

EQUALITY SCREENING

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

POLICY/FUNCTION/ACTIVITY	LEAD OFFICER
The Youth Development Fund (YDF)	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 total of £40,000 was allocated to the Youth Development Fund for 2023/24 to support the development of youth activities and services provided by the voluntary, community and faith sector, upon whom many children, young people and families rely.

The focus of this fund is to promote capacity building and the creation of new projects and initiatives to benefit children and young people in Runnymede.

Grants of up to £7,000 are available to voluntary, community and faith sector organisations, based in, or operating within, Runnymede borough, and delivering services directly to residents under 18.

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 were asked to detail how the Youth Development Fund would contribute to the health and wellbeing of our younger residents, with reference to the priorities listed in the corporate Health and Wellbeing strategy and Empowering Communities strategy.

Applicants were also asked to state the outcomes intended for the spend and its link to the support of children and young people in Runnymede. It was emphasised that the Council was supportive of project ideas that have come from young people themselves who have been actively involved in the project planning process.

Additional consideration was given to projects that were based in or serve young people living in the following areas of the borough: Chertsey St Anns, Englefield Green West, Addlestone South, Addlestone North and Egham Hythe

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 Youth Development 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 and the fact that young people have been involved in the project planning process.

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*