

## CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP

**Venue:** Town Hall,  
Moorgate Street,  
Rotherham. S60 2TH

**Date:** Wednesday, 21st May, 2014

**Time:** 2.00 p.m.

### A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence.

#### **For Decision:-**

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 19th March, 2014 (herewith) (Pages 1 - 10)
3. Matters Arising.
4. Issues and Concerns  
– Youth Cabinet

#### **For Discussion:-**

5. Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms - Update (Pages 11 - 16)
6. Child Poverty Strategy - Response to Government Consultation (Pages 17 - 25)
7. Families for Change Update (Pages 26 - 41)
8. CSE Learning and Development Plan (Pages 42 - 51)
9. Sexual Health Services Update (Pages 52 - 54)
10. CSE Update

#### **For Information:-**

11. Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children's Board (Pages 55 - 75)  
– Minutes of meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2014

12. Any Other Business.
  
13. Date and Time of Next Meeting.
  - Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2014

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP**  
**Wednesday, 19th March, 2014**

Present:- Joyce Thacker (in the Chair); Councillor Roche, Steve Ashley, Karen Borthwick, Warren Carratt, Dr. David Clitheroe, Paul Dempsey, Karen Etheridge, Martin Kimber, Rachel Nicolls, Dr. David Polkinghorn, Dr. John Radford, Janet Wheatley, Sarah Whittle and Ian Wormsley.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lakin, Pickering, Sara Graham, Jason Harwin, Julie Mott, Clair Pyper and Dorothy Smith.

**257. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2014, were considered and approved as a correct record.

It was noted that Jane Parfremment had been appointed to the post of Director of Safeguarding and Families. Jane would commence in post on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2014.

Resolved:- That a report be submitted to the next meeting on Emergency Hormonal Contraception.

**258. ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

**Looked After Council**

- Was currently meeting for Voice and Influence training and development sessions weekly at MyPlace
- Up to 50 Looked After and Leaving Care young people had attended meetings at any 1 time
- Over the past 3 months they had worked on team building skills, self-awareness and self-esteem
- Attendance at the CICC Regional Conference in Nottingham on 17<sup>th</sup> February – they had delivered a presentation raising awareness around Rotherham LACC and engaged in action planning for the LAC Council's future
- Had engaged in the recruitment and selection process for the Director of Safeguarding post
- Visit by Corporate Parents
- Views sought on their involvement in the re-commissioning of Leaving Care Services
- Consultation on the C&YP Commissioning Strategy
- Engaged in activities specifically designed to raise their awareness around the geography and customs in view of their forthcoming visit to Portugal

### **Youth Cabinet**

The following presentation was given of their work on the subject of self-harm:-

#### What is Self-Harm?

- "Hurting yourself to deal with difficult feelings. It can be through physical or emotional means, which may not be obvious to those around you."

#### Examples of Self-Harm

- Physical – cutting, burning yourself, overdosing, scratching
- Emotional – long periods of silence, bursts of anger, depression, stress

#### Self-Harm Awareness Day

- Self-Harm Awareness Day 1<sup>st</sup> March
- We are wearing orange ribbons to promote awareness of this campaign

#### Why Self-Harm?

- The Youth Cabinet feels strongly about this issue
- It is a growing issue within Rotherham
- To find out what is out there to help young people
- To try and reduce barriers for young people getting help and support

#### What have we done?

- Set up a Self-Harm Awareness Sub-Group which meets regularly
- Collected case studies on people who have self-harmed
- Taken part in a self-harm awareness training day
- Met on 16<sup>th</sup> January with health professionals, school and college staff, RMBC officers, Councillors etc.
- Met on 30<sup>th</sup> January to decide our key priorities
- Met on 12<sup>th</sup> February with Commissioners
- Taken part in Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day on 27<sup>th</sup> February

#### Recommendations

- Consistent, concise and simple messages for all organisations
- Clear, consistent referral routes for all organisations
- Involve young people in the development of user-friendly information online
- Ensure that young people are involved in Service design
- Ensure that advice to young people is available through drop-ins, one-to-one sessions as well as web-based material
- Improve and standardise the provision of information on self-harm to all schools
- Establish better links between schools and colleges and share best practice

- Examine ways in which access to School Nurses can be improved
- Availability of resources/training/support for schools, colleges, amongst parents, young people etc.

#### Next Steps

- Youth Cabinet Self-Harm Sub-Group will continue to meet to work on our priorities and recommendations
- Rotherham Youth Cabinet has been invited to speak at Suicide Prevention Conference on 3<sup>rd</sup> April to share our findings

Youth Cabinet members were also developing a presentation to deliver to the Suicide Prevention conference to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April at the New York Stadium

They had also submitted a question to the Health Select Commission with regard to School Nurses.

### **259. ADCS REPORT - "WHAT IS EDUCATION FOR"**

Karen Borthwick, Head of School Effectiveness Services, submitted the Association of Directors of Children's Services Ltd.'s Educational Achievement Policy Committee Position Statement "What is Education For?"

The Statement articulated ADCS members' collective views on the current education system and their aspirations for the future. It considered the purpose of education and suggested the actions local authorities could take to ensure that their local education offer met the changing needs of their children and young people as well as the role of business, the community and the home in developing the local education offer.

Discussion ensued on what the Partnership thought education was for with the following comments made:-

- Good to see a move away from measuring but looking at fit for purpose and integrating young people into society
- A rounded individual that could reflect, think and be creative was far better than achieving outcomes
- Children were all different and would never meet the nationally agreed system/standard – it would be about getting a balance for every child
- For some a classroom setting did not work – prepare them for the next stage of their life
- Need to ensure equity of resources for all schools – no postcode lottery
- Essential that parents and young people were fully informed of the different options open to them
- Careers advice needed to reflect the sensitivity of areas in terms of economic regeneration needs

It was noted that the report would be discussed in various forums in order to get a view of the local position.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

## **260. CSE UPDATE**

Joyce Thacker, Strategic Director, Children's and Young Peoples Services, gave the following update:-

- The Rotherham Multi-Agency CSE Team had won the National Team Award for Unsung Heroes at the CSE National Working Group Awards under the criteria for the Longest Journey under Challenging Conditions. A presentation would be made at the next Council meeting
- A number of complex cases had come to light which brought their own set of challenging circumstances. An intensive piece of work would be undertaken
- The current year's performance was being reviewed together with the action plan, identifying priorities for next year and any emerging gaps

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

## **261. EARLY HELP OVERVIEW**

Warren Carratt, Service Manager, Strategy, Standards & Early Help, gave the following powerpoint presentation:-

What is "Early Help"?

- 'Intervening early and as soon as possible to tackle problems emerging for children, young people and their families or with a population most at risk of developing problems. Effective intervention may occur at any point in a child or young person's life'

Statutorily

- Working Together 2013 put requirement on Local Safeguarding Children Board to assure itself of the effectiveness of Early Help provision
- No duty on individual agencies (and taken away from schools) but expectation there and included in OfSTED framework

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- Links to all priorities but specific strong links with Dependence to Independence, Aspirations and Expectations and Prevention and Early Intervention

#### Pathways to Whole Family Early Help

- Children's Centres working with 0-5 year olds
- Targeted Family Support working with primary aged children
- Integrated Youth Support Service working with teenagers/young adults
- Community Development Team Outreach working with SEN

#### Role of Early Help Assessment Team

- To provide co-ordination of step downed contacts from CART
- To be a central point of contact for families requiring Early Help
- To broker services where required
- Not to replace Localism but support where there is none in place

#### Early Help Challenges

- Predominantly unqualified workforce
- Many issues underpinned by adult mental health (mild to moderate)
- If it works, Social Care need never become involved
- Linked into broader societal context e.g. Welfare Reform
- Often about case management
- Not Social Care aftercare

#### Trends

- Schools disengaging from lead working but need is still there
- Interdependent with other provision e.g. CAMHS, EPS, CDC etc.
- Early Help is part of a wide ranging system where one or more areas of support are reduced the impact on the whole system needs to be assessed

#### Families for Change Provision

- Providing connectivity (not duplication) of existing provision or new provision where gaps are identified
- Evidence based
- Co-working where required with existing services
- Only for families with poor attendance and anti-social behaviour or worklessness
- Little overlap with Pupil Referral Units, Parenting etc.
- Subject to rigorous Payment by Results scrutiny and challenge from Audit and DCLG
- Family Recovery Programme focussed on most complex cases (Social Care)

#### Where's the Gap?

##### Causal Factors

- Reduction in Services and/or Service redesign
- Limitations of existing initiatives (e.g. Families for Change)
- History of chronic, long term neglect
- Insufficiency of planned, facilitated step down
- Where to go for challenge/support

#### Early Help Support Panel

A multi-agency forum where:-

- Services can be commissioned and where innovative, fast-track approaches can be tested
- The quality of multi-agency work can be assured and challenged where required
- Support for families can be brokered

#### What we value

- Localism and the capacity, trust and freedom of local services to provide effective early help within their own communities wherever this is possible

#### What we know

- We are not yet providing excellent integrated Early Help Services
- Some Services are commissioned and/or delivered by the "centre" and not community based
- We do not and will not unite Early Help provision under one management line or organisation umbrella (nor should we)
- The system is being pushed apart
- Practitioners want to succeed though they need help and better awareness of pathways to access this
- Social Care are a key partner and the way this interfaces with Early Help providers is in constant need of review and revision

Discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Attempts had been made to mitigate the impact of the proposed reduction of Children's Centres as much as possible by focussing on staff and services and providing outreach work. There was to be an event on 2<sup>nd</sup> April to discuss the way forward
- The voluntary and community sector was a resource that needed to be tapped into. Analysis of the work of the sector had shown the variety of work it did with children and young people providing an alternative service to families and individuals around Early Help
- 1 of the best ways of determining how well agencies were doing with their work on Early Help was to look at how many children became a Child in Need or subject to a Care Plan and work from that point. All agencies needed to work together and ascertain why Early Help had not had an influence. The Local Safeguarding Children Board would concentrate on Early Help's performance and look at why a child became the subject of a Care Plan
- Agencies had a tendency to work at crisis level rather than prevention and early intervention

- Essential that the voluntary and community sector were utilised more

Resolved:- That the presentation be noted.

## 262. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STRATEGY

Paul Dempsey, Service Manager, CYPS Provider Services, presented the above Strategy which was an ongoing initiative setting out the improved outcomes for all children and young people in the care of the Local Authority and what needed to be done by all those involved in the development and delivery of services to Looked After Children.

Whilst the Local Authority was the lead agency in developing and implementing the Strategy, it had and was being developed and implemented by a range of professionals working in the Local Authority and key partner agencies.

A Looked After Children Strategy Group had been established to develop and implement the Strategy. A smaller sub-project group took the lead on individual priority areas.

The work in developing and implementing the Strategy was essentially centred upon answering 4 key questions - as a Service where did we want to be, where were we now, how would we get from where we were now to where we wanted to be and how would we know we were there?

5 Priority objectives defined what key achievements and improvements the Service would be striving to make over the next 2 years in relation to Looked After Children's measures:-

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Priority 1 | to improve the degree and timeliness of placement stability and permanence and ensure children were able to enjoy continuity of relationships                                   |
| Priority 2 | to improve the emotional wellbeing and physical health of Looked After Children   |
| Priority 3 | to improve educational progress and attainment and narrow the gap between attainment of Looked After Children and their non-Looked After peers                                  |
| Priority 4 | to improve the support for and opportunities open to care leavers sufficiently to increase the number and proportion of them who are in employment, education or training (EET) |
| Priority 5 | to listen to children and young people so as to ensure that their views influence their own plans as well as wider service delivery and development                             |

The report had been submitted to the Improving Lives Select commission on 12th March and the Corporate Parenting Group on 21<sup>st</sup> January.

Discussion ensued on the report with the following comments/issues raised:-

- Suggestion that a representative from CAMHS, Tier 3 specialists, be invited to the Strategy Group
- There were approximately 390 Looked After Children in Rotherham of which 92 were placed with independent foster providers outside of Rotherham, 20 placed with Local Authority foster carers that lived outside of the Borough and 30 children in residential provision outside of the Borough
- It was 1 of the Strategy Priorities to try and get as many as possible of the above children back into the Borough
- Commissioners were working with the CCG to develop the CAMHS Strategy which would address Looked After Children's needs
- Rotherham College had discussed with the Authority what they could do to work with Looked After Children and support the change

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

### **263. YEAR END - PLAN ON A PAGE**

Sue Wilson, Performance and Quality Manager, presented a report highlighting progress up until December, 2013, drawing particular attention to:-

Priority 1 – We will ensure children have the best start in life

- 91 schools now had a 'Food in Schools Policy' which incorporated all food provision including packed lunches
- New joint 2 year Health and Education Review successfully piloted at Aughton Early Years Children Centre
- 81 established breastfeeding friendly public places and 65 active breast buddies in Rotherham
- Launch of Ante-natal Pathway on 16<sup>th</sup> September with parents now being offered pre-birth and new birth visits

Priority 2 – We will engage with parents and families

- Development of Performance Management Framework for Early Help
- Young Carer's Card launched September, 2013
- Updated Family CAF now included the requirement for CYPS to systematically screen for drug and alcohol use
- Early Help Support Panel to provide a point of escalation for "stuck" families

Priority 3 – We will reduce the harm to children and young people who are exposed to domestic abuse, alcohol/substance misuse and neglect

- Agreed Child's Multi-Agency Assessment Protocol with proposed live date of April, 2014
- Recommissioning of Alcohol Services to deliver more preventative work and training/education opportunities
- Redevelopment of the transition plan for Know the Score into CAMHs

Priority 4 – We will work with parents to eradicate child sexual exploitation

- 3 independent reviews of Rotherham CSE Services now published
- Nurse practitioner had joined the CSE Team
- Completed review of Police intelligence and development and internal Police referral routes clarified
- Variety of intervention techniques successfully used to disrupt CSE activity as early as possible

Priority 5 – We will focus on all children and young people making good progress in their learning and development

- Take up of early education by 3/4 year olds for the 2013 Summer Term was 97% - increase of 6.5% on 2012/13
- 73% of schools judged to be good or outstanding for overall effectiveness compared to the national average of 78%
- KS2-KS4 progress by 3 levels in Mathematics had increased by 4.3% to 70.3% - English had increased by 3.3% to 75.3%

Priority 6 – We will target support to families in greatest need to help access learning/employment opportunities

- Pilot multi-agency EU Migrant/Roma 'family induction day' held on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, at the Lifewise Centre
- EU Migrant Engagement Officer appointed in July, 2013
- Youth Support Workers were accompanying young people seeking work when they visited the Job Centre
- Partnership arrangements with Rotherham and Dearne Valley Colleges to provide targeted work for young people identified by the School Liaison officer and College Support Services as needing one-to-one support to overcome barriers to engagement

The Partnership felt this was an excellent piece of work and would like to see something similar for the priorities and challenges.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received.

(2) That an update be submitted twice a year.

## **264. LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

The minutes of the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board meeting held on 13th December, 2013, were noted.

**265. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved: - That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial/business affairs of any person (including the Council)).

**266. ROTHERHAM SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS SERVICE - SELF EVALUATION**

Karen Borthwick, Head of School Effectiveness Service, reported that local authorities had statutory duties to promote high standards and fulfilment of potential in schools and other education and training providers in order that all children and young people benefitted from at least a good education. The Framework for the Inspection of Local Authority Arrangements for Supporting School Improvement had been published to assist local authorities in carrying out the statutory duties.

In preparation for the above, Rotherham was developing a self-assessment against the key areas for inspection (Appendix A of the report submitted refers). Rotherham was also working with authorities across Yorkshire and the Humber to develop effective self-assessment practice, peer assess the judgements made in the said assessments and share good practice in School Improvement delivery across the region.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That an update be submitted in 12 months.

**267. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(1) Improvement Panel

It was reported that the Improvement Panel had now folded. The reports would now be submitted to the Partnership and the Safeguarding Board.

(2) Dr. David Polkinghorn

It was reported that it was David's last meeting. He had been a great champion in the health community for children particularly the safeguarding aspect. The Partnership had benefitted from his contributions and wished him well for the future.

**268. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2014, commencing at 2.00 p.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO Children, Young People and Families Partnership</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:-</b>	<b>Children, Young People and Families Partnership</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:-</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> May, 2014</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:-</b>	<b>Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms : Update</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:-</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Services.</b>

### **5. Summary**

This paper provides an update on the preparations in Rotherham to implement the Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms.

The Children and Families bill was enacted in March and a new version of the SEND (special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Code of Practice has been published. The final code of practice is expected in the next few weeks.

These are the largest reforms of how we provide information and support to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities for over 20 years, bringing together the different systems in early years, schools and colleges and ensuring better integration with health and care. The reforms aim to improve the support provided so that children and young people with special educational needs are able to live independent and fulfilling lives in adulthood. Placing the needs of parents and young people at its heart, the new system focuses on those aged 0-25 placing new duties on local authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and early years providers, schools (of all types) and FE colleges. Late amendments to the bill increased the role of the local authority in providing mediation services for education, care and health and brought young people in Youth Offending Institutions into the scope of the Act.

Organisations in Rotherham, including parents and young people, continue to work in partnership to implement the reforms, however much detailed work needs to be prepared. Key tasks which need to be completed before September 2014 include:

- Putting children, parents and carers and young people at the heart of the new system
- Publish a Local SEND Offer
- Establish a new SEND assessment pathway for all of those aged 0-25 with special educational needs or a disability, including plans to transfer those with a SEN statement or Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) to the new Education Health and Care Plan
- Set up a new structure with the CCG to jointly commission education, care and health services for those with special educational needs or a disability.

- Ensure parents and young people can receive support through a personal budget if they request one.

## **6. Recommendations**

**To note the developments outlined in the report and provide any comments on the proposed SEND Aspiration and Mission.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

### How ready is Rotherham for the reforms?

For the last 18 months the SEND Strategy Group has developed strong partnerships with parents and young people. Early Years providers, schools, colleges and care and health providers have contributed significantly in developing a co-production model. RMBC, Rotherham CCG and Learners First have jointly financed the temporary appointment of the SEND Strategic Lead. A fixed term arrangement, this work focuses on ensuring that all parties are prepared for the new duties. The SEND Strategic Lead reports to the SEND Commissioning Group, whose membership includes all the key partners. Department for Education officials recently visited Rotherham to check on how well prepared we are to implement the reforms. Their note of the discussion concludes "Rotherham has a strong tradition of inclusive work, good links with partners, and a clear view of what it wants from the SEND reforms in terms of personalization. However, there is much detailed work still to be done before September 2014." They were particularly impressed with the strong partnership with Rotherham CCG and the LA.

A SEND communications strategy has been developed and regular newsletters are now being published. Discussions with Learners First are underway to ensure that the workforce development plan for schools in 2014/15 focuses on Special Educational Needs issues, including the removal of the 'School Action' and 'School Action Plus' categories of Special Educational Needs.

Updates on meeting the key areas to be developed by September are included below:

#### **Parental Involvement**

##### **Parent Voice: "In it together"**

Rotherham Parent Carers Forum is well regarded locally and nationally, with a membership of three hundred families and growing. The Forum jointly leads the Giving Parent's Control work stream, facilitating activities and consultations with parents and young people to support the development of Rotherham's Local Offer, and Education, Health and Care plans. The Forum is leading and working closely with partners to run the "***In it together***" event on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at New York Stadium. Co-hosted and planned by Rotherham Parent's Forum Ltd, Rotherham Council, the CCG and Learners First it will provide a marketplace of services and providers including the Local Offer, giving information and consulting with young people, parents and carers together with practitioners.

### **Rotherham Charter**

The Charter, developed in partnership between RMBC and the Parent Carers Forum, is nationally recognised as a strong model to represent the voice of parents in how schools and other services meet the needs of their children and young people. In light of the SEND reforms consideration is being given to extend the Charter's activities to services and settings supporting children and young people from birth to 25.

### **Young People**

In addition to the youth voice work undertaken by the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS), Rotherham Healthwatch has been commissioned to help identify what young people think about the SEND reforms, gathering the views of 16-25 year olds who had additional education needs while at school. The aim is to discover how their needs were met at school or in further education, work or job seeking. Healthwatch will prepare its report for June which will feed into our preparations to implement the SEND reforms.

### **Local SEND Offer**

A lead officer has been identified to carry forward the task of getting Rotherham's Local SEND Offer published for September 2014. Based within the Family Information Service website, the Local SEND Offer page will link with the Disability Service, Integrated Youth Support Service and Connect to Support website. The aim for this September 2014 is simply to gather Information from all providers about their existing SEND services and ensuring that parents and young people can access this information in one place. We will continue to discuss with parents and carers, young people and providers how best to make this happen.

### **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Assessment Pathway**

A task group has been established to develop a new pathway, including plans to transfer those with SEN Statements or a Learning Difficulty Assessment to the new Education Health and Care (EHC) plans. A wide range of partners including parents, services and providers have been involved in considering EHC plans and revised models of person-centred reviews and draft EHC plans are being trialled. These will continue to be tested out with parents, providers and services. A tight timetable has been set to plan a single coordinated multi-agency assessment pathway:

SEND commissioning group to consider draft by end of May

- trialling in June-July 2014
- process published in Local offer in July 2014
- Formal Cabinet approval early September 2014

Additional staffing for the SEN Assessment team has been agreed from the SEND grant to ensure the transition from statements to EHC plans.

### **Joint Commissioning Approach for SEND**

A joint approach is being forward with Rotherham CCG and other key partners on progressing joint commissioning of SEND services. The joint commissioning priorities will meet the requirements of the SEND Reforms, the SEND Strategy,

Health and Wellbeing Strategy, CYPS Plan and the Corporate Priorities. Colleagues across the partner organisations will be working together to develop this approach.

### **Personal Budgets**

Personal budgets are a requirement within the Adults Care Bill and the SEND reforms. Adults (NAS) in Rotherham have robust structures and processes in place. These need to be replicated in CYPS SEND particularly in terms of the Resource Allocation System (RAS). Significant work is required through joint commissioning to facilitate the market to shift their provision to personalised services.

### **Consultation on Rotherham's SEND Aspiration and Mission**

Whilst the SEND reforms are part of national legislation, it is important to be clear about what this means for children and young people in Rotherham. To help this process, consideration is being given to developing a consensus about the purpose of the SEND reforms. Building on the Government's stated aims, the following have been proposed and the discussion has already started with many groups, with the aim of reaching a final version in July 2014.

### **Rotherham's SEND Aspiration**

Rotherham children and young people with special educational needs will achieve well in their early years, at school and in college; lead happy and fulfilled lives and have choice and control.

### **Rotherham's Special Educational Needs and Disability Mission**

Rotherham education, health and care services will create an integrated system from birth to 25. Help will be offered at the earliest possible point, with children and young people with special needs and their parents or carers fully involved in decisions about their support and aspirations.

## **8. Finance**

The Department for Education has provided Rotherham MBC with a £312,062 grant to assist the development of the SEND reforms in 2014-15. This funding will be used to deal with financial pressures arising from implementing the new duties and in line with the SEND strategy. Funding has already been allocated to increase staffing in the SEND assessment team and to cover the costs of producing the local offer, including consultation events. Consideration to provide funding to meet other pressures will be made and commissioned as needed. In addition to the SEND grant, Ministers have indicated that there will be some additional funding made available to councils to meet the long term costs of the new burdens in Children and Families Act.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

Implementing the reforms carries considerable reputational and financial risk. Once the reforms have been implemented there will be significant change to how the needs of children and young people are assessed and have their needs met. The transition however may be disruptive and there is already evidence that, for

example, more parents have requested a SEN statement in order to secure their child's provision.

The reforms aim to focus on developing the ability of young people with SEND to live independently in adult life, both improving the outcomes of their life and reducing their dependency on care and health support. Implementing the reforms however will incur additional costs, not least due to new duties including in the Children and Families Act. It is understood that discussions are on going between the Government and Local Government Association regarding additional funding to be provided to local government to meet the costs of implementing these new burdens.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The SEND reforms particularly affect children's and adult services, but also other services including transport. A revised SEND strategy will be considered by the SEND Commissioning Group in June 2014 and with the RMBC Cabinet and CCG Governing Body thereafter.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Further information about the revised SEND Code of Practice can be found on the DfE website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/revision-of-the-send-code-of-practice-0-to-25-years>.

DfE advice to local authorities and health partners, "Implementing a new 0-25 special needs system" (April 2014) can be found at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/306534/Implementing\\_a\\_new\\_0\\_to\\_25\\_special\\_needs\\_system\\_LAs\\_and\\_partners\\_-\\_April\\_2014.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/306534/Implementing_a_new_0_to_25_special_needs_system_LAs_and_partners_-_April_2014.pdf)

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**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Children, Young People and Families Partnership</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> May 2014</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Consultation on the Government's Child Poverty Strategy</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Services</b>

**5. Summary:**

The report provides a summary of the consultation on the government's draft child poverty strategy for 2014-17, briefly setting out the local context. A draft consultation response is appended for discussion and approval.

**6. Recommendations:**

- Note the key aspects of the strategy and approve the draft response subject to any agreed amendments

## **7. Proposals and Details:**

### **Background**

The 2010 Child Poverty Act established targets for reducing child poverty by 2020 and required the government to produce a child poverty strategy every three years.

The most widely used target is relative low income, which is based on the proportion of children living in households with less than 60% of median income. The target is to reduce this to less than 10% by 2020/21, from a baseline of 18% in 2010/11. The latest available figures, for 2011/12, show that 17% of children are in relative income poverty.

The act also placed a duty on local authorities and their partners to cooperate to tackle child poverty, preparing and publishing a local needs assessment and producing a joint local child poverty strategy.

Having commissioned an independent review by Frank Field MP soon after coming to power in 2010, the Coalition government aimed to shift the focus from relative income measures of poverty to tackling the root causes.

Field's review stressed the importance of "the foundation years", finding "overwhelming evidence that children's life chances are most heavily predicated on their development in the first five years of life."

The government's initial strategy had a similar thrust, aiming to "tackle the causes of disadvantage and transform families' lives", whilst also inextricably linking child poverty with the nascent welfare reform programme.

This shift in emphasis was reinforced by last year's consultation on "better measures" of child poverty, in which the government sought views on introducing new measures in addition to income, such as worklessness, parental skills, debt and family stability.

No new measures are proposed within the draft strategy, which reiterates the government's commitment to ending child poverty by 2020.

The Child Poverty Act also called for the establishment of a child poverty commission to advise the government and hold it to account for progress in meeting the act's targets.

This commission, the social mobility and child poverty commission, published its first annual report – "state of the nation" – in September 2013. It called for government to use the next child poverty strategy to "produce an ambitious detailed step-by-step plan for how it will meet the 2020 targets."

Highlighting the fact that two thirds of children in poverty are in working households and that low pay is a stronger predictor of poverty than low hours, the report also called for "the working poor to be the focus of future efforts to eradicate child poverty."

### **Local context**

Around 13,000 Rotherham children – one in five – live in relative income poverty based on the latest available figures. This ranges from 55% of children in Canklow and Maltby south east, to 0% in Kimberworth north east (and an average of 50% in the 11 most deprived neighbourhoods, compared to just 3% in the least deprived).

In response to the Child Poverty Act, Rotherham held a conference in March 2010 and subsequently carried out a child poverty needs assessment.

The assessment showed that 64% of the then 12,745 Rotherham children living in poverty were in a lone parent household. With 86% of lone parents receiving either income support or JSA, the data suggested that out of work lone parent households presented a particular problem in relation to child poverty.

However, the recent trend – due in part to the tightening of benefit eligibility criteria – is for more single parents to be in work (an estimated 42% are now not working) so an updated needs assessment is required to help us understand the current picture, including the extent of in-work poverty in the borough.

Rather than developing a separate child poverty strategy, it was decided that the Early Help Strategy, with its focus on preventative work with children and families, would serve as the primary vehicle for addressing or mitigating the effects of child poverty in Rotherham.

In addition, Rotherham's health and wellbeing strategy, developed in 2012, has a specific poverty priority, focusing particularly on reducing health inequalities and improving the skills and work readiness of those disengaged from the labour market.

Currently in development, a strategy for building resilience in Rotherham will seek to provide improved coordination of the various poverty related initiatives and actions. The strategy is based around four overarching objectives:

- Maximising access to sustainable, decently paid employment and relevant training
- Inclusive economic growth that benefits all of Rotherham's communities
- Helping people to thrive and fulfil their potential
- Building social capital and helping neighbourhoods to flourish

### **The draft strategy**

The government has previously described improving social mobility as its central social policy goal and sees tackling child poverty as part of this.

The strategy's introduction says: *"This government is focused on breaking the cycle of disadvantage – where you start in life should not determine where you end up. Ending child poverty is an essential part of this vision. Children experiencing poverty face multiple disadvantages that often continue throughout their lives and are all too often passed on to the next generation."*

There is a separate chapter for each of three overarching areas in which action will be taken, setting out a number of more specific objectives together with various existing or planned initiatives that will help achieve them.

1. Supporting families into work and increasing their earnings (“tackling child poverty now”)
  - Creating jobs
  - Supporting parents into work
  - Making work pay
  - Tackling low pay
  - Helping people get better jobs
  - Removing the specific barriers that some parents face to work
2. Improving living standards
  - Raising incomes by getting parents into work, working enough hours and earning enough and by supporting those families who can’t work through the welfare safety net
  - Supporting living standards by reducing costs for low-income families for essentials like fuel, water, food, transport and housing
  - Improving access to affordable credit and tackling problem debt
3. Preventing poor children becoming poor adults through raising their educational attainment.
  - Ensuring all children arrive at school ready to learn
  - Ensuring all children go to schools that help them to achieve the best educational outcomes they can
  - Ensuring schools prepare children well for the transition to work or further study
  - Removing the barriers some poor children face to learning

The narrative for each chapter concentrates on making links with existing areas of government policy or activity. Welfare reform is – naturally – prominent in *supporting families into work*, with troubled families and a range of adult skills actions also mentioned. Increasing and enforcing the minimum wage and reviewing zero hours contracts to ensure employers aren’t abusing them are seen as central to addressing low pay.

*Improving living standards* references a wide range of interventions, from breakfast clubs and the school fruit and vegetable scheme, through capping water bills and reforming the energy market, to restricting rail fare increases and investing in house building.

*Preventing poor children becoming poor adults* focuses on targeted support for low income children throughout the education system. This includes:

- Funding 15 hours of early years education for two year-olds
- Continued investment in the pupil premium for disadvantaged children in primary and secondary schools
- Financial support to help the most vulnerable young people stay in post-16 education and training

- Supporting poor young people into university by providing a bursary to help with living costs

This section also identifies a number of key characteristics that are described as making it harder for poor children to do well at school. These are: a poor home environment, under-developed 'character' skills, a parent being ill, a child experiencing ill health, low parental qualifications and family income.

Again, there a range of interventions in response, such as: free books and parenting classes; freeing up schools to enable them to improve character skills; helping young carers and investing in support for mental health and substance abuse problems; and improved support for children and young people with special educational needs.

The final section of the main strategy document looks at the role of businesses and local areas, including the voluntary and community sector, in reducing child poverty. Employers are expected to pay at least the minimum wage, support flexible working and offer opportunities for training and progression. They should also work closely with schools and local communities and offer work experience and paid internships on merit, rather than for those who have the right connections.

Local agencies are described as having been the given the flexibility to tailor their services to face specific local challenges. Local enterprise partnerships are seen as key in addressing barriers to employment; schools now have the autonomy to target their resources where they are most needed; and local authorities and their partners can use public health funding to tackle specific health issues.

### **Consultation response**

The response deadline is 22<sup>nd</sup> May and the specific consultation questions are:

1. To what extent do you agree that the draft strategy achieves a good balance between tackling poverty now and tackling the drivers of intergenerational poverty?
2. Considering the current fiscal climate, what is your view of the actions set out in the draft strategy?
3. At a local level, what works well in tackling child poverty now?
4. At a local level, what works well for preventing poor children becoming poor adults?
5. What more can central government do to help employers, local agencies and the voluntary and community sector work together to end child poverty?

A briefing note on the consultation was circulated to a range of council departments and partner organisations, with comments incorporated in the attached draft response. The draft response was also agreed – subject to a slight amendment relating to pupil premium - by the improving lives select commission at their meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

### **8. Finance:**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## 9. Risks and Uncertainties:

Given continuing funding cuts and external economic and policy factors there is a concern that even by taking effective, coordinated action local partners can only have a marginal impact on child poverty in the short term.

Updating our child poverty needs assessment and improving coordination through the new resilience strategy will help to ensure that partners target their resources effectively.

## 10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

To effectively address child poverty, including its causes and wider determinants and immediate and longer term symptoms, action is required across a range of policy areas. The following plans include actions to tackle poverty, but the new resilience strategy will also be critical as will the borough's emerging economic growth plan.

- Early help strategy - aims to understand and respond quickly to the needs of children, young people and families, mitigating the effects of child poverty by supporting families to fulfil their potential
- RMBC corporate plan - the new plan prioritises *helping people into work, improving health and wellbeing* and *reducing inequalities*. Specific commitments include:
  - We will focus on lifelong learning to improve the qualifications, skills and economic wellbeing of children, young people and their families
  - We will respond quickly to people's needs, mitigating the effects of poverty and helping them to thrive
- Rotherham Partnership community strategy priority: *ensuring the best start in life for children and families*
- Health and wellbeing strategy priority/outcome: *reduce poverty in disadvantaged areas*

In terms of measuring performance, the government's draft strategy summarises a number of key messages from last year's "better measures" consultation:

- There was support for looking at other factors in addition to income, but no clear consensus on what these should be
- The government should measure separately the number of families experiencing poverty now and the number of poor children at risk of growing up to be poor adults.
- Measures should differentiate between causes of poverty (e.g. worklessness) and effects of poverty (such as being behind on household bills).

## 11. Background Papers and Consultation:

[Government child poverty strategy](#)  
[State of the nation](#)

**Contact Name:** Michael Holmes, Policy and Partnership Officer, (01709) 254417, michael.holmes@rotherham.gov.uk

Child poverty strategy consultation – RMBC draft response

1. To what extent do you agree that the draft strategy achieves a good balance between tackling poverty now and tackling the drivers of intergenerational poverty?
  - The strategy seems to strike a good balance, but is undermined by a lack of clarity on how progress will be measured (see comment under 6 below).
2. Considering the current fiscal climate, what is your view of the actions set out in the draft strategy?
  - The strategy's coverage of welfare is unbalanced. The reform programme is seen almost as a panacea, with no acknowledgement of the projected increases in poverty caused by measures such as the Welfare Benefits Up-rating Act. Benefits are fundamental in tackling child poverty now and their erosion – or temporary removal via DWP sanctions - can leave people reliant on local charities (e.g. food banks) for essentials such as food and heating. Furthermore, the withdrawal of government funding for local welfare provision schemes threatens to remove a much needed safety net.
  - Universal credit, in particular, is seen as critical for improving work incentives, but it seems unlikely to be implemented (at least not in full) within the lifetime of the strategy. In addition, the strategy doesn't address the social mobility and child poverty commission's recommendations on universal credit, for example ensuring that all families – and not just those in which all parents are working and paying income tax – get support with 85% of childcare costs.
  - All references to troubled families are in relation to helping families into work; whilst this is a key outcome of the troubled families programme it is also proving the hardest to achieve. In order to support families who are furthest from the workplace into jobs there needs to be closer working between local partnerships (e.g. health and wellbeing boards) and DWP. There has been recognition of this through the troubled families work and proposals to shift the role of Jobcentre Plus advisers to be 'coaches', though this is sometimes in conflict with the agenda to limit welfare spending and implement a more punitive benefits regime (i.e. increased use of sanctions). For instance, our ongoing scrutiny review of DWP sanctions in Rotherham has heard evidence that sanctions can often put additional stress on individuals and families and make it harder for them to find work.
  - Good practice from the troubled families programme in terms of what works in encouraging families to change could be implemented to a greater extent across government - and in particular within DWP - to embed a family intervention culture in all departments where there is a direct link with families.
  - Could Government introduce regulations to ensure that, as part of the reporting regime for use of pupil premium, schools must show how they will

use/have used the funding to support priorities identified in the local child poverty strategy?

- Implementing changes to career advice in schools would be very effective. Schools need to be held to account for the destinations of school leavers alongside academic achievements. Schools and careers leads in schools also need to have a good understanding of the local labour market.
- Adult apprenticeships – it should be recognised that the relative low pay received by apprentices means that the short term impact on child poverty will be low. Our experience is that apprenticeship opportunities are available locally, but due to salary levels they are often not attractive to people seeking work or looking to improve their position in the labour market.
- There is a concern that mental health is only recognised as a barrier once it has become a 'mental health illness', but low self-esteem and related mental health issues are often major barriers to employment and can therefore contribute significantly to child poverty.
- There is a welcome focus on low pay, in line with the social mobility and child poverty commission's recommendations, which is particularly relevant for Rotherham where average pay is well below the national average, particularly for women. However, proposed action to properly enforce the minimum wage does not go far enough. The government should consider implementing recommendations from the Resolution Foundation's recently concluded review of the national minimum wage (NMW) including making it an explicit long-term ambition of economic policy to reduce the incidence of low pay.

3. At a local level, what works well in tackling child poverty now?

- Whilst we aspire to move beyond a crisis approach, a significant amount of time and resource is focused on mitigating the impact of welfare cuts and helping those who are struggling to make ends meet. Our aim though is to help build people's capability and confidence and give them the knowledge and skills to overcome challenges and escape poverty.
- Recognising debt and financial capability as a particular problem, we are working closely with a local credit union, helping to promote their services and build their capacity and membership, in part by working with them on delivery of our local welfare provision scheme.
- Tackling barriers to employment is also critical, though the council and our local partners can only have a limited impact on employability given that the primary vehicle for welfare to work is DWP's Work Programme. The continuing significant underperformance for ESA claimants on the Work Programme suggests that an alternative approach is needed; ideally with more devolution to local areas who are best placed to join up employment support with other community or family based initiatives.

4. At a local level, what works well for preventing poor children becoming poor adults?
  - A focus on early intervention and prevention is critical, but it is obviously difficult to identify what works well when the impact will only be felt in the long-term. The challenging financial climate and pressure to make immediate savings can also militate against investment in often resource intensive preventative approaches.
5. What more can central government do to help employers, local agencies and the voluntary and community sector work together to end child poverty?
  - There is a lot of work to be done with businesses to encourage them to offer flexible working practices. As noted above, government could also do more in relation to the national minimum wage and to encourage adoption of the living wage, focusing not only on legal or moral imperatives, but also the benefits to business in terms of happier, healthier more motivated employees, reduced sickness absence etc.
6. Additional comments
  - Despite last year's consultation on better measures of child poverty, new performance measures have not been identified. Instead there is a continued commitment to ending child poverty by 2020, in line with the targets in the Child Poverty Act, which seems unrealistic. The social mobility and child poverty commission's call, in "State of the nation", for a "detailed step-by-step plan for how [government] will meet the 2020 targets" has not been heeded.
  - This lack of detail adds to the impression of a piecemeal approach, with the document reading as a list of – often laudable and relevant - objectives and initiatives rather than a coherent, deliverable strategy.

<b>CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE &amp; FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP</b>
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1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Children, Young People and Families Partnership</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> May 2014</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Families for Change Review</b>

#### 4. **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Children, Young People & Families Partnership with a review of the Troubled Families work including how it has been implemented in Rotherham, how resources have been deployed and the impact on outputs and performance, leading to overall improved outcomes for children and families.

This report is based on the first two years of delivery, with one year remaining until the current phase of Troubled Families ends. The Troubled Families Unit have secured funding for the delivery of at least one year of Troubled Families phase two, (a five year programme), however, details of how this will operate have not been published to date.

#### 5. **Recommendations**

**The Children, Young People & Families Partnership is asked to:**

- **Review the implementation of the Families for Change Delivery Plan to date and continue to support actions planned for year 3.**
- **Receive information about how phase two of the Troubled Families agenda will be delivered, once the parameters are clearly defined by the Troubled Families Unit.**

## 6. Proposals and Details

### Background

The Troubled Families Financial Framework, published in April 2012, challenged local authorities to engage a cohort of families, identified by applying defined criteria or filters. The filters are that families exhibit at least two of the following behaviours:

- Poor school attendance (less than 85%, 3 or more fixed term exclusions or permanent exclusion);
- Involvement in youth crime or anti-social behaviour;
- The adults in the family are dependent on out of work benefits.

Where a family meets two out of three criteria, a local filter can be applied. In Rotherham the filters we have applied are that the family reside in a deprived community, are affected by the Benefits Cap, poor adult mental health, domestic abuse or alcohol or substance misuse.

Rotherham was asked to work with 730 families over a three year period and adopt an approach to engaging families that delivered five family intervention factors:

- i. A dedicated worker, dedicated to a family
- ii. Practical 'hands on' support
- iii. A persistent, assertive and challenging approach
- iv. Considering the family as a whole – gathering the intelligence
- v. Common purpose and agreed action

We have put in place infrastructure to deliver the family intervention factors with different levels of intensity by leveraging existing service provision as well as making strategic internal appointments and making commissioning arrangements.

### Human Resource Infrastructure

The most intensive delivery of the family intervention factors has been through the Family Recovery Programme. Families for Change funding has enabled us to sustain and grow this service from four to eight key workers, which is something the Chief Exec Officer Group had been considering prior to the launch of the Troubled Families initiative. The Family Recovery Programme works with approximately 80 families in a 12 month period, with a maximum capacity of 45 open cases at any one time. The work of FRP is heavily focused on adults within the family setting, and the programme is often used to respond to mild/moderate mental health issues prevalent in parents and extended family members, where the latter carry out key caring responsibilities.

Families with less entrenched and complex needs are supported using the same methodology, but this is applied through the infrastructure of Leadworkers, identified through a Family Common Assessment Framework (FCAF). The Leadworker is typically a service provider who has an existing positive relationship with the family and is able to be a single point of contact for the family, and advocacy and coordination in relation to the family's relationship with other services. The Leadworker has existing responsibilities and may have a large caseload. For the

Families for Change cohort, IYSS (including youth offending) and school staff are predominantly the lead workers. Key services which lead workers often need access often relate to non-children's specific services, such as housing, physical and mental health service provision.

In order to provide oversight of these interventions and ensure the FCAF process leads to action and change for each family, seven Families for Change Coordinators were appointed. Six are employed on fixed term contracts with RMBC, the additional Coordinator is currently commissioned from Rotherham MIND.

Dedicated employment support is also provided as part of the Team Around the Family through the Families for Change Employment Adviser who has been seconded to work in the local authority from DWP. The FfC EA carries a small caseload, provides advice to lead workers and ensures that families are linked to, and supported appropriately by DWP and its partners, including Work Programme and ESF Providers.

### **Commissioning Arrangements**

The Families for Change Coordinators role relies on other practitioners acting as the Lead Worker. This capacity is not always available from existing resource. In many instances there may be capacity (willingness) to provide a 'light touch' approach to the Lead Worker role but a reluctance to provide more direct interventions with families, to help kick-start and facilitate the ongoing change process.

**YWCA** have a contract deliver family support, this began in April 2013 and will continue until April 2015. They work with families who are at the threshold of referral into social care. The Family CAF is used as the assessment tool and action plan with YWCA providing a dedicated lead worker to deliver hands-on support to the family and coordinate a multi-agency team of professionals to meet their needs.

The service receives referrals from the Families for Change Coordinators, where the families' needs are deemed too complex to be managed by a Family CAF without a dedicated lead worker. Significant work has also been undertaken to encourage social care colleagues to step-down families from their case loads into this provision. The take-up of this referral route has been limited to date but there are signs that it is increasingly being considered by social workers.

**Rotherham and Barnsley MIND** have a contract to work with families who triggered inclusion in the FfC cohort and were already known to social care, with a Child Protection or Child in Need plan in place. This contract began in April 2013 and will continue until September 2014 when, it is proposed that it is extended until April 2015 to align with other contracts and the end of phase one of the Troubled Families work. The service works alongside the social worker to provide hands-on family support. The service worked with 39 cases in the first year of the contract.

Where social workers have referred into the service they have been very positive in their feedback, 'I can't speak highly enough of the service, it has achieved change.' It has been suggested that it will be more feasible to step-down cases from Child Protection Plans to Child In Need Plans and then Family CAF when this additional support is in place. We are piloting an approach that maintains the role of a single worker from IFS throughout this process.

A **Family Mediation** pilot was established in Rotherham in April 2013, funded by the Youth Justice Board. The pilot aimed to fill a gap in service provision for families in conflict where a breakdown in communication has impacted upon the young person's school attendance and their involvement in anti-social behaviour. One practitioner currently carries a caseload of approximately 18 families, as part of the Team Around the Family. There may be opportunities to expand this provision if there is evidence that the demand is there and partnership match funding is available.

**Outcomes: Case Studies and Payment by Results**

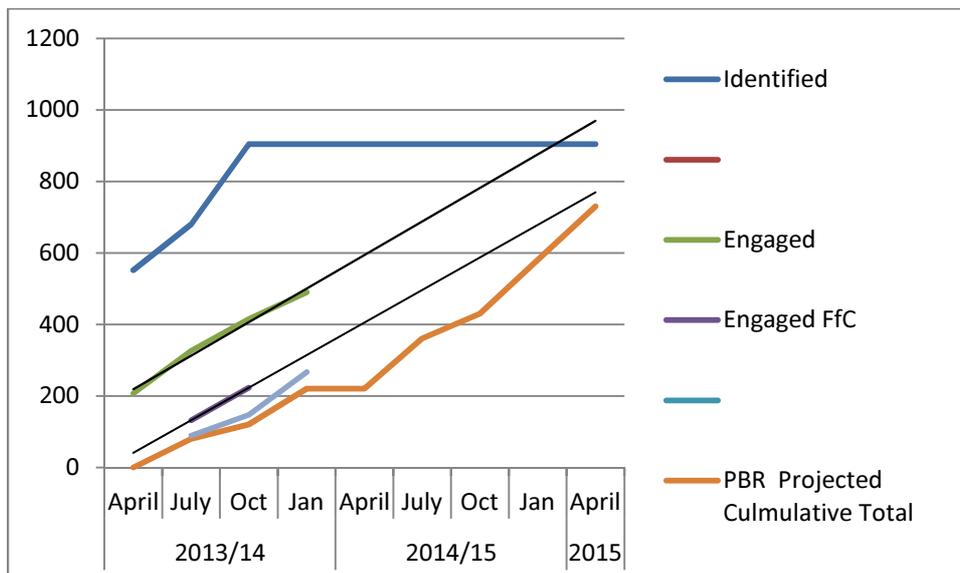
Rotherham has submitted three payment by results claims (July and October 2013 and February 2014) for families who have achieved the outcomes set out in the Troubled Families Financial Framework .

An outcome is achieved if school attendance for all children in the family has increased to more than 85% and this has been sustained across **three school terms**. It is also possible to claim an outcome for school leavers. This improvement needs to have been achieved in conjunction with a reduction in involvement in crime or anti-social behaviour.

An additional payment is available where an adult family member has engaged with ESF Employment Support (Wiseability) or the Work Programme.

If an adult family member has entered and sustained employment for a period of 6 months it is possible to claim an outcome regardless of the progress in relation to attendance and anti-social behaviour.

To date Rotherham has claimed 269 PbR outcomes, however only 8 of these have been based on entering and sustaining employment. These figures place Rotherham slightly above average in terms of national performance and on trajectory to claim all available funding by the end of April 2015, (see chart below).



However, alongside these 'Payment by Results' outcomes it is important to consider case studies which demonstrate the impact that the work has had on families' lives, and the insight that this can provide for future service design and transformation.

### **Future Delivery Arrangements**

From July 2014, Rotherham will pilot Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST). This provision delivers an evidence-based model that achieves successful outcomes with young people aged 11-17 whose behaviour has put them at risk of becoming looked after or going into custody. MST is an intensive intervention that has not previously been available in the borough; to deliver the pilot we have entered into a partnership with Barnsley who have an established and successful MST team.

MST was developed in the USA, and is supported by a significant international body of research evidence; it is shown to reduce offending behaviour, family conflict and the need for out-of-home placements. MST is therefore highly cost effective and reduces the negative outcomes and social exclusion associated with out-of-home placements and experience of custody by improving family functioning.

Delivery arrangements from May 2015 will be influenced by the parameters of Troubled Families Phase Two, particularly the way that the funding arrangements are structured. In December 2013 the Troubled Families Unit provided preliminary detail about 'phase 2' of the programme, and canvassed Local Authority Chief Executives for their opinions about its detailed design. Funding has been approved for one financial year, (2015/16) to continue the work until after the General Election and subsequent comprehensive spending review. The £200m funding that has been agreed for 2015/16 is intended to be the first tranche of a 5 year investment (subject to the priorities of a new Government) and the goal will be to work with an additional 400k families across this timeframe (120k families in 3 years is the 'phase 1' challenge).

The fixed parameters of the programme that have been agreed are as follows:

- The intention is to identify families 'before they reach crisis point' and, if possible earlier than is possible using the current criteria
- There will be an average of £1800 available per family on a PbR basis (they did not say whether this was 100% PbR or split between an attachment fee and PbR as in the current programme).
- There will be an *expectation* that local agencies will produce a plan setting out how they will join up to reform services and generate cost savings.

The principles will be:

- Simplicity
- A 'whole family' programme
- That direct work with 'real families' will provide the grounding for service transformation BUT
- That system change will be an expectation.

## **7. Finance**

For year 1 we received 80% of the available funding via up-front attachment fees, with 20% available to claim based on achieving outcomes with the

families. The total of £649,600 received was based on working with 244 families. For year 2 60% of the available funding is via up-front attachment fees, the total of £732,000 received was based on working with 365 families. For year 3, 40% of the available funding is available up-front and will be based on working with 120 families.

Rotherham has made three PbR claims. The total funding claimed through PbR to date is £1,927,400. There are further opportunities to claim funding in May, July and October 2014 (within this calendar year)

All spending to date has been profiled against monies received. Any additional commissioning will need to be based on alternative funding streams, or will follow successful work with families and ensuing payment by results claims.

Funding of £1,307,096 has been allocated to staffing costs and expenses as outlined in the report. The proposal does not commit funding based on projected outcomes.

<b>Proposal:</b>	
Developing case management system	£29,234
Impact Fund	£5000
Extend YWCA Family Support Contract	£77,000
Extend RB Mind IFS (6 months)	£37,500 (add £37,500 to continue until April 31 <sup>st</sup> 2015)
Commissioned FfC Coordinator (RB Mind)	£38,000
Pilot MST (approx. 10 cases)	£75,000
Contribution to Remedi Family Mediation	£19,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£281,234 (plus £37,550)</b>

## 8. Risks and Uncertainties

Funding for the programme will be based on a payment by results framework, predicated on an assumption that the local authority and its partners will contribute to the investment (largely in kind) required to realise the results required. There is a risk that, in the current financial climate, it will not be possible to maintain the existing level of investment. If existing infrastructure is not sustained, the Families for Change Delivery Plan may become infeasible, placing future funding payments at risk.

The payment by results funding framework requires sustained change from families across the domains of school attendance, anti-social behaviour and employment. These may be difficult to achieve given the complex problems that many families are being supported to address.

## 9. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Rotherham approach to the Troubled Families agenda is aligned to the operational delivery of the Early Help Strategy and the poverty workstream of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which aims to deliver targeted support to Rotherham's most deprived neighbourhoods.

10. **Equality and Diversity**

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the Early Help Strategy and Implementation; this covers the Families for Change Delivery Plan.

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Troubled Families Coordinator

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## APPENDIX

### Case Study

#### Family composition and background

Mum – Adult H  
Step Dad/dad – Adult J  
Eldest child 16 years – Child K  
Middle child 12 years – Child L  
Youngest child 4 years – Child M

Adult H has two older sons who live independently.

The family reside in a 4 bedroom privately rented property and thought they may be liable for the under occupancy charge so were considering moving to a smaller property. The children attend three different schools, Riverside Pupil Unit / Aston Academy (dual registered), Aston Academy and Whizz Kids pre-school. Neither parents is in employment, Child K is involved in anti-social behaviour and has poor school attendance.

#### Family Background

The family are originally from outside the South Yorkshire county boundary, but moved to the City Region approximately ten years ago when Adult H fled serious domestic violence and was housed in a refuge. The family then moved to Rotherham around 5 years ago. Adult H met a new partner, remarried and they now have a child together.

The leadworker first met the family two years ago in 2011 when Child K was convicted of offences of Burglary and Possession of Class B drugs. The case was allocated through the leadworker's previous role of case manager at the Youth Offending Team and continued until Jan 2013 when a new case manager took over. During this time Child K was further convicted of a further offence of Sexual Assault and sentenced to another community based order.

The main issue within the family was the problematic behaviour of Child K which included non-attendance at school, anti-social behaviour within the local community and poor temper control. At the beginning of involvement with the family Child K had just been diagnosed with ADHD and had been prescribed medication for this. It was hoped that with the medication his behaviour may improve. It is likely that Child K has witnessed domestic violence against his mother or certainly been aware of the abuse. Research into the impact of domestic violence on children has found that children who witness the abuse can experience both long term and short term emotional difficulties. It is therefore possible that Child K's behaviour derives, in part, from his early childhood experiences.

Child K also misuses substances, in the main, cannabis although the most recent offence was linked to alcohol misuse. His cannabis use has been on-going and consistent for several years and until recently he has seen no reason to give up the drug. Many studies have found that teenagers with ADHD are more likely to misuse substances, sometimes to manage their symptoms. Child K was willing to discuss

his substance use but unwilling to change his behaviour and this was a major cause for concern for his parents.

The family are a close knit family and appear very supportive of each other. During his time at the Youth Offending Team Child K was well supported through the Order by his parents who attended regular review meetings and also school meetings. In terms of the younger children there have been no major concerns about either child. Both are getting on well at school, attend regularly and there have been no reports of anti-social behaviour in relation to Child L. There have been a number of social care referrals in relation to possible parental substance use which have been investigated, however, no evidence has been found to support this.

#### Families for Change involvement

The Families for Change Coordinator became involved with the family again in Feb this year as they formed part of the cohort of FFC families given that they meet the three criteria for involvement in the initiative. Due to the previous engagement with the family (when employed in the Youth Offending Team) the Families for Change Coordinator already knew family well was able to approach them directly to discuss involvement in the initiative and also the benefits of the Family CAF as an assessment of the family's strengths and needs. They agreed to the FCAF being completed which was completed alongside Child K's case manager from the Youth Offending Team. What the family identified as the priorities for them was ensuring Child K completed his YOT Order successfully, ensuring a smooth transition from school to college, to help Adult A improve her chances of gaining employment and to assist with housing issues.

The Families for Change priorities were very similar: to reduce anti-social behaviour, improve attendance and educational attainment and help the family into employment.

Once the Family CAF was completed a team around the family meeting was set up and since that time several meetings have taken place. An action plan is now in place and being worked.

#### Progress so far

Since the FCAF was initiated the family have made some progress towards their goals and objectives. Child K has now finished school and completed his exams. He has attended two college interviews and has been given a place at RCAT College from September 2013 to do a catering course. He has worked extremely well with his Connexions worker and both are positive he can succeed on his course with a little on-going support. A heartening aspect of his current attitude is that he now has some aspirations which he did not have when he first engaged with the Youth Offending Team. The team around him (including my previous work with him) have worked hard to raise his aspirations as he is clearly a capable and engaging young person.

He is no longer with the Youth Offending Team having successfully completing his Order in March. It is a little too early to say if this will be his last involvement with the criminal justice system; however, he is clear that he no longer wants to be involved in offending. One of the most significant changes for Child K, however, has been his decision to stop using cannabis. He has made this decision as he recognises that if

he cannot realistically continue to use the drug and pursue his desire to become a chef. He is not finding this easy and it has had an impact on his moods with him being more irritable, although he has been to see his doctor about this and they are referring him to CAMHS. It is positive that he has recognised this and sought help as this is not something he would have done in the past.

In relation to Adult H's desire to get back into work, she has been referred to the Wiseability employment support programme. She initially missed her first two appointments; however, the Families for Change Coordinator encouraged the Wiseability key worker to keep trying to engage. At the last team around the family meeting Adult H stated that she had now attended a confidence and motivation course at Northern College and that she was planning to take more courses. She reported back that she was really enjoying the courses and has started to give some consideration to what she could do now that her daughter was starting school. She was hoping to take a counselling course as she would like to work with victims of domestic violence in the future.

In relation to housing issues the family was referred to the Youth Offending Service housing worker who spoke to Adult H about their housing situation. The family have decided to stay in their current property as they are not going to be subject to the under occupancy charge so do not require any further support

Adult H's confidence is growing and she is starting to make progress towards her goals. Her husband is now on the work programme having spent 12 years without working and suffering from depression. He too is starting to think about working again. The family are starting to make real progress after some years of struggle and difficulty. The Team Around the Family will continue to work with the family until Child K becomes settled in college, however, it is likely that fairly soon after that services may be able to withdraw to leave the family to continue to make the progress they have started.

<b>CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP</b>
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1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Children, Young People and Families Partnership</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>21st May 2014</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Case Studies: Families Affected by the Benefits Cap</b>

#### **4. Background**

In summer 2013 a benefit cap was introduced to limit the maximum amount of benefits (including the main out of work benefits, plus housing benefit, child benefit and child tax credits) that working age households can receive. The weekly cap, which aims to reflect the average earnings of working households, is £500 for families (and £350 for single adults). The benefit cap is most likely to have an impact on families where no adults are working and where there are multiple children. Some families are exempt, including those who are entitled to working tax credit or in receipt of disability living allowance.

Prior to universal credit, the benefit cap has been applied by reducing housing benefit, which means that households do not feel the full impact if their benefits income exceeds the cap by more than their weekly housing benefit entitlement. Nevertheless, the current loss in benefit ranges from £3 a week to £143 a week, with the majority of families losing £70 a week or less.

#### **5. Case Studies**

The purpose of the following case studies is to provide members of the Children, Young People and Families' Partnership with insight into the circumstances faced by families in the borough who find themselves reliant on benefits and potentially affected by the benefits cap.

The local authority has invested in providing support to these families and ensuring that an accessible and coordinated package of support is delivered.

Both case studies are based on real families who have received support. In order to provide scenarios related to the financial impact of working it has been necessary to make some assumptions (that may not reflect the personal decisions made by the family). Both case studies are for families with two parents; partnership members may want to request a case study at a future meeting that relates to a single parent with pre-school children as this presents a range of different challenges.

## 5.1 Case Study 1

### Family Composition

Father – Adult A

Mother – Adult B

8 Children, aged 18, 16, 14, 13, 11, 7, 6, 4

### Family Circumstances (narrative)

The family live in local authority rented accommodation and Adult A is a self-employed tradesman. Adult B does not work. The family previously claimed benefits when not working but, due to the benefits cap, are no longer willing to claim an out of work benefit because it will not provide the family with additional income. Since August 2013 Adult A has found it hard to find work and the family have struggled to manage financially, with rent and council tax arrears building up. Adult A is keen to return to work; however, he has no IT skills and is uncomfortable about having to seek help. There are no other concerns about the family, the children attend school regularly and are loved and well cared for.

### Family Circumstances (financial)

The family receive child benefit, child tax credit and housing benefit. If the family do not claim an out of work benefit they will not be entitled to free school meals; the cost of school dinners for 7 children is £68.75 a week.

### Support Provided

The Family Support Worker at the Children's Centre knows the family and has led the package of support provided. She arranged for the Employment Solutions Officer (based with Key Choices) to meet the family at the Children's Centre and helped to compile a CV. The Employment Solutions Officer submitted Adult A's CV to Wilmot Dixon, Morrisons, Sherwood Recruitment and other suitable advertised vacancies. Casual work was also arranged and excellent feedback was received about the quality of the work. An appointment has also been arranged with RMBC Money Advice Service to make an application for Discretionary Housing Payment, and to look at income and expenditure.

### Next Steps

Adult A is now in employment and can claim working tax credit; the family will not be subject to the benefit cap.

### Financial Outlook

Adult A is working full-time and the family receive working families tax credit. The family are aware of the pathways for support should this situation change. The money advice provided will support the family to manage their income in the context of providing for 8 dependents.

To provide some insight into the financial circumstances that a family with this composition will face, a scenario has been developed based on both parents working 20 hours a week over three days.

This scenario has made the assumption that the 16 and 18 year old would not require childcare, however, the NSPCC suggest children under 13 should not be left home alone so childcare costs have been calculated for the children aged 13 and under. This would be a parental decision based on the maturity of the children if the older children would need childcare or not. It is an offence to leave a child (aged under 16) home alone if it places them at risk.

Child 4 – 13 Before and after school care needed 3 days per week plus full day care during school holidays **£48.50 per week**

Child 5 – 11 Before and after school care needed 3 days per week plus full day care during school holidays **£48.50 per week**

Child 6 – 7 Before and after school care needed 3 days per week plus full day care during school holidays **£48.50 per week**

Child 7 – 6 Before and after school care needed 3 days per week plus full day care during school holidays **£48.50 per week**

Child 8 – 4 Before and after school care needed 3 days per week plus full day care during school holidays **£48.50 per week**

**Total £242.50 per week**

To calculate the amount of tax credits the family is eligible for, details have also been entered into the HMRC calculator (making some assumptions about parents age and other income) and they would receive £695 per week Tax Credits (including £185 per week towards childcare costs). This is in addition to an income of £252 per week through employment.

If one is parent working fulltime (40 hours at £13124) and one parent is not working (therefore no childcare costs needed). This would result in them receiving £452 per week in tax credits.

The amounts included in these illustrations are estimated figures only and a full benefits review would be needed for the families to look at actual Tax Credit amounts and how the change in employment status and income would affect other benefits.

## 5.2 Case Study 2

### Family Composition

Father – Adult K

Mother – Adult L

Father's sister (aged 16) who lives with the family following the death of their mother

Children, aged 6, 5, 3, 6 months

### Family Circumstances (narrative)

The family live in private rented accommodation; there is damp in the house and the heating has not worked for some time. Adult K's sister has recently come to live with the family since the death of her mother in November 2013. The family live in a 3-bedroomed house and wanted an extra bedroom to accommodate Adult K's sister on a permanent basis.

Adult L used to work but hasn't done so since she had the children. Following the death of her mother-in-law (whom she cared for), and the birth of her youngest child, Adult L says that she has had low-mood. She has sought advice from her GP in relation to this and intends to claim Employment Support Allowance.

Adult K has worked in the past but finds it difficult to look for work because he is dyslexic and finds it difficult to read. He says that he feels anxious when he is required to complete any paperwork.

Family relationships are all positive and the school-age children have good attendance. The pre-school children do not access any provision.

### Family Circumstances (financial)

The family were receiving Job Seekers Allowance for Adult K, plus Carers' Allowance for Adult L, in addition to some income from Adult K's mother.

Since the death of Adult K's mother their income has been made up of Jobseekers Allowance (£694.11), plus Child Tax Credits (£267.28) plus Child Benefit (£73.90)

The family's estimated (£1204.60) outgoings come to a total of , including rent (£218), household utilities (£238), phone (£20), clothes and shoes (£50), travel (£20), housekeeping (£650) and school milk (£8.60)

### Support Provided

The family had received support from a Family Support Worker who had signposted the family to Stonham Housing, however the family were struggling to manage their finances and resolve their housing situation.

Following the involvement of the Outreach Worker supporting families affected the benefit cap the family:

- Understand that their benefits have been capped, and have been supported to apply for Discretionary Housing Payment.
- Have moved into a more suitable property (with Stonham Housing) and are in discussion with the previous landlord (supported by the Outreach Worker) regarding arrears that had built up for their previous home. The Vicars Relief fund provided £250 towards the bond for the new property.

- Have started to bid on RMBC properties again
- Have applied for a place at the Children's Centre for their 3 year old child
- Have made an appointment with the RMBC Financial Adviser (supported by the Outreach Worker).

### **Next Steps**

The Family Support Worker from the local Children's Centre has initiated a Family CAF and called a Team Around the Family meeting. Adult L is seeking support from her GP in relation to her low mood. Adult K is considering his employment options and the Outreach Worker will refer to Wiseability for employment support at the appropriate time.

### **Financial Outlook**

In order to calculate the impact of finding employment and paying for childcare it has been necessary to make assumptions regarding the working status of both parents, their hours and income and in turn their childcare needs. It is worth noting that in order for families to access help with the costs of childcare (in a two parent family) both parents would need to be working a minimum of 16 hours a week and be using Ofsted registered childcare. The financial outlook has therefore been calculated based on both parents working 20 hours a week and earning current minimum wage (£6.31 ph which is a combined annual income of £13,124). If just one parent was working then they would be unable to claim help with childcare costs through Tax Credits, however, provided that parent worked 24 hours or more they would receive some working tax credits (dependent on income).

If one or more parents moved into work Child Benefit would not be affected but other benefits may be such as housing benefit and free school meals

If both Adult L and Adult K are in work for 20 hours a week over 3 days, a Childminder is likely to provide the best source of care in order to keep the children (who are a range of ages) together.

Childcare requirements and average costs:

Child 1 – Before and after school care needed 3 days per week plus full day care during school holidays **£48.50 per week**

Child 2 – Before and after school care needed 3 days per week plus full day care during school holidays **£48.50 per week**

Child 3 – Wraparound care needed 3 days per week plus full day care during school holidays **£52 per week**

Child 4 – Full day care needed 3 days per week **£80 per week**

**Total £229 per week**

The following tax credit calculation has been completed by entering details into the HMRC calculator (making some assumptions about parents' age and other income) and they would receive £456 per week Tax Credits (including £175 per week towards childcare costs). Plus, an income of £252 per week through employment.

If a calculation is based on one parent working fulltime (40 hours at £13124) and one parent not working (therefore no childcare costs needed). This would result in the family receiving £280 per week in tax credits.

**5. Prepared by:**

Jenny Lingrell	Troubled Families Coordinator	(2)54836
Kerry Hurst	Family Information Service Coordinator	(2)54776
Dawn Calow	Outreach Support Worker	(8)22509

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Children, Young People and Families Partnership</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> May, 2014</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>CSE Learning &amp; Development Plan – 2014/15</b>
4	<b>Agency/Directorate/Organisation presenting report:</b>	<b>Warren Carratt, Children &amp; Young People's Services, RMBC</b>

**5. Purpose:**

This report has been requested to outline the planned learning and development activity to raise awareness of the advent of – and actions required by officers to respond to – the sexual exploitation of children and young people.

**6. Recommendations:**

That members of the Partnership note achievements to date and accept the plan included in appendix A

**7. Progress, Achievements and Impact:**

As all members of the sub-group are aware, CSE learning and development has been a priority area of action for the Borough for some time now, and the ante for this was upped in 2013 to extend the remit of the LSCB's work to cover general awareness raising as well as multi-agency training. Prior to the publication of Working Together 2013, statutory guidance was clear that LSCBs' had responsibility (only) for learning and development for multi-agency staff at "group 3" and upwards, which is defined as "Members of the workforce who work predominantly with children, young people and/or their parents/carers and who could potentially contribute to assessing, planning, intervening and reviewing the needs of a child and parenting capacity where there are safeguarding concerns."<sup>1</sup>

In the absence of any clear guidance on learning and development provision or workforce definitions in the 2013 refresh of Working Together, Rotherham LSCB opted to retain the definitions outlined in Working Together 2010, and these are included in our Learning & Improvement Framework. However, as the LSCB has been commissioned by the Rotherham Children, Young People & Families Strategic Partnership (né Children's Trust) to deliver the partnership CSE strategy and associated action plan, the remit of the LSCB's responsibilities for learning & development in relation to CSE have been extended, to include communication and general awareness raising.

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<sup>1</sup> Working Together 2010

This extension is being delivered within existing resources for the most part, however additional funding is being sought for initiatives which can augment what is already planned. Where these developments are known, they are included in the plan in appendix A.

Whilst distinct CSE training is being rolled out where required, it has also been incorporated into our existing learning and development offer to ensure it is an embedded component of broader practice developments e.g. CSE assessment is a specific part of the Family CAF process, and therefore staff will be trained in how to assess and respond to CSE as part of broader Family CAF training. The same ethos applies to the Early Help Core workshop. It is important that this is both acknowledged and included in our reporting of progress.

In 2013/14, 320 individuals undertook CSE training, building on the 556 the previous year. In 2013/14, 8 trained trainers went through the CSE workshop and will be supported to deliver multi-agency training in 2014/15.

#### **8. Objectives not Achieved and Risks:**

Given this report is to inform the sub-group of planned activity, there are no objectives which have not been achieved.

The biggest risk to delivery is agency engagement with the available learning and development resource available. Whilst it is right and proper that value has been placed on face to face delivery of learning and development, this does require officers to be freed up for a day, which is increasingly challenging in a reducing workforce. However, as discussed at the last sub-group meeting, this type of learning and development input does provide the greatest potential for improved outcomes to be achieved, as it places a strong onus on relationship building in a multi-agency setting a cross-pollination of experience and expertise in CSE from a wide range of provider services.

The effectiveness of e-Learning can often be over-estimated: whilst this is a good tool to facilitate knowledge transfer and for organisations to measure compliance, it does not allow for multi-agency discussion and relationship building to take place, as e-Learning is a virtual learning environment. However, in some instances it is a proportionate and more accessible response to need.

In 2013/14, there were many instances where single agency training was requested and delivered, to provide a timely response to requests for CSE awareness. Where appropriate and where staffing resource permits, this will continue in 2014/15. However capacity has been increased in the multi-agency workshops offered by the LSCB, to allow for more learning to take place in a multi-agency setting. There is therefore a risk that agency expectations on CSE training provision are not aligned with the reality of available resources. Additionally, there is also a risk that – where agencies have a trained trainer for CSE – single agency training will be delivered (appropriately) but not captured centrally and therefore not accounted for. To mitigate this risk, all partner agency are asked to ensure they send registers of any single agency CSE provision to [Faye.Prosser@Rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Faye.Prosser@Rotherham.gov.uk).

**9. Resources:**

- The work of the Sub Group is within the existing resource budget.

**10. Sources of reference**

- RLSCB Business Plan
- Working Together 2010 and 2013
- RLSCB Safeguarding Learning & Development Prospectus 2014-15
- RLSCB Early Help Learning & Development Prospectus 2014-15

**11. Contact Name:**

Warren Carratt – Service Manager RLSCB

**Appendix A: Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board – Child Sexual Exploitation Learning & Development Plan 2014-15**

Target groups to include members of statutory, voluntary, independent and community organisations	Expected Core Competencies	Learning and development activity planned	Lead Officer(s)	Update – 8.4.2014
<p><b><u>Group 1</u></b></p> <p>Staff in infrequent contact with children, young people and/or parents/carers who may become aware of CSE.</p>	<p>Recognise potential indicators of child sexual exploitation</p> <p>Taking appropriate action to address concerns.</p>	<p>Community awareness raising workshops delivered by identified trainers in the Rotherham CYP&amp;F Consortium.</p>	<p>Maria Langham</p>	<p>Pending funding bid decisions by POCA and PCC</p>
		<p>e-Academy e-Learning module on CSE for parents and carers on RLSCB website.</p>	<p>Phil Morris/Tracy Holmes</p>	<p>RLSCB staff awaiting training on development of new RMBC website. Once this has taken place, content will be published there.</p>
		<p>Distribution of crime stoppers leaflets to universal services to raise awareness of CSE</p>	<p>Warren Carratt/Tracy Holmes</p>	<p>Leaflets handed out at RLSCB March meeting</p> <p>Leaflets handed out to GPs and practice staff at March event at New York Stadium</p>

**Appendix A: Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board – Child Sexual Exploitation Learning & Development Plan 2014-15**

Target groups to include members of statutory, voluntary, independent and community organisations	Expected Core Competencies	Learning and development activity planned	Lead Officer(s)	Update – 8.4.2014
		Awareness/Refresher session for elected members	Warren Carratt/Caroline Webb	Agreed with democratic services officer to include in 14/15 development plan for members
		Governor training	Warren Carratt	Sessions delivered in March 2014, with future dates planned.
<p><b><u>Group 2</u></b></p> <p>Those in regular contact or have a period of intense but irregular contact, with children, young people and/or parents/carers including all health clinical staff, who may be in a position to identify concerns about maltreatment,</p>	<p>As above and:</p> <p>Acts as an effective advocate for young person at risk of CSE</p> <p>Clear about roles, responsibilities and professional</p>	Early Help – Core Workshop	Warren Carratt	<p>Dates scheduled for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014</li> <li>▪ 11<sup>th</sup> Aug 2014</li> <li>▪ 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014</li> </ul>

**Appendix A: Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board – Child Sexual Exploitation Learning & Development Plan 2014-15**

Target groups to include members of statutory, voluntary, independent and community organisations	Expected Core Competencies	Learning and development activity planned	Lead Officer(s)	Update – 8.4.2014
including those that may arise from the use of CAF.	<p>boundaries.</p> <p>Able to refer appropriately if a safeguarding concern is identified.</p> <p>Documents concerns appropriately, maintaining an appropriate record differentiating between fact and opinion.</p> <p>Shares appropriate and relevant information</p>	Family CAF Workshop	Warren Carratt	<p>Dates scheduled for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 22nd April 2014</li> <li>▪ 12th May 2014</li> <li>▪ 17th June 2014</li> <li>▪ 22nd July 2014</li> <li>▪ 18th August 2014</li> <li>▪ 16th September 2014</li> <li>▪ 20th October 2014</li> <li>▪ 17th November 2014</li> <li>▪ 15th December 2014</li> </ul>

**Appendix A: Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board – Child Sexual Exploitation Learning & Development Plan 2014-15**

Target groups to include members of statutory, voluntary, independent and community organisations	Expected Core Competencies	Learning and development activity planned	Lead Officer(s)	Update – 8.4.2014
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 26th January 2015</li> <li>▪ 16th February 2015</li> <li>▪ 16th March 2015</li> </ul>
		e-Academy CSE e-Learning package for practitioners	Warren Carratt	Package available – communicate to go out to all multi-agency staff in April 2014 to re-advertise availability.
<p><b>Groups 3 &amp; 4</b></p> <p>3) Members of the workforce who work predominantly with children, young people and/or their parents/carers and who could potentially contribute to assessing, planning, intervening and reviewing the needs of a child and</p>	<p>As outlined above and:</p> <p>Uses child and family focused practice when identifying instances CSE</p> <p>Has professionally relevant core and case</p>	<p>RLSCB Workshop: Safeguarding Young People at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation</p>	<p>Warren Carratt</p>	<p>Dates planned for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 23/05/2014</li> <li>▪ 01/07/2014</li> <li>▪ 23/09/2014</li> <li>▪ 02/12/2014</li> </ul>

**Appendix A: Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board – Child Sexual Exploitation Learning & Development Plan 2014-15**

Target groups to include members of statutory, voluntary, independent and community organisations	Expected Core Competencies	Learning and development activity planned	Lead Officer(s)	Update – 8.4.2014
parenting capacity where there are safeguarding concerns.  Or  4) Members of the workforce who have particular responsibilities in relation to undertaking section 47 enquiries, including professionals from health, education, police and children’s social care; those who work with complex cases and social work staff responsible for co-ordinating assessments of children in need.	specific competencies.  Contributes to interagency assessments, gathering and sharing information and where appropriate analysing risk.  Documents concerns in a manner that is appropriate for safeguarding and legal processes.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 03/02/2015</li> </ul>
		Schools Designated Safeguarding Leads Forum	Warren Carratt	Summer term 2014
		NWG e-Learning Packages (as refresher)	Phil Morris/Tracy Holmes	RLSCB staff awaiting training on development of new RMBC website.

**Appendix A: Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board – Child Sexual Exploitation Learning & Development Plan 2014-15**

Target groups to include members of statutory, voluntary, independent and community organisations	Expected Core Competencies	Learning and development activity planned	Lead Officer(s)	Update – 8.4.2014
				Once this has taken place, content will be published there.
<p><b>Groups 5 &amp; 6</b></p> <p>(5) Professional advisors, named and designated lead professionals.</p> <p>(6) Operational managers</p>	<p>As per groups 1,- 3 and:</p> <p>Able to effectively communicate local safeguarding knowledge, research and findings from audits.</p> <p>Undertakes the development of action plans where</p>	<p>NWG e-Learning package</p>	<p>Warren Carratt/Phil Morris</p>	<p>RLSCB staff awaiting training on development of new RMBC website.</p> <p>Once this has taken place, content will be published there.</p>

**Appendix A: Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board – Child Sexual Exploitation Learning & Development Plan 2014-15**

Target groups to include members of statutory, voluntary, independent and community organisations	Expected Core Competencies	Learning and development activity planned	Lead Officer(s)	Update – 8.4.2014
	<p>appropriate.</p> <p>Provides advice and information about CSE to the employer.</p> <p>Participates in sub-groups of the LSCB.</p> <p>Leads safeguarding quality assurance and improvement processes.</p>			
<p><b>Group 7 &amp; 8</b></p> <p>Senior managers responsible for the strategic management of services;</p>	<p>Champions CSE at a strategic level</p>	<p>NWG e-Learning package</p>	<p>Joyce Thacker</p>	<p>RLSCB staff awaiting training on development of new RMBC website.</p> <p>Once this has taken place, content will be published there.</p>

<b>ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Children, Young People and Families Partnership</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>21/05/2014</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Progress report in relation to safeguarding arrangements for young people accessing sexual health services in Rotherham</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Public Health</b>

**5. Summary**

This report is to update the Partnership in relation to the progress made to date on the development of care pathways and safeguarding reporting mechanisms for all young people accessing sexual health services in Rotherham.

Service providers and commissioners are in the process of harmonising protocols and reviewing care pathways.

**6. Recommendations**

**That the Partnership notes the progress made**

## **7. Proposals and details**

Following the recommendations of the Partnership a group was established to look at the development of protocols and referring mechanisms in relation to appropriate sexual health service provision and safeguarding.

The proposal to extend the provision of Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) at Pharmacies to young women aged 14 to 16 has been taken to the Local Pharmaceutical Committee who have now agreed the necessary variation to the local contract.

The protocols for the automatic referral from Pharmacy have now been developed and the electronic recording system is being modified so that it shows an automatic alert (when indicated by age/date of birth) and details of the referral process. IYSS now have a draft protocol and an algorithm for referral.

A timetable for delivering training to Pharmacists in the use of the recording tool and the referral process is now being put together. Once this has been delivered the contract variation will be processed and Pharmacists signed up to the new contract will be able to operate the service extension.

The protocols in relation to under 16 year old girls attending Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) and Contraceptive and Sexual Health (CaSH) clinics are in the process of being harmonised and service level agreements with the Foundation Trust have been drawn up to reflect the integration of sexual health services. The proposed algorithm for referral to the newly appointed sexual exploitation nurse has now been circulated to professionals for comment and is currently being assessed.

Once this work has been completed these specialist protocols will be developed for use in general practice.

## **8. Finance**

No further financial considerations

## **9. Risks and uncertainties**

Rotherham has made good progress in relation to tackling unintended teenage pregnancy, the numbers having fallen considerably in recent years. The lack of community based EHC provision for younger, vulnerable young women could reverse this trend. Rotherham also needs to tackle the level of sexually transmitted infections in the population by targeting those most at risk. There are, however, safeguarding issues to be taken into consideration with sexual activity below the ages of 16 years and, therefore, an automatic referral system between Community Pharmacists and IYSS is being introduced and the referral pathways for the specialised services are being strengthened.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

There are implications for performance in relation to the Public Health Outcomes Framework (Teenage pregnancy, Chlamydia screening and HIV early detection).

The further development of the safeguarding measures should also be seen as a contribution to measures designed to identify and prevent sexual exploitation.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Public Health Outcome Framework for England, 2013 -2016

12. Gill Harrison, Public Health Specialist, tel: 01709 255868  
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**Director:**

John Radford, Director of Public Health

**Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board (RLSCB)**

**Minutes from the meeting of Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board, held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014, 1pm – 4pm at Riverside House**

In attendance:

Steve Ashley – Chair	Independent Chair, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Sonya Chambers – Minute Taker	Administrative Officer, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Richard Burton - Member	Lay Member, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Debra Wadsworth - Member	Lay Member, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Tracey McErlain-Burns - Member	Chief Nurse, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
Pete Horner - Member	Public Protection Unit Manager, South Yorkshire Police
Sherif El-Refee - Advisor	Designated Doctor, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
Deborah Wildgoose – Member and Vice Chair	Interim Service Director for Children and Communities, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDASH)
Sue Cassin - Member	Executive Lead for Safeguarding, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Catherine Hall - Advisor	Head of Safeguarding, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Warren Carratt – Advisor (representing Clair Pyper as well)	Service Manager for Strategy, Standards and Development, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council, and Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Phil Morris - Advisor	Business Manager, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
Kevin Stevens - Advisor	Safeguarding Quality Assurance Officer for Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board and Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Bev Pepperdine – in attendance to present item 3	Service Improvement Officer, Rotherham Council
Sue Wilson – in attendance to present item 2	Performance and Quality Manager, Rotherham Council
Tracey Slater - Member	Patient Experience Manager, Nursing Directorate, NHS England (South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw)
John Radford - Member	Director of Public Health, Rotherham
Zafar Saleem - Advisor	Community Engagement Manager, Community Engagement Team, Rotherham Council
Paul Grimwood - Member	Youth Offending Services Manager, Rotherham Council
Tracy Holmes - Advisor	Head of Corporate Communications and Marketing, Environment and Development Services, Rotherham Council
Shona McFarlane - Member	Director of Health and Wellbeing, Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, Rotherham Council
Sue Wynne - Member	Rotherham Women's Refuge, Voluntary Sector Consortium
Richard Butterworth (representing Jason Harwin)	Head of Rotherham Safer Neighbourhoods, South Yorkshire Police
Anne Riley - Member	Service Manager, Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
Joyce Thacker - Member	Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council

Apologies:

Cherryl Henry-Leach - Advisor	Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator, Safer Rotherham Partnership, Rotherham Council
Robin Williams - Advisor	Service Solicitor for Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Sarah Mainwaring - Member	Head of Probation, Rotherham, South Yorkshire Probation Trust
Clair Pyper - Member	Interim Director of Safeguarding Children and Families, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Nick Whittaker - Member	Headteacher, Hilltop and Kelford Schools
Jane Skupien - Member	Headteacher, Sitwell Infants School
David Polkinghorn - Member	Lead GP for Safeguarding, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Dawn Peet – Deputy for Tony Carlin	Safeguarding Officer, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
Dorothy Smith - Member	Director of Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Council
Jason Harwin - Member	Chief Superintendent, District Commander for Rotherham, South Yorkshire Police

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1. Welcome / apologies and introductions

Attendance and apologies were recorded as above.

2. Safeguarding Children Performance update report (standing item) – Sue Wilson

Sue Wilson explained that this was the quarterly performance report for quarter three, period ending December 2013, and it covers both national and local performance indicators.

Since the end of quarter two, (September 2013), there have been two key areas of performance improvement. These are:

1. Stability and length of placements for long term looked after children (National Indicator 63).
2. The percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time (National Indicator 65).

Both of these measures were rated as 'Red' (below local target and below national average) at the end of September and following improvement work undertaken these are both now rated as 'Green' (on/above local target and on/above national average).

A key area of performance concern is the timeliness of both core and initial assessments. Despite a lot of work having been undertaken to try and address this, both areas remain 'Red' and performance has in fact worsened, meaning that the out-turn will be negative compared to last year.

The situation has improved with regard to the number of children without a plan recorded and associated on systems so that by the end of quarter four, this should be even better provided that the work continues.

Phil Morris asked what impact delayed assessments was having on children, and what action ought to be taken. Warren Carratt answered that historically, Rotherham had suffered from 'drag', i.e. a backlog that impacted negatively upon the performance figures. Basically, if an assessment is not completed within 35 days, then it is classed as out of time. However, a detailed review found that there were previously insufficient resources in the Contact And Referral Team (CART) to ensure that assessments were completed within the timescale, therefore the equivalent of three additional full time posts have been created in CART to address the situation. Richard Burton challenged this, asking how come three new workers have been recruited when the council is currently needing to make significant financial savings, and Warren Carratt explained that the posts were filled by reallocating existing staff to the roles, not by recruiting new staff.

Further to the above, it was reported that there has been a significant increase of 30% in the number of core assessments being carried out. However, 33% of contacts that come through to CART result in no further action (this includes those that are stepped down to early help services) - this explains the 'drag' effect as this 33% creates an unnecessary workload, because each contact needs to be investigated fully, which is time consuming. The decision was made to shut down one of the Duty Teams that was carrying significant drag and to set up another team from existing staff to specifically address the drag cases.

Warren Carratt reassured the LSCB that there were no delays in undertaking Section 47 assessments in cases where it is felt that a family / children are at risk of immediate harm.

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Richard Burton asked what was the impact on services of new arrivals into Rotherham and Warren Carratt replied that a lot of positive work had been done e.g. recent work undertaken with the Roma Community.

Sherif El-Reftee asked why there had been such an increase in contacts and referrals to CART, and Warren Carratt replied that awareness of child protection and safeguarding had been heightened following the recent high profile serious case review of Daniel Pelka in the national press, which has led to a lot of schools raising issues. There are still issues to address e.g. domestic abuse referrals via the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – this will influence the ‘no further action’ rate but is an area that needs attention. The MASH will try and address some of the existing system issues. Going back to Sherif El-Reftee’s question, Phil Morris said that the success of training and awareness raising events was another reason for the increase in contacts and referrals. He clarified that child sexual exploitation is not necessarily more prevalent today than before, but that there is now increased awareness of the issue.

Warren Carratt reported that Rotherham was below the statistical average in terms of the number of children on child in need plans. He went on to say that it is unacceptable for a child not to have a plan in place where this is necessary, and that there are systems in place to ensure that looked after children receive the appropriate planning by way of a team of Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs), as well as a team of Child Protection Conference Chairs to ensure that child protection plans are established as necessary. In addition, Kevin Stevens provides quality assurance of these systems in his role as Quality Assurance Officer for the LSCB. However, it was reiterated that all agencies have a responsibility to ensure that appropriate plans are in place for children – child protection planning may be Social Care led, but all agencies play a part in the planning process.

Richard Burton was worried that the public do not know the story behind the failing performance areas, but Phil Morris pointed out that these minutes are made available to the public on the LSCB website. Deborah Wildgoose asked whether all of the reports discussed at LSCB were also uploaded to the website and the answer was no, but that they can be requested at any time under the Freedom Of Information Act. Sue Wilson added though that some of the reports discussed here also go to Cabinet as well, and all non-exempt Cabinet papers are published on Rotherham Council’s website.

Phil Morris and Kevin Stevens undertook to look at the contact and referral rate to CART and the source of each contact and referral to see what percentage from each agency end up leading to no further action. This exercise will provide an important baseline analysis, and will be shared with the Performance Sub Group / Quality Assurance Sub Group / Learning and Improvement Sub Group as appropriate before coming back to the LSCB.

Steve Ashley added that Councillor Paul Lakin has been pushing hard to ensure that the ‘Red’ performance areas are being addressed.

Warren Carratt suggested that a performance improvement report is taken to the Performance Sub Group before being presented to the LSCB – Steve Ashley agreed.

3. Secondary Schools Lifestyle Survey 2013 – Bev Pepperdine

Bev Pepperdine explained that the Secondary Schools Lifestyle Survey had been

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ongoing since 2006, and it is a joint venture with health services to capture the views of children and young people across the borough. The results are then shared with a large number of agencies.

Although it is not compulsory for schools to complete the survey, there has been an excellent return this time for 2013 - it is the first time all secondary schools have participated, meaning the best result ever since the survey started. Bev Pepperdine explained that this increase in participation rates is due in part to the fact that all schools were contacted following the 2012 survey to explain how the results had been used and what had been put in place as a result. Also, the survey had been made easier to do online, the time required to complete it had been reduced and schools were allowed more time to return their completed surveys. The more pupils that respond, the more accurate the results are in terms of reflecting all children and young people across the borough. All schools have now agreed to participate in 2014, and other local areas such as Bassetlaw and Sheffield have expressed interest in the survey.

The key areas for attention highlighted by the survey in terms of safeguarding were:

- Young carers
- Town centre and public transport
- Bullying
- Feelings / self esteem

More young people now identify themselves as young carers. Work has been done with Barnardo's and health services to improve support for this particular target group, and a 'Young Carer's Card' is currently being trialled – this is a card for young carers to show to school staff as proof of their personal circumstances in the event that they are late or need to leave early. Work is also being done to raise awareness in schools as to what support is available for young carers.

Safety in Rotherham town centre is a recurring issue of concern amongst many young people; however, their perceptions of the town centre as an unsafe place are not backed up by the actual crime figures. Nevertheless, work needs to be done to look at why this is such a source of worry for young people and what can be done to allay their fears. The Youth Cabinet is currently doing some work in relation to safeguarding issues in the town centre and around the bus station.

Phil Morris asked how the survey question in relation to bullying was phrased, as this could affect the responses. Bev Pepperdine replied that young people were simply asked if they had been bullied, not 'have you been bullied at school'. Further questions then follow to ask how the young person has been bullied, etc. Phil Morris asked whether, in cases of racist bullying, the racist bullying incident process has been triggered, and also whether the Police Young Person's Police Officer (PYPPO) was involved - this information would be useful to know. Warren Carratt undertook to look at PYPPO involvement and report back.

Bev Pepperdine agreed to a suggestion from Phil Morris to look at adapting the bullying question to ask young people whether they were being bullied at school or out of school. Sue Wilson advised that the problem with changing questions year on year is that subsequent results will not compare like for like. However, Phil Morris argued that this is not a reason not to change the wording if there is the potential to improve the learning from the results.

Bev Pepperdine clarified that the published results of the survey do not compare schools against each other - the results are only shown as a borough wide summary,

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which is part of the agreement with schools. But individual feedback is provided separately to enable schools to address any issues specific to them.

The responsible retailer initiative has gone some way to address the purchase of cigarettes and alcohol by young people from supermarkets, but the problem is significantly worse in local shops.

The Youth Cabinet has been very supportive of the survey's work – e.g. by reviewing questions, taking forward issues raised and supporting young people in activities and initiatives. Some of the young people from the Youth Cabinet have fed back that Sheffield has better questions than Rotherham, so this is something to look at.

Further questions were added to the latest survey to try and gain some clarity regarding the perception of Rotherham town centre, e.g. to ask young people if they actually visited the town centre, and it was found that those who did had a more positive perception than those who didn't.

The positive results from the survey are being shared with Rotherham Council's Communications Team, and a communications plan is being developed, including the use of local media. Also, partner agencies are feeding back to report on what work they have been doing to ensure that the survey is not just about capturing the voice of child, but that there are outcomes in terms of targeted work being undertaken.

Richard Burton asked if the survey had a question about young people being groomed, and Bev Pepperdine replied no, but Sue Wilson explained that although the word 'grooming' was not used, young people were asked questions about if they had ever arranged to meet someone they had been in contact with online, so the issue of grooming was captured but just worded differently for the young people. Richard Burton then asked if the survey captured anything about young people's attitudes to porn, and Bev Pepperdine replied that they were asked if their Personal Social Education (PSE) sessions had covered certain issues. Joyce Thacker interjected, saying that the term 'porn' would not be used in the survey as it was not age appropriate, but she agreed with Richard Burton that consideration needed to be given to getting appropriate messages across to children without offending parents as well. Joyce Thacker undertook to speak to Kay Denton-Tarn regarding this point.

Regarding the issue of safety in Rotherham town centre, Steve Ashley accepted that the reality does not necessarily meet the perception of the young people, but he asked the police if they could provide any further information about this issue. Richard Butterworth answered that it is difficult to specify what the issues are, e.g. some feedback from young people is that they feel safe before 9pm but not afterwards – but what are they still doing out at this time? Steve Ashley argued that there will always be some young people out after 9pm and their concerns need to be addressed. Richard Butterworth replied that work is currently being done in the town centre to try and gain a better understanding of the concerns before perceptions can be addressed. Steve Ashley said that this situation is particularly worrying given budget cuts to those services where young people do feel safe. Richard Butterworth said that there is a need to understand why Rotherham town centre is such a cause for concern compared to other local areas, and he suggested that it would be worth looking at adding specific questions to the survey to try and get to the bottom of these worries. Richard Butterworth added that he had not been consulted on the Lifestyle Survey questions and that this would have been useful. Steve Ashley accepted that open questioning, e.g. 'do you like going into the town centre' could prove helpful, but there is still the issue of young people's perceptions that needs to be addressed. Richard Butterworth asked if there was a multi-agency action plan from this survey, and Sue Wilson answered yes –

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it was agreed that the action plan would be shared with these minutes. The action plan provides a 'litmus test' to see what has changed in a year's time.

Steve Ashley picked up on the earlier point that action was taken to address the underage buying of cigarettes and alcohol which saw positive results, and there is the need for similar action to be taken against each area of concern from the survey.

Steve Ashley commented that sexual health is another issue of concern as young people don't want to use sexual health facilities – instead there has been an increase in them obtaining information online. John Radford replied that teenage pregnancy rates in Rotherham were at the lowest ever – approaching lower than the national average, following a lot of positive work done in schools e.g. contraceptive outreach, empowering young women. In response to the popularity amongst young people of using the internet for information, John Radford said that there is always the option for health service to provide factual information online via the council website.

Steve Ashley thanked Bev Pepperdine for her presentation and said that the Lifestyle Survey was an excellent piece of work, and that consideration now needs to be given as to how this work can grow and move forward.

Steve Ashley undertook to look at the action plan and feed back via the LSCB to Bev Pepperdine about what actions have been done.

4. Previous RLSCB minutes from 13.12.2013 and matters / actions arising

The previous minutes were agreed and approved.

Steve Ashley proposed that from now on, the completed draft minutes will be circulated to all LSCB members and advisors allowing one week for any comments before they are uploaded to the LSCB website. This will avoid the current delay caused by waiting until the following meeting for the minutes to be formally approved. Tracey McErlain-Burns agreed with this proposal but requested that the minutes are circulated to everyone via the 'BCC' email option to avoid people receiving subsequent unnecessary emails by people using the 'reply all' option.

5. Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Review – Joyce Thacker

Joyce Thacker said that this had been a thorough review which highlighted good partnership working across all services..

In terms of the recommendations from this review, Joyce Thacker was able to confirm that the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) will be funded through public health, which is a positive outcome.

