular meetings are held between delivery partners to identify any issues through service delivery.

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	
Date screening completed 3 rd March 2023		

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: