

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES' SERVICES

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

Date: Wednesday, 12th February, 2014

Time: 11.00 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th and 22nd January, 2014. (Pages 1 - 8)
6. Minutes of a meeting of the Children, Young People and Families' Partnership held on 15th January, 2014. (Pages 9 - 19)
7. Welcome to the new Strategic Lead, Joint Health, Education and Social Care.
8. CYPS performance report. (Pages 20 - 29)
9. Budget Monitoring Report to 31st December, 2013. (Pages 30 - 36)
10. The following item was agreed after the deadline in order to progress the matters referred to: -
11. eSuite Data Management System - continuation of support and maintenance. (Pages 37 - 39)
12. Date and time of the next meeting: -
 - Wednesday 12th March, 2014, to start at 11.00 a.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES'
SERVICES
15th January, 2014**

Present:- Councillor Lakin (in the Chair); Councillor Roche.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ahmed and Beaumont

D75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No Declarations of Interest were made.

D76. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2013.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services held on 11th December, 2013.

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

D77. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES' PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER, 2013.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Children, Young People and Families' Partnership held on 20th November, 2013, were considered.

Resolved: - That the content of the minutes of the previous meeting be noted.

D78. NATIONAL CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES CONFERENCE, 2014.

Consideration was given to the National Children and Adult Services Conference scheduled to be held between 29th – 31st October, 2014, in Manchester.

Resolved: - That two representatives (one Officer and one Member) of Children and Young People's Services Directive attend the conference subject to available budget being identified.

D79. THURCROFT INFANT SCHOOL EXPANSION - FINAL DETERMINATION.

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Principal School Organisation, Admissions and Special Educational Needs Assessment Officer (Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services Directorate) that referred to the Statutory Consultation that had been undertaken in respect to the proposal to expand Thurcroft Infant School. Minute No. D64 (Proposal to Expand Thurcroft Infant School –

Statutory Consultation) of the meeting held on 13th November, 2013, gave permission for the proposal to go through Statutory Consultation.

The Principal Officer explained that the statutory consultation notice had stood in respect of the proposal between 22nd November, 2013 – 20th December, 2013, and no formal objections had been received.

The proposal related to increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Thurcroft Infant School from 60 to 75 in Foundation Stage Two / Reception Class from 1st September, 2014, and then in subsequent Reception cohorts thereafter.

Resolved: - (1) That, in the absence of any formal objections, the proposal to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Thurcroft Infant School from 60 to 75 in the Foundation Stage Two / Reception Class from 1st September, 2014, and subsequent Foundation Stage Two / Reception Class cohorts thereafter, be approved.

2) That the Secretary of State for Education be informed accordingly, by the School Admissions, Organisation and Special Educational Needs Assessment Service.

D80. BRAMPTON THE ELLIS INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL AMALGAMATION - PRE-STATUTORY CONSULTATION.

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Principal School Organisation, Admissions and Special Educational Needs Assessment Service Officer (Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services), which outlined a proposal to amalgamate Brampton the Ellis Infant and Junior Schools.

This proposal was also linked to the proposals to expand Cortonwood Infant School from a published Admission Number (PAN) of 40 to 50 with effect from 1st September, 2017, and the proposal to expand Brampton the Ellis Junior School from a Published Admission Number of 70 to 80 by 1st September, 2014, to accommodate rising feeder school numbers and to 90 in due course (2020/21 academic year) to accommodate rising pupil number cohorts following the expansion of Cortonwood Infant School. Minute Nos. D32 and D.33 of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services held on 24th July, 2013 refer to these proposals.

Under the linked proposals the 'through' School would have 120 infant places (40 x 3 = 120 FS2/Reception to Y2) and 280 Junior places (70 x 4 = 280 presently, rising to 80 x 4 = 320 with effect from 1st September, 2014, and eventually 90 x 4 = 360). The school would have a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 40 for the Infant School and 80 (rising to 90 for the Junior School).

The submitted report outlined the principal benefits of amalgamating infant and junior schools. The report also outlined the form that the consultation process would take, and the proposed timetable.

Discussion ensued on the proposal to amalgamate the two schools.

Resolved: - (1) That pre-statutory consultation on the proposal to amalgamate Brampton the Ellis Infant and Junior Schools by the closure of the Junior School and the expansion and change of age-range of the Infant School from 3-7 to 3-11, be approved.

(2) That a further report be brought to the Cabinet Member detailing the outcome of the consultation in due course.

D81. BUDGET MONITORING TO 30TH NOVEMBER, 2013.

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Finance Manager (Financial Services, Resources Directorate), which provided a financial forecast to 31st March, 2014, based on actual income and expenditure to 30th November, 2013.

Overall, the Directorate was projecting a £1.241million over-spend outturn position at the end of the 2013/2014 financial year. This overspend represented an increase of 2.7% on the total revenue budget allocation. The projected overspend had improved since the previous month's Budget Monitoring report.

The forecast overspend was largely due to the continuing pressures in Safeguarding Children and Families' Services due to the needs-led nature of the budget relating to out-of-authority residential and fostering placements. The report provided an update on the main areas of variance and outlined the main pressures and areas of underspend and/or overspend for each Service.

The management actions taken relating to the Services for Looked After Children included a drive to recruit more in-house foster carers, prevention and early intervention strategies including an increased use of Special Guardianship Orders, and the Invest to Save Programme in Fostering and Adoption Services.

A number of continuing budget management actions were being taken to avoid costs: -

- Proactive management actions continued to concentrate on avoiding costs relating to placements for looked after children, the fostering framework and through block commissioning and negotiation of placements;
- The Multi-Agency Support Panel was continuing to make efficient multi-agency management actions and decisions, and continuing to avoid costs wherever possible;

- Agency costs had increased compared to the same period in the previous year primarily as a result of covering vacant posts within Safeguarding Children and Families' Service, and covering sickness absence and maternity leave to ensure that safe staffing ratios were maintained. Recruitment was underway in relation to vacant posts;
- Non-contractual overtime for Children and Young People's Services had increased compared to the same period in the previous year as a result of the need for fully trained staff to maintain cover in residential homes. Agency staff could not cover these posts due to training requirements;
- Consultancy costs had decreased compared to the same period in the previous year.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were raised: -

- Confirmation was requested in relation to the weekly costs of fostering placements and a comparison of how the independent and in-house provision costs differed.

Resolved: - That the latest financial projection against the budget for the year based on actual income and expenditure to the 30th November, 2013, be noted.

D82. WHITE ROSE UPDATE.

The Operational Commissioner (Commissioning, Neighbourhood and Adult Services Directorate) provided an update in relation to the White Rose Consortium, which Rotherham Council was a member of. Minute No. D40 (The White Rose Consortium – Independent Residential Framework) of the meeting held on 18th September, 2013, recorded an earlier update that the Cabinet Member had received in relation to the Consortium.

Rotherham had commissioned twenty placements with an average cost of £2,240. This represented a whole-year saving of £250,000.

Negotiations had been entered into with existing providers who had now agreed to decrease existing placement costs to those available via the White Rose Consortium. This represented a whole-year saving of £135,000. Existing placements would be phased out in favour of placements procured through the Consortium. However, in the meantime, no placements would be ended purely to make financial savings, and all movements would be based on the best interests of the children and young people involved.

Discussion ensued on the report relating to the White Rose Consortium, including issues about the quality and sufficiency of the placements. Currently the provision was sufficient and on-going quality assurance was being undertaken; a report would be presented to the May meeting of the

Corporate Parenting Panel. Secure placements costs were set nationally and the White Rose Consortium did not have any power to negotiate these.

A further four local authorities had joined the eight already part of the Consortium, which further increased its bargaining power.

Resolved: - That the information shared be noted.

D83. YOUNG CARERS' COMMISSIONING.

The Operational Commissioner reported on the existing contract with Barnardo's to deliver the Young Carers' Service for Children and Young People in Rotherham. The Local Authority part-funded the contract to a value of £42,300, which covered 1.5 workers and some activity costs. Barnardo's and their charitable arm funded a further £16,000 which covered activity costs.

Barnardos had been the sole bidder for the contract following the end of the existing contract on 31st March, 2014. It was proposed that, as the Council had an existing contract and specification in place with the provider, the service be exempt from a competitive tendering process on the basis of cost effectiveness and that there was only one external provider that could undertake this work.

