

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

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

Date: Wednesday, 11th June, 2014

Time: 1.30 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine whether the following items should be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended March, 2006) of the Local Government Act, 1972.
2. To determine any item(s) the Chairperson is of the opinion should be considered later in the agenda as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Questions from members of the public and the press.
6. Communications.
7. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th April, 2014. (Pages 1 - 12)
8. Appointments of representatives on panels and working groups.
 - (a) Health, Welfare and Safety Panel representative and substitute;
 - (b) Recycling Group;
 - (c) Environment and Climate Change Strategy Group.
9. Improving Lives Select Commission: work programme 2014/2015. (Pages 13 - 16)
10. Ofsted Inspection readiness: children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. (Pages 17 - 21)
11. Date and time of the next meeting: -

- Wednesday 9th July, 2014, to start at 1.30 p.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.

Improving Lives Select Commission membership: -

Chairperson: - Councillor Russell
Vice-Chairperson: - Councillor Ahmed

Councillors Ali, Astbury, Buckley, Burton, Clark, Dodson, Lelliott, Reynolds,
Roddison, Turner. (12)

Co-opted members: - Mrs. Jones and Mr. Smith.

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION
Wednesday, 30th April, 2014

Present:- Councillor G. A. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Ali, Clark, Dodson, Lelliott, License, Read, Roddison and Sharman and Co-opted Member Ms. J. Jones.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Buckley, Burton, J. Hamilton and Kaye and Co-opted Member Mr. M. Smith.

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No Declarations of Interest were made.

58. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS.

There were no members of the public or the press in attendance.

59. COMMUNICATIONS.

There was nothing to report under this item.

60. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12TH MARCH, 2014.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission held on 12th March, 2014, were considered.

Resolved: - That the previous minutes be agreed as an accurate record.

61. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE.

Councillor G. A. Russell welcomed the Director of Schools and Lifelong Learning, the Head of the School Effectiveness Service and the Virtual Headteacher for Looked After Children (Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services Directorate) to the meeting. Councillor Russell thanked the Officers for authoring the reports and attending the meeting during a very busy time for the Service.

The Head of the School Effectiveness Service gave a presentation that outlined Rotherham's Schools' performance against key areas. The presentation updated the Improving Lives Select Commission on areas of progress and on areas where further improvements were required. The context to school performance had to be considered alongside the role of local authorities as set out in Section 13a of the Education Act (1996), the different types of schools and Ofsted's role as an independent quality assessor.

Early Years Foundation Stage Service: -

- There was a new Early Years Foundation Stage Framework;
- Many children in Rotherham joined the Foundation Stage below their age-related expectations;
- There continued to be a gap between Rotherham's performance and the outcomes achieved nationally;
- Areas where improvements were required included phonics and overall boys' attainment.

Key Stage One: -

- Key Stage One performance used to be undertaken by formal assessment, but was now through teacher assessment;
- The expected age-related performance was Level 2b;
- Boys' attainment was an area where improvements were required across Rotherham.

Key Stage Two: -

- Assessments at this stage were undertaken under 'exam conditions';
- Attainment at Key Stage Two was an area of significant underperformance in Rotherham;
- Outcomes suggested that children were not making progress quick enough through this Key Stage;
- Outcomes at the end of Key Stage Two were one measure used to judge whole school performance.

Key Stage Four: -

- Rotherham had demonstrated significant improvements over this Key Stage;
- Rotherham's GCSE performance achieved highly.

Key Stage Five: -

- This Key Stage constituted post-16 education, and included sixth-form provision;
- Performance at this Key Stage was complex and would warrant its own session to fully consider all of the relevant factors.

In summary: -

- Attainment and outcomes from across the five Key Stages were one of the ways that judgements were made about schools' progress;
- Rotherham was continuing to make good progress at Key Stage Four;
- Areas where further improvements were required to close the gap between Rotherham's performance and that achieved nationally

were Key Stage Two and Boys' attainment and Literacy across all Key Stages.

Discussion followed the presentation and questions and comments were made: -

- **Why was Boys' performance lagging behind in Rotherham? Was this due to nature or nurture and what role did learning and assessment styles have? Was this the case nationally?**

Testing conditions were tending to favour girls' learning and remembering styles. Continuous assessment methods used favoured girls, whereas single end-of-year or end-of-school-career exams tended to favour boys' learning styles. However, some schools were bucking the trend and boys were outperforming girls, but this could be because girls were underperforming.

Boys matured later than girls and their learning styles favoured active styles of learning. Schools needed to ensure that their teaching and learning methods engaged both boys and girls.

Because testing was an annual event, significant changes were expected to attainment performance given the school amalgamations that were taking place, leadership changes and the use of Local Leaders of Education to drive school performance up.

- **Could action to raise the performance of boys lead to gender segregation in learning? (The Councillor who raised this question felt that it would be a negative development.)**

There was no movement towards gender segregated education in Rotherham schools. Schools and the Local Authority were using a range of strategies to ensure that all children performed to their best ability, including judging performance against national outcomes. School attainment was not the only performance measure used to judge schools. Children and young people did need qualifications to progress to the next stage of their life, but qualifications alone were not the only thing needed for successful adulthood.

- **What strategies were taking place to ensure that there were no underperforming or left behind ethnic and/or social class groups? There were groups that showed clear examples of educational disadvantage. What was being done to encourage disadvantaged communities to engage with education?**

This would be addressed in the section relating to the Pupil Premium.

- **Government messages were always clear that a child's first**

five years were crucial. Rotherham's performance was behind national performance in the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage Two, but above in Key Stage Four. How was this the case; was it down to Rotherham's excellent secondary schools?

Rotherham did have outstanding secondary schools whose performance was amongst the best in the country. Rotherham also had outstanding primary schools. Globally, trends had been identified that suggested large junior schools were not conducive to high outcomes due to leadership and management considerations. Rotherham's performance at Key Stage Four – GCSE level – had improved over the past ten to fifteen years. Rotherham's performance was closest matched to North Yorkshire, whereas the other South Yorkshire areas and statistical neighbours' performance was the opposite to Rotherham's.

- **What was considered to be a large primary school, and was this the same in other areas?**

400-500 pupils was considered to be a large primary school. Previous policies had been to limit pupil numbers within primary schools. Some areas had primary schools with 900-1000 pupils but this was not considered good practice.

- **How were services working together to ensure that children starting school had the best start possible?**

Rotherham's Early Years Service was developing better links to health, wellbeing and education.

Councillor Russell thanked the Officers for their attendance and contribution to the discussion.

Resolved: - (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the areas where improvements are required: Key Stage Two and Boys' attainment and Literacy attainment across all Key Stages be noted.

62. IMPACT OF THE PUPIL PREMIUM.

In addition to the Schools and Lifelong Learning Officers who had attended for the previous item, Councillor G. A. Russell welcomed the Headteacher of Broom Valley Community Primary School, and the Executive Headteacher of the Sandhill Multi-Academy Trust.

The Head of the School Effectiveness gave an overview of the overall attainment of pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals (FSM): -

- Attainment gaps persisted between pupils from deprived

backgrounds and their more affluent peers at all stages of education, including entry into higher education;

- The highest early achievers from deprived backgrounds were overtaken by lower achieving children from more advantaged backgrounds by age seven;
- This gap widened further throughout secondary education and persisted into higher education;
- The likelihood of a pupil eligible for FSM achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths was less than one third of a non-FSM pupil;
- A pupil from a non-deprived background was more than twice as likely to go on to study at university as their deprived peer.

The Pupil Premium: -

- Introduced by the Coalition Government in 2011;
- Eligible children were those looked after by the local authority, those who had been eligible for FSM at any point in the past six years (also known as Ever 6 FSM) and for children with parents currently serving in the armed forces;
- The Pupil Premium gave schools extra funding to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils from Reception to Year 11;
- In 2014/2015 the amounts of the Pupil Premium would be: -
 - Primary-aged pupils - £1,300 (increased from £900 during 2013/2014);
 - Secondary-aged pupils - £935 (increased from £900 during 2013/2014);
 - Looked-After Children - £1,900 per pupil.
- Schools were responsible for how the FSM Pupil Premium was spent, and had to publish how they spent the additional funding and how it had made a difference to attainment of eligible children;
- Local Authorities were responsible for distributing Looked After Children Pupil Premium to the schools and academies these children attended;
- Ofsted inspected how schools were deploying their Pupil Premium. It was unlikely that a school would be judged to be Outstanding if its disadvantaged pupils were not making good progress.

The Head of Service referred to the annexes submitted with the report. The information included: -

- Good Practice information on spending the Pupil Premium successfully to maximise achievement;
- 2013 performance for pupils who were eligible for the Pupil Premium including Key Stages One, Two and Four, and how these compared negatively to their more affluent peers' performance;
- The £ allocation of Pupil Premium funding to Rotherham schools

during 2013/2014.

The Virtual Headteacher for Looked After Children spoke about how the Pupil Premium for Looked After Children was developing, along with the workforce available to support Looked After Children.

- The changing role of the Virtual Headteacher for Looked After Children: -
 - Accountable for the use of Pupil Premium through pupil progress interviews, interventions and impact assessment;
 - Would be accountable for passing the money on to schools and academies. Previously it had gone directly to schools and academies;
 - The role of the Virtual Headteacher was to become the fifth statutory role within a local authority;
 - In Rotherham the Pupil Premium for Looked After Children would be closely linked to Personal Education Plans (PEP) to ensure that a looked-after child was supported to achieve the targets within their PEP, which existed as part of their wider Care Plan;
 - Proposals about how the Pupil Premium for Looked After Children would be allocated were being drawn up, but included termly lump-sums being released to schools and academies after they had submitted monitoring and action plans that were specific to the child or young person's needs and had demonstrated appropriate use of funding and progress;
 - Both schools and local authorities would be accountable to Ofsted for the use of the funding.

The Chairperson of the Improving Lives Select Commission thanked the Virtual Headteacher for Looked After Children for her presentation. Councillor Russell was pleased that the role was becoming statutory and also pleased with the clear outline given about the proposed deployment of funding to schools and academies alongside the use of robust PEPs to record children and young peoples' needs, targets and progress.

The two Headteachers had attended the meeting to give an account of how FSM Pupil Premium was deployed in their schools.

The Executive Headteacher of the Sandhill Multi-Academy Trust, spoke about how FSM Pupil Premium was used in his schools: -

- The use of the Pupil Premium sat within the overall ethos and vision of the Multi-Academy Trust, which was 'Learning How to Learn';
- Pupil Premium funding was used for things like music tuition as it removed the financial barrier that low-income children faced so they could explore their talent. The funding also provided access to learning mentors, improvements to social skills and self-esteem,

breakfast clubs, emotional support, parenting workshops, bereavement, family crisis, early years physiotherapy or physical development support and the school had a residential visit for each year of Key Stage Two;

- Named School Governors were responsible for tracking FSM childrens' progress compared to their more affluent peers national progress;
- It was not used to provide quality teaching and learning but to provide additionality;
- It was used to remove barriers and was not all spent at once. Some funding was kept in reserve throughout the school year to address issues as and when they arose, for example bereavement support;
- Children who received Pupil Premium were not segregated from their more affluent peers;
- The school did not identify individual children when it published information about the Pupil Premium.

The Headteacher of Broom Valley Community Primary School, spoke about how the FSM Pupil Premium was used in his School: -

- Broom Valley Community Primary School received £124, 000 for 138 children, which equated to 35% of the school population during a previous financial year;
- Every professional working in every classroom knew the names of the children who were eligible for the Pupil Premium;
- Consideration was given to classroom structure and seating children receiving Pupil Premium together so that their needs could be identified and they benefit from the interventions;
- However, care was taken not to conflate FSM eligibility with automatic low attainment;
- All teaching needed to be good as a baseline. The FSM Pupil Premium was not used to fund extra teachers or teaching assistants;
- Pupil Premium funding was used to provide reasons or 'hooks' for children to come to school and enjoy it, which would lead to increased attainment;
- Broom Valley Community Primary School sought to ensure that there were children in receipt of FSM Pupil Premium on the School Council, Library Monitors, Reading Buddies and Play Ground Buddies. FSM-eligible children had been historically underrepresented on these bodies. The School aimed to increase the childrens' aspiration to be chosen for things and become involved;
- After School Club attendance had increased from 31 to 49 FSM eligible children;
- School Council representation had increased from 2/30 children – 7% - to 8/30 children – 27%;
- Parental involvement and the Achievement for All Strategy. A

termly 40-minute meeting was held where a structured conversation took place to work with families to improve outcomes and encourage aspirations around education and learn what parents wanted for their child's education. 72 structured conversations had taken place with families as a result of the Pupil Premium;

- Provision of breakfast clubs to fulfil basic needs like hunger. Being hungry meant that children would not learn during the school day. Breakfast clubs enabled families to spend quality time together and improved childrens' attendance and punctuality;
- Pupil Premium funding had been used to buy P.E. kits and homework packs. Completion of homework had increased by 14%;
- Three walking busses were run by the School along with a rewards system for punctuality;
- The Pupil Premium was used for the benefit of the children and not for Ofsted. A recent Ofsted report had said that Broom Valley Community School was 'very much an inclusive school'.

