

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 & Environment	Service area: Migration Yorkshire
Lead person: Dinah Beckett	Contact number: 0113 3789012

1. Title: Variation to existing partnership arrangements to provide wraparound support to residents of the Afghan ‘Bridging hotels’ in North Yorkshire and Doncaster

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

On 29 December 2020, the Defence Secretary and Home Secretary announced the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). This scheme offers relocation or other assistance to former Locally Employed Staff (LES) in Afghanistan to reflect the changing situation in Afghanistan.

The ARAP launched on 1 April 2021 and remains open. In August 2021 an emergency evacuation known as ‘Operation Pitting’ was launched to provide safe passage to the UK to eligible Afghans. This has since been extended to several ‘at risk’ groups of Afghans including people who worked for the British Council and people who have been displaced from Afghanistan for many years and have been assessed as suitable for resettlement by the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

Given the rapid implementation of the programmes and the large numbers of people involved, the Home Office has commissioned hotels around the country as 'bridging hotels' where Afghan evacuees and refugees are housed until long term accommodation is sourced.

Hotel residents are supported to settle in and make longer term plans for life in the UK through the provision of 'wraparound support' in the hotels. The support is funded by the Home Office by payment to the local authority which hosts the hotel. In Yorkshire and Humber, Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) coordinates this arrangement by processing payments and managing sub-contract arrangements.

North Yorkshire County Council has been the location of two bridging hotels, one of which closed on 31 July 2022. It has agreed to vary the existing Partnership Agreement with Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) to include the provision of a 'wraparound support' for Afghan evacuees and refugees in the bridging hotels in North Yorkshire to 31 July 2023.

City of Doncaster Council is the location of one bridging hotel. It has agreed to vary the existing Partnership Agreement with Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) to include the provision of a 'wraparound support' and therapeutic support for Afghan evacuees and refugees in the bridging hotel in Doncaster to 31 July 2023.

A variation to the existing Grant Agreement with British Refugee Council (Refugee Council) is required to deliver this service and provide for a revised and updated budget and service provision.

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	
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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 proposal covers providing integration support to newly arrived Afghan evacuees and refugees in temporary accommodation (hotel) settings. Supporting equality, diversity, cohesion and integration is integral to the proposed service.

- **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)

By facilitating the provision of wraparound support, we are able to promote integration and ensure new arrivals are provided with the advice, information and guidance required to understand life in the UK, and settle successfully as part of the wider community.

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

The wraparound service will take into account issues of equality, diversity and cohesion as part of orientation to life in the UK – and how it applies to everyone in the UK, what to do if you are the victim of discrimination or hate crime supporting people to live life to the full and become valued members of their communities.

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
Dinah Beckett	Regional Asylum & Refugee Integration Manager	2/4/2023
Date screening completed		2/4/2023

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:
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