A proposal to exempt Standing Order 49 (Tender invitation and receipt of tenders) was made.

Discussion ensued on the proposal. Performance monitoring would continue to be rigorous. Each year through this project, Barnardo's worked with around 120 young people.

Resolved: - (1) That Standing Order 49 (Tender invitation and receipt of tenders) be exempted in relation to the contract with Barndardo's relating to the Young Carers' Service for Children and Young People in Rotherham, and the contract be renewed after the existing contract ends on 31st March, 2014.

D84. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

Resolved: - That the following item be considered in the absence of the press and the public as being exempt under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act (1972) (as amended March, 2006) (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular individual (including the Council)).

D85. SHORT BREAKS COMMISSIONING.

The Operational Commissioner described the tendering process in relation to Short Break provision. Minute No. D52 (Aiming High for Disabled Children Short Breaks) of the meeting held on 16th October,

2013, approved the 2013/2014 policy and commissioning plans in relation to this service.

The tendering exercise had been completed. Young people had been involved in the tender evaluation process. Successful bidders were the YMCA White Rose and the Autism Communication Team. These bids related to the provision of the weekday evening activities and holiday activities. A successful bidder was not identified for the provision of weekend activities.

Therefore, it was proposed that a further tendering exercise be undertaken in relation to the weekend activity requirements.

The Cabinet Member requested that a report to be presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel informing them of this progress.

Resolved: - (1) That a further tendering exercise be undertaken in respect of the weekend activities provision and a further report be submitted to the Cabinet Member at the conclusion of the process.

(2) That a full update be provided to the Corporate Parenting Panel.

D86. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: -

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services take place on Wednesday 22nd January, 2014, to start at 12.00 noon in the Rotherham Town Hall.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES'
SERVICES
22nd January, 2014**

Present:- Councillor Lakin (in the Chair); Councillors Beaumont and Roche.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ahmed

D87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No Declarations of Interest were made.

D88. 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve 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)).

D89. TENDER REPORT - DALTON LISTERDALE FOUNDATION UNIT AND CLASSROOM EXTENSION.

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Project Manager (Environment and Development Services Directorate) that outlined the tendering process that had been undertaken in respect of the proposed school expansion at Dalton Listerdale Primary School.

The expansion project included the construction of a new Foundation Stage Unit, construction of a classroom extension and the conversion of the existing Foundation Stage Unit back into a classroom.

Approval had been given to the expansion of the School at the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27th November, 2013 (Minute No. C126 refers). The scheduling of the project was intended to be completed in advance of the September 2014 school year, not including unforeseen delays.

It was proposed that the successful tender for the required construction works be approved by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services.

It was noted that the Planning Board was due to meet on 30th January, 2014, and would consider the planning application relating to this expansion. The successful bidder would not be engaged until such time that the Planning Application had been approved.

Discussion ensued on the proposal. The Cabinet Member received an overview on the levels of contingency and provisional sums within the project, and the associated management fees.

Resolved: - That the tender outlined in the submitted report be approved and accepted, subject to the relevant Planning Permissions being approved on 30th January, 2014.

(Subsequent to the meeting, His Worshipful the Mayor exempted the decision from the Call-In process in order to progress the matters referred to in the necessary timescale.)

D90. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: -

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services take place on Wednesday 12th February, 2014, to start at 11.00 a.m.

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP
Wednesday, 15th January, 2014

Present:- Joyce Thacker (in the Chair); Councillor Pickering, Ann Clark, Karen Etheridge, Sara Graham, Michael Holmes, Catherine Homer, Carole Haywood, Martin Kimber, Rachel Nicholls, Clair Pyper, Emma Royale, Susan Skalycz, Dorothy Smith, Janet Wheatley, Sue Wilson and Chrissy Wright.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lakin, Steve Ashley, Tracey Blakemore, Julie Mott, Dr. Polkinghorn, Dr. Radford, Sarah Whittle

246. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November, 2013, were considered and approved as a correct record.

Arising from Minute No 236 (Sarah Champion MP), it was noted that Clair Pyper had attended a meeting, together with representatives of a number of agencies and Councillors, to discuss Sarah's understanding of the situation in Rotherham with regard to CSE and a particular section of the population. Clair had supplied data which had proven this not to be the case. Discussion had taken place on whether there was more agencies could do to help parents understand the need to keep their children safe and not just with regard to CSE. It had been agreed to liaise with a particular school with regard to future work.

The meeting had also discussed engagement with communities. It was reported from Jason Harwin that funding had been secured for this work and would be discussed further at the CSE sub-group.

Arising from Minute No. 237 (Emergency Hormonal Contraception), it was noted that a report had been submitted to the Local Pharmaceutical Committee with regard to arrangements for EHC.

Resolved:- That an update on EHC be submitted to the March Partnership meeting.

247. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The next meeting of the Youth Cabinet was to be held on 16th January, 2014, where they would be discussing the Lifestyle Survey and proposals around the Integrated Youth Service budget.

248. WARM AND WELL FAMILIES

Catherine Homer, Public Health Specialist, gave the following powerpoint presentation:-

Aim

- To conduct an indepth exploration of factors influencing the decisions and behaviour of households with children with asthma regarding keeping warm and well at home

Design

- Qualitative methods (interviews and focus groups)
- Temperature measurements
- Data collected in winter months
- Framework analysis

Who we spoke to

- 17 households
- 13 staff
- Focus groups – 2 staff, 1 school children, 1 young adults

Themes

- Knowledge and awareness
- Contextual factors
- Behaviours
- Social support and social factors
- Attitudes and beliefs

The world of parents

- Priorities and choice
 - Heat – luxury or need?
 - Needs of family members
 - Roof over head
 - Paying the bills/balancing the budget
 - Food/heating regime
 - Safety of family/possessions
- Perception of risk
 - Child becoming ill
 - Losing home
 - Getting into debt
- Responsibility and blame
 - Child's health
 - Damp/conditions/mould
 - Condition of house
 - Heating regime/equipment
- Fear
 - Losing home
 - Debt
 - Child becoming ill
 - Blame
 - Shame or embarrassment/stigmas/loss of privacy
 - Being judged
 - Losing control
- Knowledge and beliefs
 - Causes of asthma

Causes of mould/damp
 Cost heating and energy saving measures
 Preventative action
 Who can help
 Who to trust and not trust
 They have no choice sometimes

Why is fuel poverty an issue?

- It is sometimes the reason children do not attend school
- It is sometimes the reason children are ill
- It is sometimes the reason adults are physically and/or mentally unwell
- It is sometimes the reason people are in debt
- It is sometimes the reason why people are socially isolated
- It is sometimes the reason why houses seem unkempt and not looked after

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

- Properties were of mixed ownership
- Families were receiving mixed messages. Through energy efficiency measures, the properties were “wrapped” so well the house could not breathe; families could not understanding opening windows when the heating was on
- Many of the families agencies dealt with through concerns of neglect did not have the funds to heat their properties. Not only was there the increase in fuel poverty but the unsafe methods used by many to heat their homes
- There were links with the Fire Service and their Hot Spot Schemes. When they carried out safety checks they would discuss methods of safely heating the property
- In times of diminishing financial resources, any practitioner visiting families should be encouraged to give simple messages to families on keeping their family safe and warm. Pen portraits were being produced that front line staff could give to families

Catherine was thanked for her presentation.

249. CSE UPDATE

Joyce Thacker gave an update on recent activity including the following:-

- The recent media coverage over the Christmas and New Year period regarding 4 Slovak-Roma teenagers (3 from Rotherham) who had

gone missing from home. The case had been discussed extensively at a meeting of the Local Safeguarding Children's broad Sub-Committee and it was the intention to hold an event in the Roma community to impress the message of keeping children safe etc.

- "A Review of the response to child sexual exploitation in Rotherham" had been published and received a lot of media coverage
- The CSE sub-group had received a viewing of the NWG e-learning product which, subject to revisions, would be used in Rotherham for CSE awareness raising for front line staff
- South Yorkshire Police launch of "Say something if you see something" on 4th February
- Vulnerability Conference to be held on 3rd February
- Alexis Jay, Independent Inquiry lead, had been out to visit CSE 'hotspots' in the Borough. A meeting schedule was to be drawn up of the key people she would like to interview
- A multi-agency safeguarding hub was to be established at Riverside House. The Police would close the Public Protection Unit at Maltby and relocate all services, including the CSE Team, at Riverside
- Quarterly CSE plan/monitoring to be submitted to the 5th February Cabinet meeting
- Attendance at the Improving Lives Select Commission on 22nd January to give an update
- Training had been given to 50 hotel staff on the signs to look for CSE
- The first Parish Council/community event around CSE was to be held on 28th January

Martin Kimber reported that a lot of work had been done by the Council and partner agencies during the last 18 months. However, it was important that any information received regarding potential CSE was clearly recorded and information shared.

Resolved:- That the update be noted.

250. FAMILY POVERTY AND WELFARE REFORM

Carole Haywood and Michael Holmes, Policy and Partnerships, gave the following presentation:-

The Big Things

- Child Poverty Act 2010 – national and local Government to reduce child poverty and mitigate its impact
- Welfare Reform Act 2012 – save money, “make work pay” and simplify the benefits system via Universal Credit
- After peaking at 29% in 1992, relative child poverty fell steadily from mid-90s due to rising employment/Tax Credits and, more recently, stagnating wages (i.e. reduced poverty threshold)
- Poverty projected to increase during this decade as a result of benefit changes; Universal Credit should reduce poverty but was behind schedule
- A recent study put the annual cost of child poverty at £29B including £15B in services to deal with its consequences

“State of the Nation”

- 2.3M UK children (1 in 6) in relative income poverty, absolute poverty up by 275,000 in 2011/12
- 2/3s of Britain’s poor children – compared to less than ½ in 1997, were now in working families
- Coalition’s approach to deficit reduction was:-
 - Affecting young more than old and those with children more than those without
 - Seeing low income families, especially lone parents, lose out by more than their peers as a proportion of their net income
- Report’s recommendations include:
 - Increased focus on ensuring work pays so that parents who “do the right thing” were able to escape poverty
 - Adapt Universal Credit and wider Welfare Reform Programme to better tackle in-work poverty (e.g. increase funding for childcare within Universal Credit to incentivise work)
 - Work with employers to devise actions for lifting earnings without damaging employment
- Strong focus on emulating Nordic countries particularly in providing “universal, affordable and high quality” childcare

Impact of Welfare Reform

- Analysis by IFS suggested increase from 2.3M to 3.4M children living in poverty between 2010/11 and 2020/21
- Welfare Benefits Up-rating Act: 4.4M couples with children and 2M lone parents affected; CPAG suggested this alone would increase child poverty by 200,000
- Cumulative impact: Sheffield Hallam University research estimated loss of income in Rotherham to reach £91M per annum; 37% of this was due to IB/ESA and DLA/PIP changes
- Anecdotal evidence that increased “conditionality” and use of sanctions by DWP was a growing problem – families providing evidence to Council’s Scrutiny Review
- New Policy Institute’s annual report – level of benefits for families with children was around 60% of what the public considered to be a minimum standard of living

Real Life Reform

- Looking at impact of Welfare Reform on social housing tenants. Findings to date included:-
 - 36% of participants had no money left over after paying for essentials
 - Average spend on food per person per day was £2.10 in October down from £3.27 in July
 - In October, 83% said that benefit changes would affect the health of people in the household (down from 88% in July)
 - Over 60% feared that benefit changes would affect their children's education

Poverty: the Local Picture

- 22.6% of Rotherham children lived in poverty (2011 figures) – 13,205 children
 - 50% in poverty in 11 most deprived neighbourhoods vs 3% in least deprived
- Latest census: 16.7% of households with dependent children had no-one in work (14.3% nationally)
 - East Herringthorpe/Canklow over 44%
- Lone parents – 42% not working though employment had increased significant due to benefit changes
- Over 30,000 working age people claimed DWP benefits (almost 1/5), 41% of whom had been claiming for over 5 years
- Almost 1 in 3 adults in Rotherham were over-indebted, placing us amongst the highest 8% of local authority areas

Local Response

- Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Early Help and response to Welfare Reform all concerned with tackling poverty
- Child Poverty Needs Assessment – last produced in late 2010
- Need to ensure efforts were joined up working towards clearly defined objectives
- Allocation of “anti-poverty” resources should be evidence based with measurable impact/outcomes

Food Banks

- Demand had increased over the last year; issues with DWP benefits had been a factor
- Estimated that, in total, organisations provided around 600 food parcels and 2,200 cooked meals per month
- Citizens Advice Bureau referred 85 people in November/December many due to benefit delays/sanctions
- More detailed data on food bank users to be collected as part of new scheme with FareShare Yorkshire

Benefit Cap

- 27 Council tenants affected with weekly benefit loss ranging from £3

to £143. Similar number of non-Council tenants also capped. Most of the Council tenants were in rent arrears

- Direct support had been provided through existing family support structures and NAS Financial Inclusion Team
- Families given budgeting advice and helped to apply for DHPs

Housing

- Just under 4,000 Rotherham claimants affected by “Bedroom Tax” – 1,312 had children. Average weekly reduction of approximately £13
- Estimated that Bedroom Tax had increased arrears by £50K per month even with DHPs to mitigate
- Anecdotal evidence of increased stress and families struggling to cope/understand changes
- Joint CYPS/NAS proposal developed for an outreach service targeting families with evictions pending

Council Tax

- Under new local scheme, around 11,300 people were now required to pay having previously received full benefit; further 4,400 had to pay more than previously
- Nearly 8,000 of them had dependent children
- Around 6,600 Summons had been sent to the customers and over 4,000 Liability Orders obtained
- Overall significant rise in defaults with 80% increase in the numbers of both reminders and Summons issued and a 57% increase in Court cases for non-payment

DWP Sanctions

- Increase in sanctions of – particularly – JSA claimants for not meeting increasingly stringent requirements
- Families for Change, Citizens Advice Bureau, food banks, reporting that this was causing major problems
- Citizens Advice Bureau had seen 296 clients for benefit-related issues since July
- Council’s Scrutiny session with sanctioned claimants outlined problems/stress and importance of support from FRP/FFC
- Exacerbated mental health problems, worried about food and heating, panicked, problems snowballed, harder to find work

Laser Credit Union

- Around 4,500 members, large number of whom are single mums
 - Increase in emergency loan requests due to DWP sanctions
 - Estimated 70% in arrears with rent and/or Council Tax
 - Tended to be prioritised over other debts so could be assumed that overall debt was increasing
 - Fund for Change had paid out over 1,100 crisis loans for total of £140K with 70% needing money for food and bills
- Citizens Advice Bureau had seen 333 people for debt issues since July, around 40% of their clients had dependent children

Building Resilience in Newham

- “We need a welfare state that helps grow personal, community and economic resilience so that people are able to overcome life’s challenges and participate in the good life”
- *Life Changing Fund* – interest free, flexible loan fund to help people make a positive change
- *Workplace* – one-stop-shop for careers advice, training, recruitment
- “*Every Child*” Programme – universal provision for primary school children, including music, sport and reading based initiatives

Future Policy Direction

- Chancellor: “the next government will want to undertake further reductions in the welfare budget”; housing benefit likely to be targeted
- New welfare cap could see further cuts to working age benefits
- Possible further reductions to benefit cap and child benefits
- Government have axed funding for local welfare provision
- Universal Credit off track and Autumn statement’s freezing of Universal Credit Work Allowance will hit the working poor
- Labour unlikely to change course dramatically though have opposed the Bedroom Tax and, on a positive note, have talked about moving towards free universal childcare

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

- A review had been conducted regarding the advice on money and debt issued in the Borough. In June a contract would be commissioned that brought together all the different elements with 1 provider
- There were some very large families which were substantially affected by current and future benefit cuts and where it would never be worth the parents working because of the number of children they had – greater use of Section 17 payments by families to prop up other means of support
- There was evidence that the Government’s overall aim to change people’s attitude to work and employability was working in Rotherham – the Job Seekers Allowance number had reduced significantly particularly within young people (16.4% from November, 2012 to November, 2013)
- The National Work Programme tended to focus on people closer to the job market and isolated those furthest away. The European Structural Fund was minimal so a long term solution was required. The key was to help more people get the skills they needed to find employment and not for the Partnership to replace income lost through the Welfare Reform Programme

- Although some of the families were the ones worked with through Families for Change, a number were those that were “under the radar”, never came forward for help and were desperately trying to do what they could with the money they had. They may be struggling financially but socially fine
- Need for the Child Poverty Needs Assessment to be updated within the context of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- To date a lot of the work had been supporting those who were in receipt of benefit when actually the whole picture needed to be considered
- £91M of spending power was being lost to the town. How could the environment be stimulated and jobs generated which would link back to a community moving from dependent to independent
- For many employment was hindered by the payment for child care
- The DWP could assist with preparing CVs, access to the internet and training courses. Universal Job Match was a matching service available to all

Carole and Michael were thanked for their presentation.

251. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES ACTION PLAN - 6 MONTH UPDATE

Sue Wilson, Performance and Quality Manager, presented the 6 monthly progress report on the Children and Young People's Action Plan.

Currently there were 26 actions on green, 121 on amber, 7 on red and 2 on blue.

An explanation was given for each of the red actions, the majority of which would have improved by the time of the next updated.

Resolved:- (1) That a further update by submitted to the July Partnership meeting.

(2) That a presentation be made to a future Partnership meeting on the actions that were performing well.

252. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

Chrissy Wright, Strategic Commissioning Manager, presented the CYPS Commissioning Strategy for 2014-17 which aligned with the Corporate Plan, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, life stage priorities, CYPS

Service Plan and also met the new requirements of OfSTED for a commissioning plan. The commissioning priorities would be refreshed annually to reflect the priorities of CYPS to improve life chances of children, young people and their families.

It was noted that consultation on the Strategy had taken place across the Council as well as with partners in health and the VCS. Comments and amendments had been incorporated where appropriate.

Resolved:- That the CYPS Commissioning Strategy be endorsed.

253. YOUTH CABINET

The minutes of the meeting of the Youth Cabinet held on 26th November, 2013, were noted.

254. LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

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

255. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Health and Social Care Information Centre

A meeting had been held with a representative from the above Centre to discuss a project they had been working on with regard to Child Protection Information Sharing. For a child who was either Looked After or subject to a Child Protection Plan and had a "flag" on the Social Care system, a link would be created between the 2 Social Care and Health systems to populate a "flag" against that child on the Health record. Accordingly, if a child attended any health setting in England, officials would be able to see the record for that child and ascertain if they were subject to a CPP or Looked After. If a child was no longer Looked After/subject of a CPP within a year, the "flag" would be deleted.

Rotherham had agreed to be 1 of the early adopters of the system. The HS-IC had provided the capital outlay.

The HS-IC had created a joint confidentiality agreement and data sharing agreement to cover the whole country.

(b) DWP

Sue Skalycz reported that, due to shrinking staffing resources, unfortunately the DWP would no longer be able to provide representation at the Partnership. Should there be particular issues that would benefit from attendance, a representative would attend.

Sue was thanked for her contributions to the Partnership.

(c) Director of Safeguarding and Families

Permanent recruitment would commence for the above post shortly.

256. DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Resolved:- That further meetings be held on 19th March, 21st May and 16th July, 2014, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services
2.	Date:	12th February, 2014
3.	Title:	Children and Young People's Services Performance Indicator Report – Quarter 3 2013-14 Appendix A – Performance Assessment by Corporate Plan Priorities Appendix B – CYPS Performance Monitoring Table – Outturn
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

This report and accompanying appendices outline performance at the end of Qtr 3 2013/14 against targets, with direction of travel against previous year's performance and comparisons with statistical neighbours and national data where available.

6. Recommendations

- That the Performance Report be received and performance noted
 - The report is submitted to the Children, Young People and Families' Partnership for their information.
-

7. Proposals and Details

Members' attention is drawn to 'Appendix A - Performance Assessment by Corporate Plan Priorities' which provides details of performance by each Corporate Plan Priority relating to CYPS activity including;

- Performance against targets (Comparing performance against set targets)
- Direction of travel analysis (Comparing 2012/13 outturn performance to 2011/12 outturn performance)
- Performance against Statistical Neighbours average
- Performance against National average

Full details of performance and commentary at indicator level are provided in the table within Appendix B which is referenced throughout the Performance Assessment (Appendix A).

8. Finance

There are no financial implications to this report. The relevant Service Director and Budget Holder will address financial implications of the Action Plans. Members will be consulted where appropriate

9. Risks and Uncertainties

A category of risk is applied to each Performance Indicator using the PI managers' projection of year-end performance and takes into account any known internal or external influences with comparison against targets.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Changes have recently taken place in relation to the OFSTED profile; this is no longer published by OFSTED however locally this is reproduced in relation to the inspected settings and is used by Directors and Managers as a tool to drive up performance.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Children and Young People's Services Performance Indicator Reports.

Contact Name : *Sue Wilson, Performance & Quality Manager , Ext. 22511*

Rotherham Children and Young People's Services

Assessment of Performance by Corporate Plan Priorities

2013/14 Quarter 3 Report

This report outlines outturn performance for 2013/14 against targets, with comparisons against previous performance and statistical neighbour and national data where possible. It should be read in conjunction with the 'CYPS Performance Monitoring Table – 2013/14 Quarter 3 (Appendix B) as it includes references throughout the text to the numbering structure within the table.

Below are the criteria for RAG rating the indicators.

Definition of new RAG Status	Target Met	Stat Neighbour Avg Met	National Avg Met	New RAG Status
Performance is achieving the local target and above Statistical Neighbours or National Average	✓	✓	✓	GREEN
Performance is not achieving the local target and on or above Statistical Neighbours or National Average	x	✓	✓	AMBER
Performance is below local target and Statistical Neighbours or National Average	x	x	x	RED

Comparative data relates to the latest available data and therefore date periods for some indicators may vary. It has been sourced via the DFE Local Area Interactive Tool.

Corporate Plan Exception Report (RAG rated Red)

Corporate Priority 2: Protecting our most vulnerable people and families, enabling them to maximise their independence

Outcome: We will intervene early to prevent problems developing and protect children, young people, families and vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse, violence and neglect

Measure: Take up of school lunches - Secondary (No.10 / NI 52b)

Take up of primary school lunches in Rotherham has an outturn of 56% for the period October to December, which is above target and comparators. Performance is also 6.5% higher than the same time last year (49.5%).

Take up of secondary school lunches in Rotherham has an outturn of 37.2% for the period October to December.

Although secondary schools are not meeting targets the direction of travel is up. Compared to the same time last year (35.6%) performance is 1.6% higher.

Measure: Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 10 working days of referral (No.12 / NI 59)

At the end of December there were 1211 initial assessments completed in the year so far. Performance within the month was 60.4%.

Combining the current data for completed and outstanding assessments the projected year end performance is 53%

- 21 of the assessments in drag have a key team which is not Duty
- The oldest assessment was started in May 2013

Despite ongoing efforts to improve performance at the end of the quarter it had fallen to 59% for the year so far which is 29% lower than the same time last year (88%).

During the course of 2013/14 a number of actions and systems reviews have been undertaken to improve the timeliness of social care assessments of children. Although some small improvements were achieved this was not sustained and performance, particularly in Initial Assessments, is significantly below targets and previous achievement.

To help understand the issues from a frontline perspective and identify further action a performance clinic was held with team managers.

The outcomes of the clinic are to be used and captured within the service improvement plan, in addition greater awareness and accountability is to be instilled at team and worker level by introduction of personal performance targets which will be monitored through supervision and PDRs.

Measure: Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement (No.13 / NI 60)

At the end of December there were 1566 core assessments completed in the year so far. Performance within the month was 54%. The total year's performance at the end of the quarter had fallen to 65.5%. Performance at the end of quarter 3 is 17.8% lower than the same time last year (83.3%).

Combining the current data for completed and outstanding assessments the projected year end performance is 63.4%

- 163 CAs were completed within December
- 49 of the assessments in drag have a key team which is not Duty
- As at the 13th January there were 482 outstanding CAs. 186 (63.4%) of these were already in drag.
- The oldest assessment was started in December 2012.

There are three outstanding Core Assessments which date back to the previous reporting years. Work to clear these had been completed earlier in the year therefore these could possibly be due to data entry errors. These have been highlighted to the relevant teams to check current status, take appropriate action and ensure accurate reporting.

In addition there are a further 18 core assessments which were triggered in the 1st quarter of the year.

Measure: Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption (No.14 / NI 61)

At the end of December, 27 adoptions had been completed this year. This is an increase of 8 on our position this time last year.

16 of the 27 are in timescale giving a performance of 59.3% which, although still a 'Red' indicator, is an improvement on previous quarters. At this point last year performance was 47.4%

A breakdown of the adoption waiting list is provided below with current status with a direction of travel comparison to quarter 2 positions shown in brackets.

Time since SHOBPA Decision	Total	Breakdown of Current Status			Comments
		Placement identified or placed	Active Family Finding	Revocation / change of plan likely	
Over 12 months (drag)	8 (-1)	0 (-4)	3 (0)	5 (+3)	It's likely; if Active Family Finding is not successful then revocations will be sought for these children.
6-12 months	15 (-3)	8 (-1)	4 (-1)	3 (-1)	
Under 6 Months	14 (-6)	6 (-5)	7 (-1)	1 (0)	

Extensive work and additional resources have been put in place to address the historical 'drag' which has significantly reduced over the last 18 months. An element of the adoption reform grant is being used 2013/2014 to purchase interagency adoptive placements to ensure that timely placements are made and by doing this the 'drag' should be cleared this year.

At the end of December: 33 children are placed for adoption – with 10 having applications lodged / court dates, 2 in America, 1 placement fragile and requiring support, 11 have been in placement for 10 weeks – no applications submitted (including the placement which is fragile and requires support), 10 have been in placement less than 10 weeks.

The service is projecting the same number of adoptions as last year which was 36.

An adoption survey took place in October 2013 where this year's cohort of children with a SHOBPA were reviewed to ensure placements have been identified/ or revocations submitted where plans have changed. In adoption this adoption surgery reviewed all those placed for adoption to ensure that applications to adopt are submitted in a timely manner. Service managers have agreed to include reviewing of children with a SHOBPA and those placed for adoption to ensure timeliness on a monthly basis.

The Adoption Scorecard was published on 14th January 2014 and measures performance up to March 2013. Rotherham's scorecard details the high number of children adopted and the high number of difficult to place children adopted compared to the national average.

Rotherham scores less positively on the scorecard on measures of timeliness.

The first measure of timeliness measures the average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family. The scorecard records the 3 year average for 2010 to 2013 as being 659 days. This is 12 days longer than the national average, but the scorecard does note that our performance on this measure was improved in 2012/13 compared to 2011/12.

Our internal performance statistics tell us that we have improved performance significantly for children adopted in 2013/14 to 575 days, an improvement of 84 days.

Importantly, the Government set performance threshold for this measure for March 2013 was 608 days, meaning we missed the target by 51 days. Our current performance in 2013/14 would mean us exceeding this target by 33 days. However, the Government threshold becomes more demanding each year and the target for this measure for March 2014 is 547 days. Our current performance of 575 days would mean us falling short of this new threshold by 28 days.

Whilst we would still miss the target based on the above, we would have narrowed the gap between our performance and the threshold by 23 days, even though the threshold target had become more demanding by 61 days.

The second measure of timeliness measures the average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family. Our performance on this measure is an average of 309 days for the period between 2010 and 2013. This was significantly longer than the national average of 210 days. It was also 127 days longer than the threshold target set by Government of 182 days.

Our performance on this measure so far in 2013/14 is 267 days. This is an improvement of 43 days but it still significantly short of the new 152 days threshold target for March 2014.

This performance on timeliness is explained in large part by the high number of children we succeed in securing adoption for and the high number of difficult to place children we have adopted. We have been working hard to deal with historical cases of children who have waited a long time for adoption placements and our success in finding them this year has impacted negatively on our timeliness performance.

Measure: Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more (No.17 / NI 64)

This quarter has seen a high number (104) of plans cease compared to other quarters. 10 of these had been open for two years or more, which is more than the rest of the year combined. This takes the total number of plans ceasing to 270 with 18 of these being over the two year threshold. Performance therefore is now at 6.7% and 'Red' which compared to the same time last year (4%) is 2.7% higher.

24 children are currently on plans over 2 years and represent future unavoidable performance drag.

Children with plans between 18-23 months have reduced to 8. The conference for one of these is after the 24 month threshold. Consideration should be given to rearranging this conference to avoid additional future drag.

Quality Assurance

Since April 2013 we have continued to embed quality assurance and address identified issues through service planning, workforce development and commissioning.

We have undertaken the following;

- **Thematic monthly qualitative case audit process;** 153 audits including child protection planning, looked after care planning, S.47 child protection enquiries, Family CAF, child sexual exploitation.
- **Qualitative Audit Checklists for all Looked After Children Reviews;** 654 cases reviewed resulting informal 123 concerns being raised.
- **Qualitative Audit Checklists for all Initial and Review Child Protection Conferences;** 504 conferences (1100 children) resulting in 52 concerns being raised through the escalation procedure.
- **Thematic practice reviews** Including; the completion and reporting of the neglect review to CYPFSP, Multi-agency conference reporting, Use of mother and baby residential assessments, factors impacting on the placement stability looked after children

Themes and issues identified within the audits have assisted in gaining a clearer understanding on the impact of the services we deliver. As a result;

- A new model of risk assessment has been developed and is being delivered across the workforce through the Triple A programme and is in the CYPs Tri-X online procedures
- A new children in need/child protection care plan has been developed, trailed within long term teams and is about to be rolled out across all social work teams (Jan 2014)
- New guidance around SMART care planning has been written and is being delivered across the workforce through the Triple A programme and is in the CYPs Tri-X online procedures
- S.47 enquires and strategy discussions are now being directly inputted into CCM
- Development of new procedures to provide feedback to referrers about the outcome of referrals to EHAT and quality of FCAF received.

Ref	Freq.	Definition	Good Perf is	2013 / 2014 Performance			13/14 Target	Met Target	DOT Yr on Yr	Latest Comparative Data				RAG Status	Comments
				Qtr 1 Perf (Apr - Jun)	Qtr 2 Perf (Jul-Aug)	Qtr 3 Perf (Sep - Dec)				Stat Neigh	Met Stat Neigh	National	Met National		
Priority 1: Stimulating the local economy and helping local people into work															
CYPS Action: We will focus on lifelong learning to improve the qualifications, skills and economic wellbeing of children, young people and their families															
1 (NI 89)	Termly	Reduction of number of schools judged as requiring special measures and improvement in time taken to come out of the category	LOW	6 schools	6 schools	8 schools	0 schools	✘	↓	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	The introduction of the new inspection framework has significantly increased the proportion of schools placed in an OFSTED category.	
2 (NI 103)	Quarterly	Special Educational Needs – statements issued within 26 weeks													
		a) Excluding exceptions	HIGH	100% (4 of 4)	100% (12 of 12)	100% (8 of 8)	95%	✓	→	91.44%	✓	90%	✓	Green	Figures show that all SEN statements have been issued within 26 weeks, year to date. This totals 24 excluding exceptions and 110 including exceptions.
b) Including exceptions	HIGH	100% (38 of 38)	100% (42 of 42)	100% (30 of 30)	94%	✓	→	84.50%	✓	84%	✓	Green			
3 (NI 117)	Quarterly	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)	LOW	7.70%	7.40%	6.30%	7.10%	✓	↓	6.50%	✓	5.20%	✘	Green	Target measured as an average over Nov, Dec & Jan so final outturn not yet available. Latest Stat Neigh and National data taken as at Nov 13.
4 (LPI)	Quarterly	Academic Year 12 participation rates	HIGH	90.60%	88.00%	95.90%	90.00%	✓	n/a	94.50%	✓	92.80%	✓	Green	Trend data unavailable as participation count changes came into force April 13
5 (NI 148)	Quarterly	Care leavers in employment, education or training	HIGH	Not Available	53.60%	60.70%	67.00%	✘	↑	58.40%	✓	58.00%	✓	Amber	Q3 figures show an increase in young people who are EET. All young people have active Pathway Plans which address EET. Two young people are NEET due to being parents, while four are in receipt of disability benefit and unable to work at present.
6 (LPI)	Quarterly	% of all inspected schools having an overall effectiveness rating of good or better	HIGH	76.30%	70.30%	70.00%	n/a			n/a		n/a	n/a	Qtr 1 figures were based on ratings where the nursery/EYFS Units were inspected separately from the primary school itself. Ofsted now inspect them as one, therefore moving forward from Q2 the figures may drop due to the number of settings dropping significantly.	
7 (LPI)	Quarterly	% of inspected schools within the authorities most deprived neighbourhoods having an overall effectiveness rating of good or better	HIGH	71.40%	58.80%	66.70%	n/a			n/a		n/a	n/a	Qtr 2 was particularly low due to the schools which have changed to academies not having had inspections therefore were not included. Qtr 3 includes inspections results for some schools which have become academies.	
Priority 2: Protecting our most vulnerable people and families, enabling them to maximise their independence															
CYPS Action: We will intervene early to prevent problems developing and protect children, young people, families and vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse, violence and neglect															
8 (LPI)	Quarterly	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders after 12 months													
		Frequency (number re-offending)	LOW	85 (Oct -10 - Sept 11 cohort)	83 (Jan 11 - Dec 11 cohort)	Not Available	Target not set	n/a	↑	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	The new youth re-offending measure uses data from the Police National Computer. The cohort consists of all young people who received a pre-court or court disposal or released from custody between 1st January 2011 to 31st December 2011. The latest official figures released from the YJB are for the cohort period Jan - December 2011. The frequency figures (number re-offending) showed a reduction in Rotherham figs of -0.05 and National Figs showed an increase of 0.02. The Binary figures (Number of offences) showed a reduction in Rotherham figs of -1.7% and National figures showed an increase of 0.5%. The expectation for a target is a combination of quarter improvement and comparison with national trends.
Binary (Number of offences)	LOW	34.8% (Oct 10 - Sept 11 cohort)	34.1% (Jan 11 - Dec 11 cohort)	Not Available	Target not set	n/a	↑	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a			

Ref	Freq.	Definition	Good Perf is	2013 / 2014 Performance			13/14			Latest Comparative Data				RAG Status	Comments
				Qtr 1 Perf (Apr - Jun)	Qtr 2 Perf (Jul-Aug)	Qtr 3 Perf (Sep - Dec)	Target	Met Target	DOT Yr on Yr	Stat Neigh	Met Stat Neigh	National	Met National		
9 (LPI)	Quarterly	Custodial sentences given in court to young people aged 17 years or younger presented as a rate per 1,000 young people in the 10 to 17 local general populations	LOW	44 (Jul 12 - Jun 13 latest period)	28 (Oct 11 - Sept 12 latest period)	Not Available	Target not set	n/a	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Previously this measure was the number of Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody. The new indicator measures the number of custodial sentences given in court to young people aged 17 years or younger presented as a rate per 1,000 young people in the 10 to 17 local general populations. Latest official figures show a reduction in Rotherham figures of -0.40 and Nationally a reduction of -0.24. The expectation for a target is a combination of quarter on quarter improvement and comparison with national trends.
10 (NI 52)	Quarterly	Take up of school lunches													
		a) Primary	HIGH	48.60%	46.60%	56.00%	50.50%	✓	↑	50.81%	✓	46.30%	✓	Amber	Q2 performance shows as particularly low due to seasonal provision.
		b) Secondary	HIGH	28.70%	35.70%	37.20%	38.00%	✗	↑	45.42%	✗	39.80%	✗	Red	
11 (NI 53)	Quarterly	Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth													
		a) Prevalence	HIGH	Not Available			33.50%	n/a	n/a	27.89% (2012)	n/a	46.6% (2012)	n/a	n/a	The fragmentation of the NHS has resulted in challenges with data collection, including 6-8 week breastfeeding data. We are working with our partners to develop new approaches that will more adequately meet our needs. RFT are developing data collection methods as part of their scorecard. This will be available from Q1 2014/15.
		b) Coverage	HIGH	Not Available			97.0%	n/a	n/a	98.65% (2012)	n/a	95.4% (2012)	n/a		
12 (NI 59)	Quarterly	Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 10 working days of referral	HIGH	66.2% (389/588)	61.6% (575/933)	59.0% (715/1211)	86.0%	✗	↓	71.2%	✗	75.5%	✗	Red	At the end of December there were 1211 initial assessments completed in the year so far. Performance within the month of was at 60.4%.
13 (NI 60)	Quarterly	Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement	HIGH	74.5% (330/443)	69.8% (669/958)	65.5% (1026/1566)	75.1%	✗	↓	76.8%	✗	76.7%	✗	Red	At the end of December there were 1566 core assessments completed in the year so far. Performance within the month was at 54%.
14 (NI 61)	Quarterly	Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	HIGH	50% (5/10)	58.8% (10/17)	59.3% (16/27)	74.0%	✗	↓	75.13% (2011)	✗	73.95% (2011)	✗	Red	At the end of December, 27 adoptions had been completed this year. This is an increase of 8 on our position this time last year.
15 (NI 62)	Quarterly	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements	LOW	0.8% (3/395)	4.4% (17/387)	7.9% (29/369)	9.5%	✓	↑	8.49% (2012)	✓	11% (2012)	✓	Amber	72 children on second placement as at end of December.
16 (NI 63)	Quarterly	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	HIGH	65.3% (96/147)	65.2% (101/155)	69.9% (107/153)	68.6%	✓	↑	68% (2012)	✓	68% (2012)	✓	Green	Improved since 'Red' status earlier in the year. End of year position would be 114/160 (71.3%) if no more moves made and cohort remains the same.
17 (NI 64)	Quarterly	Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more	LOW	2.2% (2/89)	4.8% (8/166)	6.7% (18/270)	4.0%	✗	↓	3.3%	✗	3.2%	✗	Red	24 children remain on CP Plans over 2 years, and 8 on Plans for 18-23 months.
18 (NI 65)	Quarterly	Percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	LOW	18.9% (20/106)	14.9% (29/165)	10.0% (30/301)	13.3%	✓	↑	16.2%	✓	14.9%	✓	Green	Improvement in performance due to many children previously in cohort coming off CP plans.
19 (NI 66)	Quarterly	Looked After Children cases which were reviewed within required timescales	HIGH	98.6% (206/209)	99.4% (329/331)	98.8% (325/329)	97.5%	✓	↓	91.98% (2010)	✓	90.45% (2010)	✓	Green	Performance in December was at 100%, however for the year so far it has fallen slightly to 98.8%.
20 (NI 67)	Quarterly	Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	HIGH	90.5% (228/252)	98.2% (270/275)	99.6% (261/262)	90.5%	✓	↑	95.1%	✓	96.2%	✓	Green	Performance continues to improve and is above current benchmarking data.
21 (NI 68)	Quarterly	Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	HIGH	67.5% (588/871)	37.8% (933/2468)	32.5% (1215/3735)	87.6%	n/a	n/a	76.6%	n/a	74.4%	n/a	n/a	Change in local process has removed the requirement to complete a IA before CA therefore the number completed has reduced significantly. This measure will be replaced.

Ref	Freq.	Definition	Good Perf is	2013 / 2014 Performance			Latest Comparative Data							RAG Status	Comments
				Qtr 1 Perf (Apr - Jun)	Qtr 2 Perf (Jul-Aug)	Qtr 3 Perf (Sep - Dec)	13/14 Target	Met Target	DOT Yr on Yr	Stat Neigh	Met Stat Neigh	National	Met National		
22 (NI 111)	Quarterly	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 – 17 Per 100,000 10-17 Population	LOW	463 (Apr 12 - Mar 13)	473 (Jul 12 - Jun 13)	Not Available	Target not set	n/a	↓	600.02	✓	537.00	✓	n/a	The data for this indicator now comes from the Police National Computer. The data is shown in rolling full-years for the 12 months to March, July, September, December of each year. The latest figures available are for the 12 months ending June 2013. Rotherham latest figures for July 2012 - June 2013 of 473 show an increase of 11.6% from July 2011 - June 2012 figures. Nationally latest figures for the same periods show a decrease of -24.4%. Good Performance is typified by a negative percentage. The expectation for a target is a combination of quarter on quarter improvement and comparison with national trends.
23 (LPI)	Quarterly	Chlamydia Diagnosis Rate (per 100,000 eligible population, 15-24 year olds)	HIGH	3316	Not Available		Between 2,400 – 3,000	✓	↑	2052	✓	1872	✓	Green	Following the changes in Public Health Outcome Frameworks the reporting parameters for Chlamydia screening have been changed nationally to report on Diagnosis Rate (per 100,000 eligible population, 15-24 year olds) rather than coverage or positivity. Rotherham has an effective screening programme in place as we are performing well in relation to detecting Chlamydia infection. However, continuing high levels of unprotected sexual activity in our population mean that these high levels of detection are only just keeping pace with the disease.
24 (NI 147)	Quarterly	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	HIGH	Not Available	96.40%	96.40%	95.00%	✓	↑	92.30%	✓	88.00%	✘	Green	Only one young person is unsuitable accommodation due to a custodial sentence.
25 (LPI)	Quarterly	Number of reported incidences of children running away from home or care (Under 18's)	LOW	Not available			n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		Stats are currently unavailable due to the process of collating MISPER stats being under review.
26 (LPI)	Quarterly	Number of children the above runaway incidences relate to (Under 18's)	LOW	Not available			n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		
27 (LPI)	Quarterly	Closed CME Referrals (Termly)	LOW	166 (Summer)	115 (Autumn)	178 (Winter)	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		
28 (LPI)	Quarterly	Number of families currently open to Early Help Assessment Team - EHAT (advice & guidance)	LOW	Not Available			n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		Data is currently unavailable. The CYPS P&Q team are in the progress of creating new reports to enable this data to be collected.
29 (LPI)	Quarterly	Number of families currently open to Early Help Assessment Team - EHAT (intervention work)	LOW	Not Available			n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		
30 (LPI)	Quarterly	Number cases open to social care Child Sexual Exploitation Team - CSE	LOW	Not Available	82	Not Available	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a		Figures also reflect the work of parenting officers and those cases which CSE Team are not the lead officer but co-work other open CIN/CP/LAC cases where CSE is identified as a risk.
Priority 4: Helping people to improve their health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities within the borough															
CYPS Action: We will respond quickly to people's needs, mitigating the effects of poverty and helping them to thrive															
31 (LPI)	Quarterly	Free School Meals													
		a) Eligibility	LOW	21.00%	20.00%	21.00%	15.00%	✘	n/a	n/a		n/a		Amber	
		b) Take up	HIGH	75.52%	71.15%	75.60%	77.00%	✘	n/a	n/a		n/a		Amber	

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services
2	Date:	12th February, 2014
3	Title:	Children and Young People's Service Revenue Budget Monitoring Report to 31st December 2013
4	Directorate :	Children and Young People's Service

5 Summary

This Budget Monitoring Report provides a financial forecast for the Children and Young People's Services Directorate to the end of March 2014 based on actual income and expenditure to the end of December 2013.

The Directorate is currently projecting an overspend outturn position of £1.252m (2.7%) principally as a result of continued pressures in the Safeguarding, Children and Families Service. This has increased by £11K since the monitoring report to the end of November, 2013.

6 Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member receives and notes the latest financial projection against budget for the year based on actual income and expenditure to the end of December 2013.

7 Proposals and Details

7.1.1 Considerable, concerted proactive management actions to contain and where possible reduce the projected outturn position are continuing. So far, within this financial year, it is estimated that these actions will have helped the service avoid £588K of costs that would otherwise have been incurred. Further detail on the actions is presented at 7.1.5.

7.1.2 The table below summarises the forecast outturn against approved budgets for each service division:

Division of Service	Net Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variation	Variation
	£000	£000	£000	%
Directorate Wide Costs	1,963	1,953	-10	-0.5
Schools and Lifelong Learning Service Wide	109	109	0	0
School Effectiveness	862	811	-51	-5.9
Special Education Provision	2,296	2,309	13	0.6
Early Years	4,954	4,746	-208	-4.2
Integrated Youth Support	4,400	4,188	-212	-4.8
Specific Grant Support	0	0	0	0
Traded Services	82	74	-8	-9.8
Safeguarding, Children & Families Service Wide	3,057	3,129	72	2.4
Child Protection Teams	1,024	1,024	0	0
Children in Need Social Work Teams	5,917	6,053	136	2.3
Looked After Children	18,394	19,862	1,468	8.0
Disability Services	3,050	3,102	52	1.7
Total Children and Young People's Services	46,108	47,360	1,252	2.7

7.1.3 Presented below is an analysis of the main variances and the underlying reasons beneath them:

School Effectiveness (-£51K)

Rockingham PDC is currently projecting not to achieve £2K of its £33K income target & the School Effectiveness Service has had delays in filling vacancies resulting in a £53K underspend.

Special Education Provision (+£13K)

Forecast overspends on Education Welfare (+£12k) due to loss of academy income caused by a change in legislation, SEN Assessment/Admissions Team (+£20k) due to additional hours to cover sickness & additional printing and SEN Complex Needs placements (+£44K) are all offset by staff savings, some of which are from Voluntary Early Retirement/Voluntary Severance, Learning Support Service (-£1K), children in Public Care (-£2K), Parent Partnership (-£11K) and Education Psychology Service (-£49k).

Safeguarding, Children and Families Service Wide (+£72K)

The forecast over spend on legal fees (+£89k) due largely to an increase in court fees notified to us in July 2013, agency costs (+£17K) & inspection consultancy costs (£38K) is offset by staff slippage (-£72K) in Business Support.

Children in Need Social Work Teams (+£136K)

This forecast overspend is on Agency staff costs & additional staff appointments within the Children in Need North team & the Borough Wide team (+£128K) and a charge for call handling for the Out of Hours Team (+£46K) offset with staff slippage from the Early Intervention teams (-£25K) & the Children in Need South team (-£13K).

Looked After Children (+£1,468k)

The service is forecasting an over spend mainly due to out of authority residential placements (+£1,565K), remand placements (+£180K) and independent fostering placements (+£248K). Further details of placements are below:

- Since 2011/12 the average number of children in OOA residential placements per week has increased from 18 to 24 currently. Due to the increasing complexity of children's needs that are going into residential out of authority placements & despite successful negotiations by the Commissioning team to minimise the cost of these placements, the average cost per week of these has also increased over this period from £3,022 to £3,199. The number of children in residential out of authority placements as at end of December 2013 is 29 (an increase of 3 since November).
- From 1 April 2013 children's remand placements are fully funded by the Local Authority & RMBC was provided with a national grant of £78k to cover these additional costs. The current projected cost of these placements is £258k which shows that the grant was grossly inadequate. There are currently no remand placements.
- The average number of children in Independent foster care has reduced from 125 per week in 2011/12 to 107.6 currently in 2013/14. The average cost per week of these placements has increased from £887 to £912 over this period. The number of children in Independent foster Care as at 31st December is 105 (a reduction of 1 since November & a reduction of 8 since the end of March 2013).

- The Independent Foster care placements are made up of 63 standard placements (a reduction of 7 since 1st April 2013), 29 complex placements (an increase of 7 since 1st April 2013) & 13 specialist placements (a reduction of 8 since 1st April 2013). The average weekly cost of these placements has changed as follows: Standard - £745 in 2012/13 increased to £755 currently; Complex - £939 in 2012/13 increased to £1,198 currently; Specialist - £1,287 in 2012/13 reduced to £952 currently.
- Since 2011/12 the average number of children placed in in-house fostering placements per week has increased from 159 to 167 currently. The average cost per week of these has also increased over this period from £230 to £251. The number of children in in-house fostering placements as at end of December is 148 (a reduction of 23 since the end of March 2013).
- The number of looked after children was 372 at end of December, a reduction of 23 since the end of March 2013.

Additional overspends in this area are (+£28k) Consultancy costs to review health care contributions towards children's continuing health care needs, (+£5K) court ordered care package, (+£22k) agency costs in respect of Contact workers & (+£10K) in transport costs. These pressures are partially offset by projected underspends in Children's Homes (-£106k) mainly due to not staffing the Silverwood annexe, Fostering Services (-£169k) due to a forecast underspend on fostering allowances, Residence Orders & Families together placements, (-£150k) due to the re-profiling of adoption placements and the impact of this on inter-agency adoption costs & maximising grants, (-£50k) reduced use of transport for LAC children & (-£115k) in Leaving care on accommodation costs & a reduction in the number of weekly payments.

Disability Services (+£52K)

This service is now forecasting an overspend mainly due to overtime & agency costs at Cherry Tree & Liberty residential homes due to needing to cover sickness & vacancies (+£71K) and an overspend on Direct payments (+£51K) offset by staffing slippage in the Disability Team (-£70K). The overspend on Direct payments is due to providing carers to support families with children with extremely complex needs which would otherwise require OOA residential placements at a much higher cost.

Remaining CYPS Services (-£438k)

The overall CYPS overspend is also partially offset by projected under spends on Pension costs (-£10k) due to a reduction in numbers receiving pension payments, (-£208k) due to ceasing non essential spend & reallocation of funding in the Early Years service, (-£212K) staff cost savings, ceasing non essential spend & maximising grants in the Integrated Youth Support Service and a further contribution from the Education Catering Service (-£8K).

7.1.4 Prevention and Early intervention strategies

These include:

- Increased use of Special Guardianships (79 as at the end of December, an increase of 10 since 31st March 2013) and Residence Orders (128 as at 4th January, an increase of 8 since 31st March 2013). There is a continuing push to secure permanency for some children via this route rather than becoming or remaining looked after children. This seeks to reduce the LAC numbers but also provides better outcomes for the children and young people.
- The investment received in Fostering & Adoption is showing results. The service is projecting to have 30 new adopters by the end of March 2014 which is 9 above the invest to save target. The Adoption Service has been helped by the governments Adoption Reform Grant. The service is projecting to be on target for the recruitment of new foster carers at the net gain of 21.

7.1.5 Impact of Management Actions

Considerable, concerted proactive management actions to contain and where possible reduce the projected outturn position are continuing – within 2013/14 to date, it is estimated that these actions have helped the service avoid £588K of costs that would otherwise have been incurred:

- Reduction in placement costs of £454K through renegotiating contracts with external providers;
- The Fostering Framework has achieved £75K of reductions on standard fostering placements
- The Block contract has achieved £59K savings on complex fostering placements
- The continued effectiveness of the multi-agency support panel from which through efficient multi agency management actions and decision making, continues to avoid costs wherever possible.

7.1.6 Agency Costs

Total expenditure on Agency staff for Children and Young People's Services for the 9 month period ending 31st December 2013 was £603K. This compares with an actual cost of £320K for the same period last year.

Increased agency costs during the year have been incurred as a result of the need to cover the Interim Director of Safeguarding, Children & Families post until permanent recruitment takes place; vacant social worker and team manager posts, and social work posts where staff are off sick or on maternity leave; and vacancies, sickness and maternity leave in residential care. The statutory responsibilities and performance and inspection regimes in children's social care mean that posts can only be left unfilled for short periods, and colleague cover for absence is not sustainable. Overall, sickness and turnover is at acceptable levels, below the council average.

Recruitment to the permanent Director post started in early January and interviews will be held Early March. If a successful appointment is made, the earliest start date for the new Director is likely to be July 2014 due to notice periods.

All team manager posts were filled through recruitment in late 2013. However, the notice periods mean that start dates are up to four months after appointment. The Interim Team Manager for fostering left in early January, although this was forecast to last until February. The Team Manager for Fostering starts in late January. The Team Manager for Looked After Children starts in March. This post is being covered by an Agency Manager at present.

Monthly recruitment of social workers has resulted in successful appointments; currently there are two vacancies expected to be filled through the January recruitment. Two extra posts, over establishment, have been recruited to – these are peripatetic staff that can be used to provide cover for emergent gaps due to vacancy, sickness or maternity leave rather than using agency staff. One member of staff has transferred from the fostering team temporarily to fill a vacancy in the Looked After Children's Team. There has been a reduction in the use of agency staff, but there is still a need for a small number of agency staff to cover sickness, maternity leave and the time between a social worker leaving and their replacement starting.

7.1.7 Non contractual Overtime

Actual expenditure to the end of December 2013 on non-contractual overtime for Children and Young People's Services (excluding schools) is £96K which is mainly in Residential units, compared with expenditure of £69K for the same period last year.

OfSTED requirements are that, if possible, agency staff are not used to cover vacancies, hence the reliance on overtime in the short term pending recruited staff taking up position.

7.1.8 Consultancy Costs

Total expenditure on consultancy costs to the end of December is £161K compared to £219K for the same 9 month period last year.

The majority of these costs are in the School Effectiveness Service and externally funded areas. School effectiveness is funded by a combination of Revenue, Dedicated Schools Grant and other income & within external grant funded services.

The actual costs of agency, non contractual overtime & consultancy are included within the financial forecasts.

8. Finance

Finance details are included in section 7 above.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Principal risks and uncertainties relate to the 'needs led' nature of budgets for looked after children.

The recruitment of in house foster and adoptive carers remains a challenge and we must always ensure a high quality of placements.

Our decisions to place children with independent fostering agencies and in residential out of authority establishments will always be in the context of the best interests of our children. The budget need can only be an estimate given its volatile nature. For example, one out of authority residential placement for a child with very complex needs can now cost up to £364,000 per annum.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget within the limits determined by Council in March 2013 is vital in achieving the objectives of the Council's Policy agenda. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the council's overall performance.

The expenditure in the Children and Young People's Service continues to be mitigated by constantly reviewing budgets and the continuation of a moratorium on spending within the Directorate.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Report to Cabinet on 6 March 2013 – Proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2013/14.

This report has been discussed with the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Service and the Director of Finance.

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services
2.	Date:	12th February, 2014
3.	Title:	eSuite Data Management System - continuation of support and maintenance
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Service

5. Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek member approval to suspend Standing Order 47, which will permit exemption from normal contract standing orders to enable the continuation of support and maintenance of eSuite (eStart and eNurseries), the existing performance and activity monitoring software system used by 22 Children's Centres by Capita Children's Services.

The continuation of the current Children's Centres activity and performance management system is essential to ensure evidence of performance in line with the SureStart Children's Centre Statutory Guidance can be provided during Ofsted Inspections and to help inform future service delivery to ensure services meet the needs of local vulnerable families.

The cost of this support and maintenance contract for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 is £29060.24

Budget has been profiled to cover this as it is an ongoing annual cost.

6. Recommendations

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

- **the contract for support and maintenance of the eSuite software for 2014/15 be exempt from the provisions of Standing Order 47 and the contract be awarded to Capita Children's Services**

7. Proposals and Details

In January 2006, quotations were invited from a number of providers to supply a performance and activity monitoring system for all Phase 1 Children's Centres, this has since been extended to include Phase 2 and 3 Children's Centres. All 22 Children's Centres in Rotherham now use the eSuite data management system to record information about all the families they support and each contact they make with them. CPFR solutions were the original successful system provider (now part of Capita Children's Services).

This system is essential to enable us to monitor essential delivery requirements of Children's Centres including the required 'reach' and delivery and uptake of services generally as well as by 'vulnerable groups'. The system is also required to facilitate the monitoring of all Children's Centres activity against the Sure Start Children's Centre Statutory Guidance and Ofsted Children's Centre Inspection Guidance.

It is unfeasible to invite tenders from alternative suppliers due to the compatibility of the system which would necessitate full replacement of the current Children's Centres system (22 centres), incurring excessive costs.

As such a request is made for the support and maintenance of the eSuite data management system to be exempt from the provisions of Standing Order 47 and the contract be awarded to Capita Children's Services.

The cost of this support and maintenance contract for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 is £29060.24

Budget has been profiled to cover this as it is an ongoing annual cost.

8. Finance

The costs outlined above are profiled within the Children's Centre budget, as indicated.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The eSuite data management system is essential to enable Children's Centres to record and provide evidence of their performance against the Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance during Ofsted Inspections.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The availability of this software system will ensure information is available to:

- Evidence delivery of the Children's Centre Core Purpose
- Evidence delivery of services in line with the Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance
- Evidence delivery of services in line with the Ofsted Children's Centres Inspection Guidance
- Support completion of Children's Centres Self Evaluation
- Enable local and borough analysis of activity
- Evidence uptake of activity within designated 'reach' and geographical areas
- Evidence uptake of activity by 'vulnerable groups'
- Enable comparisons between centres and identification of best practice

- Support day to day management of centres through securely holding family data

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Background Papers:

- Childcare Act 2006
- Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance 2010
- Ofsted Children's Centres Inspection Guidance

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