Discussion ensued and the following points were raised: -

- **What would happen when the Free School Meal entitlement was rolled out to all infant-aged children from September, 2014. Would all infant-aged children be in receipt of the FSM Pupil Premium and be eligible for the Ever 6 FSM?** – No notice had been given about what the plans would be following the universal infant entitlement;
- **What safeguards were in place to ensure that the Pupil Premium funding is targeted appropriately and not 'absorbed' into general budgets?;**
- **Sustainability – what would schools do if the funding scheme ended?;**
- **What could the Local Authority do to ensure the good practice that was demonstrated here was widely known?** – Being aware of good practice and ensure that all stakeholders know what good practice looked like;
- **Linking into Rotherham's Families for Change programme;**
- **Governor training on the importance of the Pupil Premium and their role in challenging the Headteacher on the deployment of the funding;**
- **What powers did the Local Authority have to enforce excellent practice for funding the Pupil Premium?** – The Local Authority could not enforce schools to spend the money in a particular way. However, good practice could be shared. There were consequences of not following good practice for using the Pupil Premium in terms of attainment outcomes and Ofsted inspection outcomes;
- **Training for Headteachers** – Two excellent examples had been shared today, but any number of headteachers could have attended to share their good practice. Information and good

practice was shared at a recent Joint Headteachers meeting, where over 90% of Rotherham's headteachers had attended.

The Chairperson thanked the Headteachers and Officers for attending the meeting and for the information they had provided and the passion that they demonstrated to improve outcomes for the children attending their schools.

Resolved: - That the report be received and its content noted.

63. CONSULTATION ON THE GOVERNMENT'S CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY.

The Policy and Partnership Officer (Policy and Research, Planning and Regeneration, Environment and Development Services Directorate) presented the submitted report that outlined the requirements of the Child Poverty Act (2010) and the current consultation relating to child poverty.

The report outlined the requirements and intentions of the Act: -

- The Act intended that less than 10% of children would live in poverty by 2020/2021. This was from a baseline of 18% in 2010/2011;
- In 2011/2012 17% of children were living in relative income poverty;
- The Act required the government to produce a child poverty strategy every three years, and for local authorities and their partners to cooperate to produce a local needs assessment and produce a joint local child poverty strategy;
- Originally the Act had defined poverty as children living in households with less than 60% of the median income;
- Frank Fields MP's independent review stated that there should be a shift in focus from relative income measures of poverty to tackling root causes, along with a clear focus on the 'foundation years' of a child's life;
- Previous consultation that had been undertaken called 'Better Measures' related to issues of income, worklessness, parental skills, debt and family stability;
- The Child Poverty Act (2010) called for the creation of the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission. The Commission's 'State of the Nation' report published in 2013 called for the working poor to be the focus of the future efforts to eradicate child poverty.

The report also considered Rotherham's context: -

- On the latest available figures, around 13,000 Rotherham children – one in five – lived in relative income poverty;
- 64% lived in a lone-parent household;
- An updated needs assessment was required as it was now

estimated that 42% of the families were not in work;

- Rotherham's Early Help Strategy had a focus on preventative work with children and families and served as the primary vehicle for addressing and mitigating the effects of child poverty in Rotherham;
- Rotherham's Health and Wellbeing Board's Strategy had a specific poverty priority focussing on reducing health inequalities and improving skills and work readiness;
- A Strategy for building resilience in Rotherham was being developed and concentrated on four objectives related to sustainable employment and training, inclusive economic growth, helping people to thrive and fulfil their potential and building social capital and helping neighbourhoods to flourish.

A draft response had been prepared regarding the specific consultation questions that were to be used to shape the next three-year Strategy: -

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 draft consultation response was included and the content of the response was discussed.

There was general support for the response. It was requested that the response to question two regarding the use of Pupil Premium funding be amended to reflect the information that was shared under the previous two items.

It was noted that the final response would be considered at the Children, Young People and Families Partnership meeting taking place on 21st May, 2014, before being submitted to the Department for Education on 22nd May, 2014.

Resolved: - (1) That the report be received and its content noted.

(2) That the draft response, with the amendment to the section concerning Pupil Premium funding, be approved by the Improving Lives Select Commission and be passed on to the Children, Young People and Families' Partnership.

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Senior Scrutiny Adviser: Member Development (Scrutiny Services, Legal and Democratic Services, Chief Executive's Office Directorate) that outlined the activities of the Improving Lives Select Commission during 2013/2014.

The Select Commission had received a mid-year update on the 2013/2014 work programme at their meeting on 18th December, 2014 (Minute No. 42 refers).

The Select Commission had completed work on: -

- Children Missing from Education;
- Local Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Safeguarding Report and Business Plan;
- 'Working Together' 2013 guidance;
- Adult Safeguarding Annual Report;
- Update on Families for Change (outcomes);
- Annual Lifestyle Survey (2013);
- School places update;
- Outcomes for Looked After Children (based on the ten questions to ask document);
- Narrowing the Gap – the impact of the Pupil Premium;
- Key Stage Performance;
- Child Sexual Exploitation;
- Improving services for people experiencing domestic abuse;
- Carers' review – completed jointly with the Health Select Commission.

The intended item on poverty affecting children and older people had been absorbed into the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board's work programme. A further report on anti-bullying was awaiting completion and would be presented to the Improving Lives Select Commission prior to the recess.

A suggested work programme for the Improving Lives Select Commission for 2014/2015 included: -

- Children Missing from education (update);
- Update on Child Sexual Exploitation;
- Neglect – effects on vulnerable children and young people;
- Outcomes for Looked After Children;
- Updates on Families for Change;
- Effectiveness of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub;
- Annual Safeguarding Report and Business Plan (LSCB);
- Forced marriage (recommendation from scrutiny review of domestic abuse);
- Annual Safeguarding Report for Vulnerable Adults;
- Review of progress: scrutiny review of domestic abuse.

Given how safeguarding issues for children, young people and vulnerable adults was central to the issues in the suggested work programme it was suggested that 'safeguarding' become the common theme of the Select Commission. It was noted that the Improving Places Select Commission's central theme would be supporting the local economy, the Health Select Commission's would be mental health and wellbeing, and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board's would be the Department for Work and Pensions and other programmes.

The Improving Lives Select Commission's work programme maximised the potential for scrutiny to have an impact and mitigated against the risk of using resources with little impact or outcome. The work programme needed to maintain flexibility to allow for uncertainties to be accommodated within the planning process.

Resolved: - (1) That the report be received and its content noted.

(2) That the outcomes of the Improving Lives Select Commission during 2013/2014 be noted.

(3) That the suggested work programme for this Select Commission during 2014/2015 be agreed as the central theme of safeguarding.

65. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: -

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on Wednesday 11th June, 2014, to start at 1.30 p.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Improving Lives Select Commission
2.	Date:	11th June, 2014
3.	Title:	2014/2015 Work programme
4.	Directorate:	Resources All wards

5. Summary

The paper outlines the proposed work programme for 2014/15.

6. Recommendations

That Members:

- a. **Note the Commission's terms of reference and the role of overview and scrutiny as outlined in para 7.1 and 7.2.**
- b. **Discuss the work programme as attached as Appendix 1.**
- c. **Identify if there are any additional areas for inclusion in the 2014/15 work programme in line with the Commission's terms of reference.**

7. Proposals and details

7.1 As outlined in the Council's Constitution, the remit of the Improving Lives Scrutiny Select Commission is to carry out overview and scrutiny of issues as directed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. These issues shall relate to

- The 'Every Child Matters' agenda;
- The early help and prevention agenda;
- Other cross-cutting services provided specifically for children and young people;
- Employment and skills development;
- Non-health related adult social care.

7.2 The Council's Constitution Part II (8) outlines the role of Overview and Scrutiny. In summary its purpose is to:

- Challenge the Council's performance to raise standards and check if Council's services meet people's needs;
- Hold Cabinet Members to account by examining their decisions and proposals outlined in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions;
- Question members of the Cabinet and committees and chief officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the Borough;
- Ask for information on matters of concern or interest referred to them from individual councillors, Area Assemblies or members of the public;
- Hold detailed investigations or reviews and make recommendations to the Cabinet or full Council on issues which affect the wellbeing of the Borough or community;
- Consider and scrutinise the work of outside bodies;
- Make proposals for new policies as a result of detailed investigations or examining how current policies work.

7.3 The year ahead

At its meeting in April 2014, the Select Commission agreed its priorities over the municipal year. A work programme has been drawn up on the basis of these priorities (attached as Appendix A). These have been informed by comments from Commission Members and discussion with Cabinet Members and the Senior Leadership Team.

The commission has agreed to focus its work around the theme of safeguarding. This is reflected in the issues identified by the Commission to be scheduled as part of the 2014/15 work programme. These include:

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Update on Families for Change and early help and intervention programme
- Children missing from care and home
- Safeguarding annual reports (Adults and children and young people)

- Update on implementation of recommendations from scrutiny review of domestic abuse services

Members' views are sought on whether the areas identified in Appendix A remain a priority for consideration in the work programme for 2014/15 and determine if there are other areas they wish to scrutinise.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However, recommendations arising from the Commission may have financial implications should they be implemented.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The work programme must be realistic in terms of the Commission's capacity to properly examine issues that come before it. If additional items are added, the Commission will have to re-prioritise which issues it wishes to scrutinise.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposed work programme takes on board key policy agendas the Council is currently considering and performance information as and where necessary. The areas identified for future scrutiny should complement the priorities identified in the Corporate Plan.

It is also important to note the changes that have occurred during the last year and the reduction in staffing resources. Any work programme needs to take account of this and look realistically at what can be achieved and where it is best to focus resources and efforts.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Improving Lives Select Commission; 30 April, 2014

12. Contact

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, Resources Directorate
caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk (8)22765

SUBJECT	SUGGESTED TIMING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OFSTED Inspection Readiness: Children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers 	11 th June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children running away from care and home • The impact of neglect on children and young people 	9 th July
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Review: CSE Services in Rotherham 	September 17 th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Families for Change • Early Help and Intervention • Progress report – implementation of recommendations from scrutiny review of domestic abuse services in Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council • Adult Safeguarding Plan 	5 th November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neglect – outcomes from peer review. Implications for safeguarding services in Rotherham 	December 17 th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Sexual Exploitation – progress report. 	January 21 st 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub – six months on – impact and outcomes • Improving outcomes for Looked After Children 	March 11 th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Lifestyle Survey (2014) 	15 th April
TO SCHEDULE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children Missing from Education • Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children’s Board Annual Safeguarding Report and Business Plan 	

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Improving Lives Select Commission
2.	Date:	11th June, 2014
3.	Title:	Ofsted Inspection readiness: children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Service

5. Summary

This report provides an update to Improving Lives Select Commission on the readiness in Rotherham for Ofsted’s new inspection framework of “children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers”. It also provides members with an update on the findings from inspections that have been carried out so far across the country under the new framework

6. Recommendations

- (i) That Improving Lives Select Commission receive this paper and note the progress made in preparing for such an inspection**
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7. Proposals and Details

The Ofsted framework

Ofsted began inspecting local authority children services under their new single inspection framework on 19th November 2013. All local authorities will be inspected within a three year period. The inspection focusses on the local authority functions to help, care and protect children and young people. It includes the overall effectiveness; leadership, management and governance of services, together with key judgements on:

- The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection
- The experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence
- Adoption performance
- The experiences and progress of care leavers

The inspection framework consists of collation of information about children in the local authority area which is known as Annex A which has to be completed within the first 36 hours following the notification of the inspection; case file audits; exploration of children's cases; test decision making; meet with children, young people, parents and carers; shadow staff; and observe practice in multi-agency meetings. Staff in the local authority will also be involved in auditing cases for Ofsted to quality assure and check.

Local authorities are notified of their inspection on a Tuesday morning, and the inspectors arrive on the following day, usually consisting of a team of about 7 inspectors.

Ofsted inspection outcomes under the new framework to date

Ofsted have inspected (or are currently inspecting) 22 Local Authorities (as at 20th May 2014).

