

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

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

Date: Wednesday, 12th March, 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.
 - Award – Domestic Abuse Team.
7. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd January, 2014. (Pages 1 - 7)
8. Scrutiny of outcomes for Looked After Children. (Pages 8 - 50)
 - Appendix 1: - Rotherham LAC Strategy 2013-2015;
 - Appendix 2 and 2a: - LAC Sufficiency Statement;
 - Appendix 3: - 2013/14 Quarter 2 Report: Key Performance Information;
 - Appendix 4: - Rotherham MBC Corporate Parenting Report.
9. Lifestyle Survey, 2013. (Pages 51 - 75)
10. Date and time of the next meeting: -
 - 9th April, 2014, to start at 1.30 p.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.

**Improving Lives Select Commission membership: -
Chairperson – Councillor G. A. Russell**

Vice-Chairperson – Councillor C. Read

Councillors Ali, Astbury, Buckley, Burton, Clark, Dodson, Donaldson, J. Hamilton, Kaye, Lelliott, License, Pitchley, Robinson, Roddison and Sharman.

Co-opted members: - Mrs. A. Clough, Mrs. Blanch-Nicholson, Mr. M. Smith, Parish Cllr N Tranmer, Ms. J. Jones, Mrs. J Fitzgerald.

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION
22nd January, 2014

Present:- Councillor G. A. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Astbury, Buckley, Burton, Clark, Dodson, J. Hamilton, Kaye, Pitchley, Read, Roddison and Sharman.

Councillors Dalton, Hoddinott, P. A. Russell, Havenhand, Wallis, Sims, Roche, Beaumont, Godfrey, Ellis, Currie, Pickering, Beck and Whelbourn were also in attendance.

Agencies represented: - J. Thacker (Children and Young People's Services), Councillor P. Lakin (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services), S. Ashley (Rotherham LSCB), Chief Supt J. Harwin, K. Goddard (Barnardos), D. Johnson (CYPS Performance), J. Abbott (Public Health), S. Parry (Neighbourhood and Adult Services Directorate), C. Edgar (Team Manager, Sexual Exploitation Unit), K. White (Duty and Early Help), S. Gittins (School Nurse Partnership).

Apologies were received from Councillors Ali and Falvey and Co-opted Members Mrs. A. Clough (ROPES), Mrs. J. Jones (GROW) and Mr. M. Smith (Safe@Last).

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No Declarations of Interest were made.

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

No members of the public or the press were in attendance.

46. COMMUNICATIONS.

Nothing was raised under this item.

47. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2013

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission held on 18th December, 2013, were considered.

Resolved: - That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record.

48. SCRUTINY OF CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS TO COUNTER CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN ROTHERHAM.

The Chairperson of the Improving Lives Select Commission welcomed all representatives of Rotherham's agencies working to counter Child Sexual Exploitation in the Borough.

Members of the Improving Lives Select Commission, along with the members of the Select Commissions, had read a number of documents that outlined previous and continuing work to counter Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Rotherham. The documents had been circulated with the agenda and included: -

- A précis of recent CSE reviews and inspection reports and a summary of their recommendations;
- The review of the response to CSE in Rotherham conducted by Steve Ashley, Independent Chair of the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Board;
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary South Yorkshire Police's response to CSE – findings of an inspection commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Barnardo's Rotherham Practice Report;
- "If only someone had listened" Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into CSE in Gangs and Groups;
- The report to Rotherham's Cabinet outlining the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children's Board CSE Action Plan – Six-month progress report.

The Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services gave a presentation that provided an overview on how all agencies were working together to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

The presentation covered: -

- **National Context: -**
 - Recognised as one of the most important challenges;
 - Intelligence and practice was continuing to develop and local differences in approach existed;
 - There was currently no national performance measures for benchmarking purposes available;
 - The presentation outlined the large number of national reports and reviews that had taken place/been published in the past few years;
 - **All of the documents had been fed into the development of the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board's Action Plan, the forthcoming document refresh would take account of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into CSE in Gangs and Groups' Final Report.**
- **Definition and summary of CSE: -**
 - Was found in the 'Statutory Guidance on Safeguarding Children and Young People from Child Sexual Exploitation' document, 2009;
 - The range of the different types of CSE were considered;
 - The networks and different types of CSE structure/organisations was also considered;

- Common CSE myths were shared.
- **The Local Profile: -**
 - Data for 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 (to December) showed that, of the total contacts to social services, the number of contacts, and the relative overall percentage, relating to reports of CSE was relatively low;
 - The local profile of CSE reports in Rotherham was shared, along with the most common model of CSE seen;
 - This data was informing the targeting of services to geographical hotspots to prevent future exploitation, disrupt potential risky behaviours and identify and pursue offenders.
- **The CSE Team and Partnership: -**
 - The organisation of Rotherham's Countering CSE team was shown. The team was made up of Social Care professionals, Police and other partners, including Barnardos, GROW, nurse practitioners and Safe@Last;
 - An additional detective was due to join the team to further increase capacity;
 - External funding had been secured for some aspects of the Partners' work to 2016;
 - The wide-range of agencies within the CSE partnership included many professionals and organisations;
 - Leadership structure of the CSE Team and Partnership was the role of the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board's Sub-group (known as Gold), for strategic leadership, and the Multi-agency Operational Managers' Group (known as Silver), for operational leadership. Other regional and national structures were in place. Rotherham's Children, Young People and Families' Partnership also monitored this.
- **CSE Strategy in summary: -**
 - Overarching priorities: - Prevent, Protect and Pursue;
 - Seven strategic actions: -
 1. Governance and leadership;
 2. Training and awareness;
 3. Communication;
 4. Protection of children;
 5. Protection and support for victims;
 6. Disrupting and stopping CSE-linked activity;
 7. Bringing perpetrators to justice and preventing re-offending.
 - A named person was linked to each of the seven strategic actions;
 - The Performance and Quality Team was providing regular updates.

- **Key achievements of the CSE Strategy (Leadership and Governance, Prevent, Protect and Pursue themes), and**
- **Achievements and progress in 2013/2014 to counter CSE: -**
 - 2,800 staff, Councillors, young people and members of the public attended a training or awareness event between April, 2012, - December, 2013;
 - All secondary schools were engaged with CSE prevention;
 - In 2012/2013 911 pupils had participated in workshops, in 2013/2014 to date it was 1150 pupils;
 - 1587 informal curriculum sessions had been delivered by the Integrated Youth Support Services on CSE related topics;
 - 'Train the Trainer' programme being rolled out across the Partnership;
 - Communication strategy in place to include communications with the public, local communities, faith groups, LGBT groups and migrant families;
 - Leaflets for parents/carers and young people had been developed and were widely available;
 - Event held for local hoteliers to raise awareness;
 - The launch of the 'See Something, Say Something' campaign would take place in February, 2014;
 - Funding bids were continuing to further develop this work;
 - The CSE Team had been expanded to include members from the Voluntary and Community and Health Sectors;
 - The regional CSE risk assessment tool was being utilised;
 - Licensing Services was engaged;
 - Social Care cases being led by the CSE team was increasing, along with other social care teams' support;
 - Joint investigations had increased from 2012-2013 to 2013-2014;
 - Safe@Last were receiving referrals for support following runaway incidents;
 - A new initiative had been launched to provide confidential services to young witnesses and victims of crime. This was continuing to imbed;
 - Increased disruption activity was taking place. At November, 2013, there had been seven attrition activities, compared to 3 during 2012-2013;
 - Abduction Notices were being continuing to increase compared to previous years;
 - One successful conviction and a number of cases were awaiting court;
 - Local and Regional Operations were taking place;
 - Perpetrators in custody and in the community under the supervision of probation had robust Risk Management Plans in place;
 - A CSE Police Analyst had been recruited;
 - Changes to the Crown Prosecution Service had been initiated;

- Changing practices were being explored to seek prosecution without victim co-operation.
- **Areas for improvement: -**
 - The Action Plan would be refreshed and refined to ensure that it incorporated recommendations from the Reviews and the OCC report. This was planned for February, 2014;
 - The location and organisation of teams to create a full Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Riverside House;
 - Review of pathways between health services and CSE Teams (following the recruitment of a nurse practitioner);
 - Improved analysis of intelligence.

Questions followed from the Strategic Director's presentation and the following issues were raised that followed a number of themes/areas of the documents: -

- **Prevent: education and training interventions and their efficacy, engagement by all partners and community groups, engaging with young people, understanding and analysis of intelligence and hot spots, reporting mechanisms and communication and media strategies: -**
 - Were all agencies prioritising training?;
 - Was there equity of coverage for all schools? Were all schools engaging in the information and training support available?;
 - Was Personal, Social and Health Education within the curriculum being 'swamped', and was it given sufficient teaching time? How is this issue being addressed in schools?.
- **Protect: risk assessment tools, information sharing between partners, referral pathways and staffing: -**
 - Were staffing resources adequate to respond to the Action Plans?;
 - Frontline workers were a key arm to countering and eradicating CSE, were they being adequately supported and did they have manageable caseloads?;
 - What role could school governors play in countering CSE, given their training, knowledge and local intelligence?;
 - Was the risk assessment tool in use the most relevant and did it allow information sharing with other authorities/responsible bodies;
 - The Multi-Agency Support Hub (MASH) would be a positive development and enable information sharing to take place;
 - Operational Manager for the multi-agency team – were they able to ensure that different agencies' had shared priorities?;
 - Did silo working take place amongst the agencies' working relationships. If so, what strategies were in place to address

- these?;
- Who was in overall control of what information was shared? Different agencies operated different thresholds for sharing information. What work was taking place to ensure consistency?.
- **Pursue: including support for victims, learning lessons, offender management and prosecutions: -**
 - Was enough being done to ensure that the voice of the child was being represented in the Action Plans and the work of all partners?;
 - Given the focus on CSE nationally, how is learning shared across other Local Authorities and agencies?;
 - What was being done to challenge the attitudes that existed amongst perpetrators that CSE was acceptable?;
 - How do you ensure that resources across social care were directed proportionately to ensure that issues such as domestic abuse or neglect remain a high priority?;
 - Current police priorities had a focus on acquisitive crime; how do agencies ensure that countering CSE remains a priority?;
 - Working with victims and winning their trust and confidence – was enough being done to support the victims?.
 - **General areas: including leadership, location, culture, information sharing within Rotherham and beyond, resources and Governance: -**
 - Were there tight timescales around all of the Action Plans responding to CSE issues for when reviews would take place?;
 - Were there clear lines of accountability relating to the Action Plans' action points?;
 - Were all Partners operationally involved and did all Partners have the same strategic buy-in?;
 - Public confidence in the public sector agencies;
 - Gender profiles of victims and perpetrators, were all vulnerable groups supported?;
 - Cultural messages given via the media relating to body image pressure, the sexualisation of childhood and the availability of pornography – how do these impact on the prevalence of CSE and attitudes towards it?.

The Chairperson thanked all agencies for attending, and all of the Elected Members in attendance for the questions that they had asked and the thoughts that they had shared.

The Chairperson stated her belief that Rotherham was moving forward in terms of countering CSE and actively delivering child protection. The Improving Lives Select Commission would continue to monitor this area. There was clear evidence that commitment to multi-agency working

existed and this was something that all Partners shared and that the Local Safeguarding Children Board also prioritised and expected. The Chairperson was also mindful of the context of decreasing resources and urged that the best use be made of the available budgets and resources. Children's safeguarding remained everyone's business and all agencies needed to ensure that they worked to the best of their ability to ensure this was done.