Items 3, 10 and 19 of the review focus specifically on children, and the importance of having appropriately trained staff to undertake age appropriate work. Shona McFarlane confirmed that a new member of staff would shortly be starting in post taking a lead on domestic abuse

Kay Denton has been developing domestic abuse training materials to link in with schools and colleges.

An alert system is proposed to put in place for schools so that they are notified within 72 hours if one of their pupils has been affected by domestic abuse, so that they are able to offer the appropriate support. This will be achieved once the Domestic Abuse

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Hub is set up later this year.

Work has been done with young people to raise awareness about coercive, abusive relationships, especially as some young people have such examples at home, and they need to be taught that this kind of relationship is not right or acceptable.

Joyce Thacker said that a progress update from this review will be reported back to Cabinet.

6. RLSCB Sub Group progress reports:

6.1 Serious Case Review Sub Group – Pete Horner

Pete Horner reported that the previous meeting of this Sub Group had been used to discuss a new referral against the serious case review criteria. The group had then recommended to Steve Ashley, Independent Chair of Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board, that a serious case review should not be undertaken, but Steve Ashley disagreed with this decision and recommended that a serious case review is undertaken on this case. Therefore the Serious Case Review Sub Group now needs to work to pull this together.

Pete Horner reported that this was an effective Sub Group, although it had not met for a while until recently as there had been no new cases for discussion.

The difficulty this Sub Group now has is deciding which of the different methodologies to use for undertaking a serious case review. There has been a recent move to a systems based approach, away from 'blaming' individuals. However, it is currently unclear as to what the difference is between a serious case review and learning lessons review. Steve Ashley responded to this by arguing that where there has been a system breakdown that could have resulted in the death of a child, then a serious case review should be undertaken. He added that it is important to select the right style of serious case review, but that the methodology does not necessarily need to be time consuming and bureaucratic as in the past, and that a learning lessons review is essentially what a serious case review is.

Pete Horner said that although the Sub Group had decided against a serious case review, all attendees had enough concerns to agree that a learning lessons review ought to be undertaken.

John Radford stated that the original purpose of serious case reviews was to protect children, therefore he suggested a multi-agency rapid response exercise to review the practice in this case. He recommended holding a multi-disciplinary meeting as used by the Child Death Overview Panel, as these have proved to be very effective. Phil Morris agreed but said that it had now been accepted that the serious case review process is about involving those practitioners who were directly involved with the family – i.e. not about senior managers producing Individual Management Reviews.

Steve Ashley commented that the SCIE methodology obtains excellent results but it is time consuming.

Steve Ashley said that to some extent, at a national level, the Department for Education (DfE) thinks that LSCBs are 'covering up' with regard to serious case reviews and that this suspicion probably stems from the lack of incidents that are reported in to them. But he argued that the answer is not to report every single incident to the DfE, and that there is a real national debate to be had about this situation. In

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terms of what is a serious case review versus what is a learning lessons review, the two have come much closer together now. But the importance of a serious case review will become diluted if it is overused.

Steve Ashley emphasised that agencies should not await published serious case review / learning lessons review reports before taking action in a serious case.

In response to Steve Ashley's earlier point, Richard Burton said that he had seen no evidence of any cover up in Rotherham in relation to serious case reviews.

Phil Morris clarified that the agencies involved in the serious case review would be:

- Children's Social Care
- South Yorkshire Police
- The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
- Sheffield Children's Trust

6.2 Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group – Joyce Thacker, on behalf of Jason Harwin

Joyce Thacker provided an update on behalf of Jason Harwin, who was unable to attend today's meeting.

The Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group has considered the recommendations from the CSE diagnostic report and good progress is being made on these following a review meeting. The aim now is to focus the CSE action plan more on impact and outcomes, whilst still retaining the three Ps – Prevent, Protect and Pursue.

To demonstrate that training and awareness raising sessions really do make a difference, Joyce Thacker fed back from a recent case where the CSE training and awareness for hotels is paying off. This will be written into a good practice case study.

There is strong attendance at this Sub Group, a good culture of challenge, and it works well having Lay Member attendance at these meetings.

The group has produced a CSE victim profile and there are now plans to produce a perpetrator profile. Pete Horner responded that the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) was currently looking at a perpetrator profile so it might be worth contacting them – Joyce Thacker and Pete Horner agreed to discuss this further outside of the meeting, as it will be useful to link in and triangulate with any existing work rather than duplicate anything unnecessarily.

Consideration also needs to be given to post abuse support, as this is currently quite scarce.

It was reiterated that agencies need to retain a sense of proportionality with regard to child sexual exploitation, as it only actually accounts for 2.3% of RMBC safeguarding work in Rotherham. Although it is a very important issue, – child neglect is a much more significant problem in the borough.

Tracy Holmes reported that she had taken along some CSE campaign materials to the last meeting of the LSCB for agencies to look at and to let her know if they want to borrow any of the material for events. Sample materials had also been placed on the LSCB website and Tracy Holmes could be contacted for more information. Pete Horner mentioned that there had recently been some national campaigns to raise awareness about child sexual exploitation, involving prominent sports personalities at sporting events.

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Joyce Thacker reported that she had been working with the Voluntary Sector Consortium to put in a bid for POCA funding to support community based CSE training – i.e. targeted work to reach the public at parents' evenings, etc. Train the trainer sessions will be held to equip people with the appropriate skills to deliver CSE training to the community.

Phil Morris informed the meeting that Assistant Chief Constable Byrne was to be interviewed live on BBC Radio Sheffield tomorrow to talk about the latest situation with regard to child sexual exploitation in South Yorkshire.

6.3 Quality Assurance Sub Group – Tracey McErlain-Burns

Tracey McErlain-Burns reported that the Quality Assurance Sub Group had recently updated its terms of reference to include South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and Education as members.

The Sub Group has agreed a more child centred approach by starting each meeting with a case study.

6.4 Performance Sub Group – Steve Ashley

The Performance Sub Group has looked at the new performance framework and the two tiered structure.

6.5 Learning and Improvement Sub Group – Clair Pyper

Warren Carratt provided an update on behalf of Clair Pyper, who was on annual leave.

Significant numbers of staff have now received training for safeguarding and early help.

There was a lot of positive feedback regarding the recent Roma event.

Warren Carratt reported that this Sub Group was a useful forum to draw out learning and development needs and respond to these accordingly.

The Learning and Improvement Sub Group has assumed responsibility for safeguarding policy and procedures following the cessation of the Policy and Procedures Sub Group. However, there have been no significant policy changes recently.

6.6 Child Death Overview Panel – John Radford

The previous meeting of the Child Death Overview Panel had focused on suicide.

John Radford was pleased to report that the infant mortality rate in Rotherham remains low, which is quite a significant achievement given that maternal health in the borough is relatively poor. It was confirmed that obstetricians and midwives are invited to meetings where baby deaths are discussed to provide their input.

Steve Ashley raised a point for all of the Sub Group Chairs that it is important that any positive impact of work done / action taken is reflected in the appropriate Sub Group minutes. One recent example from the Child Death Overview Panel is in relation to safe sleeping – some new mothers are unable to afford cots for their babies, so to

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avoid the risks associated with co-sleeping, these mothers are provided with a Moses basket. John Radford explained that the health visitor and midwife then undertake home assessments to reinforce the safe sleeping message. In a recent case, although a baby had tragically died, the mother had taken on board the safe sleeping advice as she was using a Moses basket. Steve Ashley said that the decision of the Quality Assurance Sub Group to begin each meeting with a case study is a particularly good idea as this provides a tracking system.

Richard Burton commented that there had been some recent stories in the news about baby deaths that had resulted from co-sleeping, and that this is a particular risk for new arrivals from other countries / cultures where it is not unusual for families to live in a crowded home. Warren Carratt replied that targeted work is being undertaken to address this issue, and Anna Clack from health services is involved in this work. John Radford added that the baby death he had previously referred to was actually referred to the Learning and Improvement Sub Group for some follow up targeted work.

7. 2014-2015 RLSCB budget proposals – discussion – Warren Carratt

This item links in to item 11.1.

A letter outlining the LSCB budget proposals for 2014-2015 was circulated to all LSCB members and advisors. It is proposed that the budget will be retained in its present format with just a marginal increase of 2.13%. Further detail can be found in the report by Karen Potts accompanying agenda item 11.1.

Steve Ashley expressed his gratitude to all agencies for maintaining the level of funding, especially when everyone is currently faced with difficult financial circumstances.

Pete Horner asked whether the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office was copied in to the letter and Warren Carratt replied that they had been contacted separately and were aware.

Sue Cassin challenged the proposal, feeding back that Chris Edwards, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Chief Officer, had highlighted that there was an inaccuracy in the letter. The CCG has not agreed to coordinate the local NHS response, they have agreed to honour the financial contribution for funding the LSCB previously agreed with the Primary Care Trust (PCT). RDASH and The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust will continue to provide resources in kind. This was accepted as a necessary correction by Steve Ashley.

8. Draft Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Proposals – Joyce Thacker

Joyce Thacker reported that a suitable location was still being sought for the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Possibilities include Riverside House or the Walk In Health Centre. There has been a lot of discussion about this issue but it firstly needs to be established how many people will make up the MASH in order to work out the logistics of moving staff. So this process is currently still in the early stages.

Catherine Hall informed the LSCB that she had recently put in a bid for funding from Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group which had been successful, so £34,440 is now available to support remote working for health staff and publicity.

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9. LSCB self-assessment – Steve Ashley, Phil Morris & Warren Carratt

Phil Morris reported that this was currently a work in progress. It is an opportunity to provide a self-assessment process for the LSCB, which is something that has not been done recently. Undertaking self-assessments helps to assist with any external scrutiny.

The intention is to now share this with the Sub Groups with a view to obtaining the relevant evidence and details of what impact has been seen. The self-assessment will then influence the writing of the LSCB annual report and business plan.

Steve Ashley commented that doing the self-assessment does focus the mind on how well the LSCB works and whether it is an effective, worthwhile entity or a waste of agencies' time. He added that this also links back to his earlier point that Sub Group minutes need to reflect positive impact and outcomes. Also, the LSCB and its Sub Groups need to challenge agencies and ask about what difference their work has made to children and young people.

Tracey McErlain-Burns wondered whether it would be worth having an opportunity at these meetings under 'any other business' for attendees to share their reflections on the meeting. She challenged the existing format of LSCB meetings, saying that they need to be quicker paced with more of a focus on outcomes. Steve Ashley responded by saying that he would ideally like to limit the LSCB agenda to three key agenda items (apart from the standing items) as has been mentioned before, and he said that he was open to making this meeting more dynamic. However, he also argued that a certain amount of time does need to be devoted to specific items to allow the opportunity for all agencies to comment and to agree and sign off important points e.g. actions from performance concerns. Phil Morris agreed with Steve Ashley, saying that certain business does need to be discussed in some detail at LSCB level. He added that there will always be a balance between keeping a 'tight' LSCB agenda and having quality discussions.

Steve Ashley reported that other LSCBs have an Executive Board with the LSCB as a 'sub board', allowing the LSCB to look at matters of interest in more detail – this is an option that Rotherham could consider. Steve Ashley thanked Tracey McErlain-Burns for raising her concerns, and agreed that good work is not always fully considered at LSCB meetings.

Richard Burton asked whether the number of apologies for today's meeting ought to be a cause for concern, and Steve Ashley replied that there will inevitably be clashes for attendees and there is always the need to prioritise, but key agencies need to be represented at LSCB meetings, and members should nominate a deputy if they are unable to attend themselves.

Pete Horner suggested that it may be appropriate to put certain items on the LSCB agenda under the 'for information' section, and that any questions about these and about the Sub Group progress reports could be tabled in advance to enable the meeting to run more quickly and more smoothly. He argued that if attendees are given prior notice to raise any comments about an item and no comments are received, then it should be taken as read that there are no objections and the item is agreed, instead of going through the reports in detail at the meeting.

Zafar Saleem agreed with Phil Morris and Steve Ashley about the importance of certain items being signed off at LSCB meetings and felt strongly that reports need to be shared openly with the LSCB with the opportunity for appropriate challenge.

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Steve Ashley undertook to discuss the format of LSCB meeting further with attendees outside of the meeting.

10. RLSCB Business Plan (standing item) – for monitoring – Phil Morris

Phil Morris explained that this three year business plan was currently in the process of being rewritten to ensure it is more focused on those priorities that impact directly upon children.

Rotherham LSCB website is in need of a refresh in terms of its presentation and content. Rotherham Council continues to host the LSCB website, and the council website is currently undergoing its own update, which will allow more flexibility, giving LSCB staff administrative rights to put information on the LSCB website themselves.

11. For information:

11.1 RLSCB budget update report (standing item) – Karen Potts

Rotherham LSCB agreed to carry forward any over or underspend to the next financial year.

Confirmation has been received confirmation from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) that all LSCB members should be treated as 'office holders' for employment and tax purposes. They have asked for details of all members for the past five years and details of any payments made to those individuals. In the majority of cases this will have no impact as the only payments made are to the Chair. HMRC are assessing any tax liability the LSCB has in relation to payments made.

11.2 Minutes from extraordinary meeting of RLSCB held on 13.12.2013

This item was received but no comment was made.

11.3 Closed section of minutes from RLSCB meeting held on 13.12.2013

This item was received but no comment was made.

11.4 Recommendations from CSE reports, as discussed at extraordinary meeting of RLSCB held on 13.12.2013

This item was received but no comment was made.

11.5 Minutes from meeting of RLSCB Sub Group Chairs

This item was received but no comment was made.

11.6 Minutes from Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board

This item was received but no comment was made.

11.7 Protocol between LSCB and Health and Wellbeing Board

This item was received but no comment was made.

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11.8 Minutes from Safer Rotherham Partnership

This item was received but no comment was made.

11.9 Rotherham Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment

This item was received but no comment was made.

12. Any other business

12.1 Richard Burton requested that consideration be given to a standing agenda item for the Lay Members, arguing that he currently has to wait until 'any other business' at the end of the meeting, when people start to leave. Steve Ashley agreed to consider this.

12.2 Pete Horner reported that South Yorkshire Police had received a notification letter from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) announcing that they will be inspected with regard to various aspects of safeguarding children. Steve Ashley asked if trafficking would be covered by the inspection and Pete Horner replied no, that this would be looked at separately.

12.3 Richard Burton observed that the press had been very complimentary regarding the work done by South Yorkshire Police to support children who have to take to the witness box in court hearings.

12.4 John Radford asked whether we are clear on the process for CAMHS level four, relating to children detained under the mental health act, e.g. how long they are detained for, what they are detained for, etc. Joyce Thacker said that she didn't think a clear process was in place and she asked Pete Horner to check the situation, as there is a real need for clarity on this. Richard Butterworth confirmed that a triage process is already in place.

12.5 Richard Burton provided the following feedback from the general public:

- The public is shocked by the statistic that one in five children in Rotherham lives in poverty.
- The public is still talking about the recent case of a pop star arrested for sexually abusing children – this story caused widespread shock, particularly as some women had allowed their children to be abused by this man, including a mother / mothers from Rotherham.
- There are concerns that if probation services are taken over by a private company, this will pose a danger to the public. Steve Ashley confirmed that his predecessor had written to the Minister of Justice.
- There had been very positive feedback following the appointment of Steve Ashley as Independent Chair of Rotherham LSCB, with public perception being that the post has been filled by 'someone who knows what he is doing'.
- The public is worried about the closure of children's centres – Steve Ashley said that this will continue to be a concern. Richard Burton asked if the private sector was trying to buy and use them, and Joyce Thacker replied that consultations were currently being held and that some private companies were interested, but that this is not the only option. More consultation events are planned.
- The 'Say Something If You See Something' campaign to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation was very positively received. The case study mentioned earlier at 6.2 is a good example that training does work.
- There is a current case of child sexual exploitation involving a female perpetrator that has been through the court process and Joyce Thacker

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explained that this woman was exploited herself, so this links back to the earlier discussion about the importance of post abuse support for victims.