Out of the 22 authorities, 12 have had their reports published

Overall Judgement	No of Authorities
Outstanding	none
Good	6
Requires Improvement	4
Inadequate	2

Themes from inspections nationally have found issues and concerns around the following areas

- Management Oversight from team and service managers is not always robust
- Wishes and feelings of children are not routinely recorded
- There is sometimes little or no evidence of reflective supervision taking place and recorded

- The challenge from Independent Reviewing Officers is not always robust and taken on board by managers
- Good practice is not always consistent across services
- The feedback of experiences of the service from children and families is not always captured and fed-back into service improvement
- The rich knowledge that social workers have of children is not always reflected in case files
- The assessment of risk and completion of chronologies needs to be strengthened
- Police attendance at strategy meetings is not consistent in some areas
- The identification of children's needs is not always clearly recorded in plans
- Statutory visits do not always take place in the time scale required
- Performance management is not embedded at all levels in organisations
- Thresholds are not always fully understood by partners

Directors of Children's Services involved in recent inspections have commented that the new framework is the " most detailed and exacting inspection ever".

Their comments on the inspection process include:

- It is really important that we are able to evidence everything that takes place and is robustly recorded
- Evidence any challenge at all levels that takes place
- In some cases there were 9 inspectors on site and it is often quite difficult to coordinate all these inspectors
- The inspection is 4 weeks and "a month is a long time" and causes a significant deflection from the day job for all staff
- IT infrastructure is really important and inspectors will need support to enable them to access case records
- Staff conduct during inspections is really important and a reminder to staff that an inspection is not the time to raise concerns
- The inspectors focus on quality of practice and outcomes for children.

Preparation in Rotherham

There is a significant amount of work required to plan for such an inspection, including the preparation of the material which will be required for Annex A, plans to improve outcomes for children through practice, service provision and management oversight to meet the enhanced requirements; and preparation of staff and partners who will be required to contribute.

The Annex A is the output based submission required on Wednesday Week1, (Day1).

Extensive data submissions are also required on Day 1 to allow for case file selection, a selection of these included in Appendix 2 (to be tabled).

Preparation in Rotherham has also included:

- When the inspector calls document – a plan of actions and roles particularly around the first few days of the inspection
- Deep Dive / Mock Inspection activity resulting in some required system changes, improvements around management oversight, some elements of practice (timeliness of assessments and consistent quality plans for children in need and those on a child protection plan) and the use of performance information
- Briefings on the new framework for staff, partners, elected members
- Self Assessments against the framework, currently working with Communications and Marketing to pull this into a narrative style that can be submitted to Ofsted on their arrival, note this is not a mandatory submission but good practice
- CYPS M2/M3 managers sessions, extensive sessions around the self assessment, good practice case studies, “The Rotherham Story”

Preparation work has demonstrated that the themes described in the authorities already inspected are echoed in Rotherham. This work has looked at areas of good practice and high quality work with children and young people which can be used as an example for Ofsted and as a model for practice and management. The ‘deep dive’ and performance information has resulted in improvement plans being put in place for all service areas to address inconsistency in practice. A temporary Service Manager has been recruited for the Looked After Children Service to increase capacity and manage improvement work.

A training programme for social care staff and managers, Triple A, has been running since January to ensure that all staff have the required training for up to date practice in line with the council’s expectations.

There will be an impact on the delivery of services during the inspection, as the very short notice (1 day) together with two and a half weeks inspection activity and a weeks self auditing activity (almost 4 weeks in total) will prevent some social workers and managers from carrying out everyday tasks.

8. Finance

There are no significant costs associated with this report, however there will be incidental costs once Ofsted inspectors arrive on site, including car parking costs, IT set up costs, refreshments etc.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Poor outcomes from Ofsted inspections can have wide ranging consequences and can lead to an Improvement Notice being issued and / or Government intervention. The planning currently taking place is to ensure that the service is OFSTED ready.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Ofsted’s new framework is much more rigorous than any previous framework and covers the full range of services from children’s social care, from referrals into the Contact Assessment and Referral Team (CART) right through to a young person

leaving care and looks at the journey and experiences of the child/young person throughout their involvement with children's social care.

Ofsted are also introducing Integrated Inspections from April 2015 where next year 25 local authorities will be inspected under the new framework along with Care Quality Commission (CQC) Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary (HMIC) and Prisons (HMIP). These 25 authorities will be those where there are concerns from inspectorates, previously found to be inadequate and also those who where good practice can be disseminated to other authorities.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Ofsted inspection framework for the inspection of Children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers.

12. Contact Details

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