

# EQUALITY SCREENING

Equality Impact Assessment guidance should be considered when completing this form.

POLICY/FUNCTION/ACTIVITY	LEAD OFFICER
The Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)	Chantal Noble

**A. What is the aim of this policy, function or activity?** Why is it needed? What is it hoped to achieve and how will it be ensured it works as intended? Does it affect service users, employees or the wider community?

A sum of £50,000 was allocated as a post pandemic capacity building grant scheme, available to voluntary, community and faith sector organisations working in Runnymede.

The aim of the COMF grant is to enable financial support and investment for voluntary, community and faith sector organisations working in Runnymede, against specific criteria, in response to, and following, the COVID-19 pandemic.

This funding supports the residents of Runnymede in a variety of ways depending on the organisation that has applied.

Monitoring forms will be returned to Runnymede Borough Council which provide information on the activities that the organisation has undertaken.

If funding was not provided, this would likely diminish organisational effectiveness and reduce the organisations' ability to function and address problems in the community.

**B. . Is this policy, function or activity relevant to equality?** Does the policy, function or activity relate to an area in which there are known inequalities, or where different groups have different needs or experience? Remember, it may be relevant because there are opportunities to promote equality and greater access, not just potential on the basis of adverse impacts or unlawful discrimination. The Protected Characteristics are; Sex, Age, Disability, Race, Religion and Beliefs, Sexual Orientation, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Gender Reassignment, Pregnancy and Maternity.

The organisations operate to support residents in the whole borough, and beyond.

Applicants had to state the outcomes intended for the spend and its link to the impact of and recovery from COVID-19 and pandemic related health inequalities.

Applicants were asked to detail how COMF funding would contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents and development of communities, with reference to the priorities listed in the corporate Health and Wellbeing strategy and Empowering Communities strategy.

Applicants were also be asked to outline how the grant award would be used to further strengthen their organisation as part of their ongoing resilience and/or recovery, or how the grant funding would be used to build capacity in respect of the following:

- To increase participation and/or access to services as part of their continued recovery post pandemic
- To establish or further develop/promote the sustainability of services that were key during/post pandemic including but not limited to:
  - Support with access to food/meals
  - Mental health support
  - Reducing loneliness and isolation
  - Providing information and advice
  - Providing neighbourhood/community support
  - Providing continued support targeted at groups where evidence points to a disproportionate impact from COVID-19 (e.g. BAME population)

The organisations that the panel recommends are successful in their funding bid are:

Cruse Bereavement Support  
 Homestart Runnymede and Woking  
 The River Church, on behalf of the Forest Estate Community Hub  
 White Lodge  
 St Paul's Church

If the policy, function or activity is considered to be relevant to equality then a full Equality Impact Assessment may need to be carried out. If the policy function or activity does not engage any protected characteristics then you should complete Part C below. Where Protected Characteristics are engaged, but Full Impact Assessment is not required because measures are in place or are proposed to be implemented that would mitigate the impact on those affected or would provide an opportunity to promote equalities please complete Part C.

**C. If the policy, function or activity is not considered to be relevant to equality, what are the reasons for this conclusion?** Alternatively, if there it is considered that there is an impact on any Protected Characteristics but that measures are in place or are proposed to be implemented please state those measures and how it/they are expected to have the desired result. What evidence has been used to make this decision? A simple statement of 'no relevance' or 'no data' is not sufficient.

The COMF funding has a positive impact on people with protected characteristics. Therefore it is considered that a full impact assessment is not necessary. This is evidenced by the criteria and types of organisation assisted by the funding as set out in Part B.

This screening assessment will need to be referred to the Equality Group for challenge before sign-off.

Date completed: 17 October 2023  
 Sign-off by senior manager: *Chantal Noble*