Resolved: - (1) That the information shared be noted.

(2) That an update be provided to the Improving Lives Select Commission in one year's time to follow-up the progress of the Action Plan.

49. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: -

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on Wednesday 12th March, 2014, to start at 1.30 p.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Improving Lives Select Commission
2.	Date:	12 March, 2014
3.	Title:	Scrutiny of outcomes for looked after children
4.	Directorate:	Resources All wards

5. Summary

As part of its work programme, the Improving Lives Select Commission agreed to examine how RMBC is improving outcomes for looked after children (LAC).

As part of its consideration of LAC services, the Corporate Parenting Panel asked Improving Lives Select Committee to scrutinise the draft **Rotherham Looked After Children Strategy** and the draft **Sufficiency Strategy for Looked After Children**.

6. Recommendations

That Members:

- a. **Receive the reports and comment on their content;**
- b. **Forward any comments arising from the reports to the Cabinet Member for consideration;**
- c. **Determine if there are any additional issues arising from these papers for further consideration by the Select Commission.**

7. Proposals and details

7.1 Children in the care of a local authority are one of the most vulnerable groups in society; the majority coming into care because they have suffered abuse or neglect. At any one time approximately 60,000 children are looked after in England, although some 91,000 pass through the care system each year (NSPCC, online 2014).

Evidence shows that looked after children will have lower educational attainment than their non-looked after peers. They are much less likely than other young people to progress into further and higher education, employment or training (Barnardo's, online 2014). They are more likely to experience poor physical and mental health outcomes (Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum, 2012). Looked after children and care leavers are also over-represented in the criminal justice system (House of Commons, Justice Select Committee, 2013).

7.2 All councillors have a role of 'corporate parent' to children looked after by their local authority. This involves taking an interest in the wellbeing and development of those children, as if they were their own children. Although the lead member for children's services has particular responsibilities, the responsibility to act as corporate parents is held by all councillors, regardless of their role on the council.

These roles were first outlined by the then Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson MP in 1998:

"Elected Councillors have a crucial role. Only you can carry it out. You can make sure that the interests of the children come first. You bring a fresh look and common sense. As councillors you set the strategic direction of your council's services and determine policy and priorities for your local community within the overall objectives set by Government."

7.3 One of the roles of overview and scrutiny members is to ask questions of a range of service providers and assure themselves that children in the care of the local authority are being well looked after.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny has issued a guide "10 questions to ask if you're scrutinising services for looked after children?". The questions cover a range of issues which should establish whether the services provided by the local authority and its partners are leading to positive outcomes for children and young people in care.

- How well does your authority do in providing (or commissioning) services for looked after children, including in comparison with other similar authorities?
- How well do your children in care do at school, both academically and in terms of other kinds of achievements?
- How good is the health and wellbeing of children in your care?
- How stable and secure are the lives of your looked after children while they are in your care?
- How well does your authority do at finding appropriate adoptive families for children for whom it is decided this is the right option?
- How well do your foster care arrangements work?

- How good is the standard of any residential care provided or used by your authority?
- What support does your authority provide to young people leaving care and how effective is it?
- How effective is your professional workforce of social workers and others responsible for running services for and working with looked after children?
- What more could be done to fulfil the council's responsibilities as a 'corporate parent'?

7.4 There are two reports for consideration by the Improving Lives Select Commission; the **Rotherham Looked After Children Strategy** and the **Sufficiency Strategy for Looked After Children**. Accompanying these papers is a recent performance report.

7.4.1 The **Rotherham Looked After Children Strategy** (attached as Appendix 1), sets out "improved outcomes for all our children and young people in care and what needs to be done by all those involved in the development and delivery of services to looked after children." It has five priority objectives:

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

7.4.2 The strategy is work in progress rather than a completed document. Under each priority objective, there are a number of questions.