- Richard Burton reported that the public wants to know why so many reviews are being written on child sexual exploitation. It was clarified that there are now only two now reports outstanding within Rotherham – Alexis Jay’s independent inquiry into historic cases and Operation Clover, but Richard Burton argued that this had not been communicated to the public who are still under the impression that several reviews are underway.

12.6 Paul Grimwood fed back a potential risk identified from the recent HMIC inspection of Youth Offending Services, which Steve Ashley said would be worth Pete Horner raising at the Child Sexual Exploitation Board chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Therefore Paul Grimwood undertook to send Pete Horner the spreadsheet containing full details.

12.7 Tracey Slater had circulated a late paper entitled: ‘Additional Guidance on LSCB Information Sharing Agreement for Child Sexual Exploitation’, and she asked that any comments regarding this document are fed back to her as the plan is for this guidance to be taken to each of the different South Yorkshire areas for agreement. Sheriff El-Refee said that he would have expected the guidance to contain a reference to the General Medical Council (GMC) for information sharing as this would empower medical staff. John Radford added that genito-urinary medical staff are not allowed to share confidential patient information but that they are also bound by the GMC.

12.8 Steve Ashley proposed appointing a young person as an additional lay member for the LSCB. Tracey McErlain-Burns pointed out that this could influence the time of this meeting, in terms of what time of day a young person would be able to attend.

12.9 Steve Ashley fed back a request from Councillor Paul Lakin for the LSCB to consider licensing issues – Phil Morris will be the link for this.

13. Future agenda items

Richard Butterworth suggested a ten to fifteen minutes presentation at the next LSCB meeting on the ‘channel process’ – Steve Ashley agreed to consider this.

14. Dates of future meetings:

- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014

All meetings will be held 1pm – 4pm in Meeting Rooms 5a and 5b combined, Wing B, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Riverside House

Appendix One**Actions Points Raised / On-Going as at 06.03.2014**

<b>No:</b>	<b>Owner:</b>	<b>Details:</b>	<b>Update:</b>
1.	Warren Carratt	An update on the children's advocacy service to be brought to RLSCB on 05.06.2014, to evidence the good work that has been done.	
2.	Steve Ashley	Further to concerns raised about the lack of engagement of school staff with safeguarding services during school holidays (e.g. in relation to child protection conferences), Steve Ashley to look at obtaining another education representative for RLSCB.	
3.	Sonya Chambers	Sonya Chambers to re-circulate the RLSCB constitution with a request for up to date signatures.	
4.	Steve Ashley	Steve Ashley undertook to bring a proposal back to the next meeting regarding a multi-agency forum for the discussion of neglect.	
5.	Phil Morris & Kevin Stevens	Phil Morris and Kevin Stevens undertook to look at the contact and referral rate to CART and the source of each contact and referral to see what percentage from each agency end up leading to no further action. This exercise will provide an important baseline analysis, and will be shared with the Performance Sub Group / Quality Assurance Sub Group / Learning and Improvement Sub Group as appropriate before coming back to the LSCB.	
6.	Sue Wilson	Warren Carratt suggested that a performance improvement report is taken to the Performance Sub Group before being presented to the LSCB – Steve Ashley agreed.	
7.	Warren Carratt	In relation to the results of the Lifestyle Survey, Phil Morris asked whether, in cases of racist bullying, the racist bullying incident process has been triggered, and also whether the Police Young Person's Police Officer (PYPPO) was involved - this information would be useful to know. Warren Carratt undertook to look at PYPPO involvement and report back.	
8.	Bev Pepperdine	Bev Pepperdine agreed to a suggestion from Phil Morris to look at adapting the bullying question in the Lifestyle Survey to ask young people whether they were being bullied at school or out of school.	
9.	Bev Pepperdine	Some of the young people from the Youth Cabinet have fed back that Sheffield has better questions for their Lifestyle Survey than Rotherham, so this is something to look at.	
10.	Joyce Thacker	Richard Burton then asked if the Lifestyle Survey captured anything about young people's attitudes to porn. Joyce Thacker said that the term 'porn' would not be used in the survey as it was not age appropriate, but she agreed that consideration needed to be given to getting appropriate messages across to children without offending parents as well. Joyce Thacker undertook to speak to Kay Denton-Tarn regarding this point.	
11.	Sue Wilson to forward to Sonya Chambers for sharing with the group	Richard Butterworth asked if there was a multi-agency action plan from the Lifestyle Survey, and Sue Wilson answered yes – it was agreed that the action plan would be shared with these minutes. The action plan provides a 'litmus test' to see what has changed in a year's time.	

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
12.	Steve Ashley	Steve Ashley undertook to look at the Lifestyle Survey action plan and feed back via the LSCB to Bev Pepperdine about what actions have been done.	
13.	Sonya Chambers	Steve Ashley proposed that from now on, the completed draft minutes will be circulated to all LSCB members and advisors allowing one week for any comments before they are uploaded to the LSCB website. This will avoid the current delay caused by waiting until the following meeting for the minutes to be formally approved. Tracey McErlain-Burns agreed with this proposal but requested that the minutes are circulated to everyone via the 'BCC' email option to avoid people receiving subsequent unnecessary emails by people using the 'reply all' option.	
14.	Joyce Thacker & Pete Horner	The CSE Sub Group has produced a CSE victim profile and there are now plans to produce a perpetrator profile. Pete Horner responded that the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) was currently looking at a perpetrator profile so it might be worth contacting them – Joyce Thacker and Pete Horner agreed to discuss this further outside of the meeting, as it will be useful to link in and triangulate with any existing work rather than duplicate anything unnecessarily.	
15.	Steve Ashley	Steve Ashley undertook to discuss the format of LSCB meeting further with attendees outside of the meeting.	
16.	Steve Ashley	Richard Burton requested that consideration be given to a standing agenda item for the Lay Members, arguing that he currently has to wait until 'any other business' at the end of the meeting, when people start to leave. Steve Ashley agreed to consider this.	
17.	Pete Horner	John Radford asked whether we are clear on the process for CAMHS level four, relating to children detained under the mental health act, e.g. how long they are detained for, what they are detained for, etc. Joyce Thacker said that she didn't think a clear process was in place and she asked Pete Horner to check the situation, as there is a real need for clarity on this. Richard Butterworth confirmed that a triage process is already in place.	
18.	Paul Grimwood & Pete Horner	Paul Grimwood fed back a potential risk identified from the recent HMIC inspection of Youth Offending Services, which Steve Ashley said would be worth Pete Horner raising at the Child Sexual Exploitation Board chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Therefore Paul Grimwood undertook to send Pete Horner the spreadsheet containing full details.	
19.	Phil Morris	Steve Ashley fed back a request from Councillor Paul Lakin for the LSCB to consider licensing issues – Phil Morris will be the link for this.	
20.	Steve Ashley	Richard Butterworth suggested a ten to fifteen minutes presentation at the next LSCB meeting on the 'channel process' – Steve Ashley agreed to consider this.	

### Actions Points Discharged on 06.03.2014

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
21.	Sonya Chambers	<p>The Chair proposed that in future, the agenda of this meeting should cover the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The performance of the partnership.</li> <li>• Any emerging issues that can be raised on the day.</li> <li>• A thematic discussion item to iron out critical areas of work.</li> </ul> <p>Sonya Chambers to update the agenda as appropriate.</p>	<p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged.</p>
22.	Clair Pyper	<p>Clair Pyper apologised that the Safeguarding Children National Performance Indicators had not been distributed in advance of the 13.12.2013 RLSCB meeting and will send it out electronically afterwards.</p>	<p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged as this information was received on time for the 06.03.14 RLSCB meeting.</p>
23.	Clair Pyper	<p>The Chair asked what the answer was to the problem of inappropriate referrals to Children's Social Care. Clair Pyper answered that she would take the responsibility of asking agencies to reinforce the Social Care thresholds to staff along with use of the Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF).</p>	<p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged.</p>
24.	Phil Morris & Kevin Stevens	<p>The Chair asked Phil Morris and Kevin Stevens to do a sample on the twenty children who have been subject to child protection planning for two years or longer to look more closely at the issues affecting them.</p>	<p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – Kevin Stevens had sampled 25 children from 9 families – 100% of these children had a plan in place, 80% in the category of neglect. The average age of these children was 7. The main reason given for the continuation of child protection planning was a lack of confidence that the parents would sustain improvements. Kevin Stevens was reassured that current plans are going in the right direction but he has escalated two cases to the relevant Team Manager and Service Manager and has also spoken to the Conference Chair as there are concerns that these cases are 'drifting'. These finding will be reported to the appropriate Sub Group. Steve Ashley said that this was an important piece of work, which probably needs to be done about twice a year.</p>
25.	Phil Morris	<p>Warren Carratt questioned how to report updates about the Independent Reviewing Officer service to the LSCB as</p>	<p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged - Phil Morris said that this had resulted in a draft protocol between</p>

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
		reassurance, but without duplicating reports that go to the Corporate Parenting Board. Phil Morris undertook to arrange a meeting with the relevant people to clarify governance monitoring systems.	these two Boards, which has only gone out to a few key stakeholders at this point but by June it should be ready to share wider. Steve Ashley said that he had spoken to Councillor Paul Lakin who chairs the Corporate Parenting Board, and Councillor Lakin is happy for the Corporate Parenting Board to submit a regular update report to the LSCB for information. Phil Morris added that this would however be a two way relationship in terms of information sharing.
26.	John Radford	The Chair said that he liked the suggestion regarding active intervention on Google searches in Rotherham to check if anyone is accessing suicide websites, therefore John Radford will look into this.	<u>06.03.14</u> Discharged - John Radford explained that as young people do not necessarily access these websites via Google, this action is not necessarily the solution. The Suicide Prevention Group has proposed a mental health strategy to include children and young people. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are open to taking referrals directly from parents, teachers, and other adults who know the child / young person, so it is about getting the right framework in place to support this process.
27.	Joyce Thacker	Councillor Lakin asked whether it is possible to block suicide websites, and Joyce Thacker undertook to speak to the head of IT to see if such websites can be accessed from school computers and via the council's internet system.	<u>06.03.14</u> Discharged - Joyce Thacker said that an additional paper had been circulated with today's meeting papers for agenda item 4 (previous minutes) which provides a response to this action.
28.	Clair Pyper	An update on the children's advocacy service to be brought to RLSCB on 06.03.2013.	<u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – Warren Carratt explained that this service was currently in the process of being re-tendered for. It was therefore suggested that an update is provided to June's RLSCB meeting as part of the RLSCB annual report. Steve Ashley expressed concern that consideration is being given to re-commissioning this service but RLSCB has not yet seen the results of what the service has achieved. Joyce Thacker reported that more than 20 volunteers are now working for the service and they are building up some case studies as evidence for RLSCB. Joyce Thacker was assured that the team are doing some really positive work but this now needs to

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
			be evidenced. Therefore some evidence will be circulated to RLSCB in advance of the next meeting – Warren Carratt undertook to take this as an action.
29.	Nick Whittaker & Dorothy Smith	Joyce Thacker mentioned that an important issue discussed at the previous meeting of the RLSCB Sub Group Chairs was the problem of obtaining information from schools for child protection conferences during school holidays. Nick Whittaker agreed to discuss this with Dorothy Smith outside of today's meeting.	<p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged - Kevin Stevens provided an update – that he had liaised with Nick Whittaker and Sherran Finney and all schools will now be asked to identify key contact people during school holidays. Joyce Thacker reported that she will be attending the second part of school governor training at which she will reinforce the importance of schools continuing to engage with child protection services during school holidays.</p>
30.	Deborah Wildgoose & Clair Pyper	Rotherham, Drug and Alcohol Services, Adult Mental Health Services and Children's Social Care are working together effectively to address any safeguarding concerns. The required audits, as stated in the Ofsted recommendations to LSCBs, are underway in Rotherham and the results will be reported back to Rotherham LSCB.	<p>On-going. Deborah Wildgoose to meet with Clair Pyper to clarify exactly what is required.</p> <p><u>13.12.2013</u> Clair Pyper is meeting with Deborah Wildgoose in the New Year to discuss what will be audited and which audit tool will be used.</p> <p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – Deborah Wildgoose explained that this action referred to the 'What About The Children' report. She said that this action had since moved on, and was not about audits per se. Deborah Wildgoose and Clair Pyper met to conduct a stock take benchmarking exercise. Chris Prewett has since taken this work up with Clair Pyper but it is not ready yet – it should feature in the RDASH annual report as a joint piece of work.</p>
31.	Phil Morris	Notify Liz Thackray of the point of contact for feeding back updates on the Childline project.	<p><u>13.12.2013</u> Liz Thackray is to keep in contact with Phil Morris and an update will be provided to RLSCB on 05.06.2013.</p> <p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – Phil Morris explained that the NSPCC Childline service is offered to primary schools and is an age appropriate programme for schools to educate year 6 pupils about feeling safe. It is not compulsory for schools to use the service. The CSE victim profile clearly shows the</p>

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
			geographical areas of Rotherham where CSE is concentrated, so the Childline project is an ideal opportunity to target these high risk areas. Therefore work is underway to try and encourage uptake of the service in these areas.
32.	Sue Wilson	Send performance reports to Sonya Chambers for distribution to Board Members, allowing them to review current performance.	<p><u>13.12.2013</u> Sonya Chambers to chase this up.</p> <p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – Steve Ashley said that the safeguarding national indicators had recently been examined at sub group level. A ‘honed down’ version will be brought here to the LSCB, the idea being that it is looked at in more detail at sub group level, with any key issues of concern being reported to the LSCB. The Performance Sub Group is still awaiting performance data from health and the police – Pete Horner said that the police data was already available, but they were looking at making it more meaningful and will send it through once ready. This also links in to the action below.</p>
33.	Steve Ashley	Discuss with Clair Pyper how the Performance sub group are going to review information and ensure that key points are translated into meaningful information for the RLSCB.	<p><u>13.12.2013</u> Steve Ashley said that in the New Year, key performance indicators will be produced for RLSCB to focus on.</p> <p>Steve Ashley will chair the Performance Sub Group in first instance until it is up and running, but a new Chair will be sought to take over mid-2014.</p> <p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged.</p>
34.	Phil Morris	Arrange a meeting for Steve Ashley to meet LADO, Jill Brookes, to allow an understanding of her role and how things are progressing.	<p><u>13.12.2013</u> This meeting has not yet taken place.</p> <p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – done.</p>
35.	Steve Ashley	Discuss potential chairs for the performance sub group with Phil Morris	<p><u>13.12.2013</u> This will be Steve Ashley in the short term.</p> <p><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – Steve Ashley said he was happy to chair the Performance Sub Group in the interim but that was not an appropriate long term arrangement, as he is effectively reporting to himself as</p>

No:	Owner:	Details:	Update:
			LSCB chair. Anyone interested in taking over as chair should let Steve Ashley know.
36.	Sonya Chambers	Update signatures on RLSCB Constitution.	<p data-bbox="938 304 1318 367"><u>13.12.2013</u> Ongoing as not all received yet.</p> <p data-bbox="938 412 1334 510"><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – Sonya Chambers to recirculate.</p>
37.	Steve Ashley	Meet with Kevin Stevens to discuss the Multi Agency Review of Serious Child Neglect report further and establish how it fits into the RLSCB. Table for the December RLSCB meeting.	<p data-bbox="938 521 1442 651"><u>13.12.2013</u> Steve Ashley suggested that an extraordinary RLSCB meeting is convened to look at this.</p> <p data-bbox="938 696 1442 1294"><u>06.03.14</u> Discharged – there are forums for CSE, domestic abuse, child death, etc. but there is a lack of such a focus on neglect, which is a significant issue Rotherham. It needs to be ensured that neglect is discussed at a multi-agency forum, but Steve Ashley said that he was loathe to set anything up until Clair Pyper’s post is appointed to. John Radford agreed that there needs to be more of a focus on the issue of neglect but that it needs to also cover lower levels of neglect and poverty, as these factors can lead to educational, social and psychological problems later on. Steve Ashley undertook to bring a proposal back to the next mtg.</p>