- Where do we want to be?
 - What is the vision for the service and for looked after children, and what are the priorities for the service.
- Where are we now?
 - how well we are performing to improve children's outcomes in all the key areas.
- How will we get from where we are now to where we want to be?
 - What strategies and action programmes do we need to initiate in order to improve services and outcomes?
- How will we know we are there?

- Are there clear goals and targets at the outset so that we can measure our progress?

Members are asked for their comments on the draft strategy and priorities and to establish how performance will be measured against each objective.

- 7.4.3 The **Sufficiency Strategy for Looked After Children** (attached as Appendix 2A and 2B) outlines the statutory requirement for local authorities to secure, so far as reasonably practical, sufficient accommodation for looked after children in their local authority area.

Improving Lives Select Commission has been asked to comment on the draft strategy.

- 7.4.4 As background, the most recent performance information available is attached as Appendix 3. The information provides information to enable you to analyse trends and assess how well RMBC is doing. Questions can also be asked to examine how RMBC compares with other similar areas.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Authority's Corporate Parenting arrangements must contribute to improved and sustainable outcomes for looked after children and their families. Councillors involved in scrutiny of LAC services should be satisfied that the services are meeting these requirements.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Ofsted Inspection Framework 2013

RMBC Corporate Plan (2013-16)

- Protecting our most vulnerable people and families, enabling them to maximise their independence
 - we will protect children and young people, vulnerable people and families from all forms of abuse, violence and neglect
 - we will identify need and support children, young people and their families at the earliest possible stage

11. Background Papers and Consultation

10 questions to ask if you're scrutinising services for looked after children - Centre for Public Scrutiny (2012) http://www.local.gov.uk/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/3611618/PUBLICATION

NSPCC (2014)

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/resourcesforprofessionals/looked_after_children_home_wda79690.html

Barnardo's (2014)

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/advertising_campaigns/campaigns_children_in_care.htm

Report of the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum – Mental Health Sub-Group (2012)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216853/CYP-Mental-Health.pdf

House of Commons Justice Committee: Youth Justice (2013)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmjust/339/339.pdf>

12. Contact

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ROTHERHAM LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STRATEGY – 2013 – 2015

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council takes its role as Corporate Parent to looked after children very seriously. Members and officers understand that looked after children as a group are more vulnerable than their non-looked after peers and that in general, outcomes and life chances are poorer for looked after children than for other children.

1.2. At the same time, it is also recognised that children and young people in care, like their non-looked after peers, need additional support to overcome disadvantage, and have the potential to succeed and prosper in life, so long as they are afforded the right support and opportunities, and the awareness that they as a group are more vulnerable to poor outcomes does not translate into a self-fulfilling prophecy of low aspiration.

1.3. This strategy is an ongoing initiative, rather than a completed piece of work. It sets out improved outcomes for all our children and young people in care and what needs to be done by all those involved in the development and delivery of services to looked after children. Whilst the local authority is the lead agency in developing and implementing this strategy, it has and is being developed and implemented by a range of professionals working in the local authority and key partner agencies, such as, for example, colleagues in health and education. For a full list of group members see 1.6 below.

1.4. This document and the strategy are separate to but linked to and informed by the following:

- The Corporate Parenting Strategy
- The Children and Young People's Plan 2013-16
- The Looked After Children Statement
- The Corporate Parenting Promise to Looked After Children
- The Pledge to Looked After Children

1.5. A Looked After Children Strategy Group has been established to develop and implement this strategy. The group meets regularly to take the work forward, and has developed smaller sub project groups to take the lead on individual priority areas.

1.6. The Looked After Children Strategy Group is made up of multi-agency professionals working with looked after children in local authority services and professionals working with looked after children in key partner agency services. Membership of the group is as follows:

Appendix 1

Paul Dempsey – Service Manager, Family Placements and Residential Services, RMBC, CYPS.

Phil Bradley – Service Manager, Children in Need North and Looked After Children, RMBC, CYPS

Claire Sneath – Virtual School Head – Education

Martin Smith – Get Real Team Manager – Education

Sara Whittaker – Team Manager, Looked After and Adopted Children Support and Therapeutic Team, RMBC, CYPS

Karen Holgate - Looked After Children Nurse, Health

Adrian Hobson – Commissioning, RMBC, CYPS

Paul Stinson – Commissioning, RMBC, CYPS

Morri McDermott – Operations Manager, Residential Services, RMBC, CYPS

Lisa Duvalle – Voice and Influence Officer, RMBC, CYPS

Andy Symcox – Fostering Recruitment Team Manager, RMBC, CYPS

Helen Mangham – Adoption Team Manager, RMBC, CYPS

Rebecca Wall – Independent Reviewing Team Manager, RMBC, CYPS

Mark Connolly – Service Manager, Action for Children Looked after Children and Leaving Care Service.

2. STRATEGY DRIVERS

2.1. There are a number of key drivers for developing an updated strategy for looked after children, as follows:

- The local authority and partner agencies are responsible for making sure that outcomes for Looked after Children are as good as possible in all aspects of their lives as children, young people and in achieving successful independence as adults. This needs to be reviewed and refreshed in conjunction with looked after children.
- The need for a shared vision and agreed priority objectives for all those working with looked after children, both within the local authority and with partner agencies and professionals.
- The requirement and aspiration to improve outcomes for our looked after children.
- The need to ensure our services match up to the new requirements set out in the new Ofsted inspection framework for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers.
- The need to ensure that looked after children services are good value for money, such that we achieve maximum benefit to children's wellbeing and outcomes from our budget, and we invest in services that are evidence based and have a positive impact.

3. STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

3.1. The work in developing and implementing this strategy is essentially centred on answering four key questions:

3.2. As a service, (the word ‘service’ here is used to refer to the whole package or range of services provided by the local authority and partner agencies to looked after children) where do we want to be?

This is about our vision for the service and for looked after children, and identifying priority objectives.

3.3. Where are we now?

In order to answer this question we need to understand how well we are performing in improving children’s outcomes in all the key areas. Where are we strong and where are we less strong? Have we already taken sufficient action to improve outcomes or services for the future or is further action or new initiatives required? What do children and young people say about our services? What about foster carers, adopters, and parents?

3.4. How will we get from where we are now to where we want to be?

What strategies and action programmes do we need to initiate in order to improve services and outcomes? From reviewing services around the country and learning from theory and practice, what should we be doing differently? What are children and young people telling us to do in order to improve services? We will need to identify and focus on what works.

3.5. How will we know we are there?

This is about setting clear goals and targets at the outset so that we can measure our progress. Examples include our performance against national performance indicators, outcomes from Ofsted inspections of looked after children services, and the extent to which feedback from children and young people indicates that services are improving and that they are involved in decisions about their lives and service delivery and service development.

4. WHERE DO WE WANT THE SERVICE TO BE?

4.1 Vision

As a group of multi-agency professional involved in developing and delivering services to looked after children we asked ourselves:

What kind of service do we want to be?

And, how do we want to approach our work?

We have resolved to:

- **Have high aspirations for looked after children**
- **Be strong and inspiring leaders**
- **Have a clear and consistent focus on education**
- **Do all that is possible to ensure looked after children enjoy stable, safe and permanent relationships**
- **Listen and account for the voice of looked after children and young people**
- **Understand and implement what works in improving outcomes**
- **Provide the kind of care and support for looked after children that we would expect and would be good enough for our own children**

4.2. Priority Objectives

The above vision statements set out some key principles about how we will deliver looked after children's services. The following priority objectives define what key achievements and improvements we will be striving to make over the next two years in relation to looked after children's outcomes.

All of the objectives are measurable and they relate to key aspects of children's development. They have been identified as it is clear that success in achieving them will have a significantly positive impact on children during their childhood and in their ability to develop successfully and happily as adults.

Priority Objective 1:

To improve the degree and timeliness of placement stability and permanence and ensure children are able to enjoy continuity of relationships.

Priority Objective 2:

To improve the emotional wellbeing and physical health of looked after children.

Priority Objective 3:

To improve educational progress and attainment and narrow the gap between attainment of looked after children and their non-looked after peers.

Priority Objective 4:

To improve the support for and opportunities open to care leavers sufficiently to increase the number and proportion of them who are in employment, educations or training (EET)

Priority Objective 5:

To listen to children and young people so as to ensure that their views influence their own plans, as well as wider service delivery and development.

5. ACHIEVING OUR PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

In taking the strategy forward we have asked ourselves those four key strategic questions, where do we want to be, where are we now, how do we get from where we are now to where we want to be, and how will we know when we get there, in respect of each of the five priority objective we have identified.

In addition, key services and teams working with looked after children will develop their annual service development plans based around how they develop to meet the five objectives.

The following sections look at these questions for each of our objectives.

6. PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 1:

To improve the degree and timeliness of placement stability and permanence and ensure children are able to enjoy continuity of relationships.

6.1. Where do we want to be?

6.1.1. We want a Sufficiency Strategy that delivers the necessary number and range of accommodation options for looked after children in and local to Rotherham.

6.1.2. We want our organisational structures to promote continuity of relationships for looked after children with staff and carers and not to create barriers to continuity.

6.1.3. We want our fostering service to provide placements for the range of children and young people requiring them and to leave us less dependent on independent sector fostering and residential provision, much of which is at a distance from Rotherham.

6.1.4. We want numbers of children adopted to be high and for children adopted to be placed with their prospective adopters at the earliest point in their journey as possible.

Appendix 1

6.1.5. We want placement breakdowns to be reduced to a minimum, and support for placements to prevent breakdown to be increased and to include therapeutic input, and planned wraparound support.

6.1.6. We want to be using innovative methods to recruit adopters for sibling groups, disabled children, and older children so that we can secure adoption for as wide a group of children as possible.

6.1.7. We want to proactively seek legal permanence for looked after children through supporting extended family, foster carers, and other connected persons to secure Special Guardianship Orders.

6.1.8. We want our performance against national performance indicators in respect of placement stability for looked after children to improve compared to now and to be better than the national averaged performance and that of our statistical neighbours.

6.1.9. We want our numbers of children adopted to increase, for timeliness to improve compared to now, and for performance on both, as well as adoption scorecard performance, to be better than national average performance and that of our statistical neighbours.

6.2. Where are we now?

6.3. How will we get from where we are now to where we want to be?

The following are actions that are already being taken to move the service from where we are to where we want and need to be.

6.3.1. Development of a new Sufficiency Strategy to improve the number and range of placement options for looked after children and young people. Work is on-going on development and delivery of this strategy but the following key actions have been identified:

- Development of a new in-house fostering resource, 'Fostering Plus' to accommodate adolescents and children with complex needs in local family placements. The service will provide more intense placement support, including therapeutic support, in order to reduce placement breakdown and improve stability. It is intended that the service, as it grows, will reduce the need to place young people in residential accommodation and to place them at distance from Rotherham.

Appendix 1

- Maintaining additional staffing in our adoption service in order to build and improve upon our success in 2013/14 in increasing the number of children placed for adoption and adopted.
- Development of a new 'Fostering to Adopt' initiative, in line with Government and Ofsted requirements. Fostering to Adopt aims to place children whose plans are very likely to be adoption with prospective adoptive parents who are also approved as foster parents before the child's plan for adoption has been legally endorsed by the Court. This allows for children to be placed with their forever parents at a younger age.
- Reviewing and revising our commissioning strategy in relation to independent residential accommodation. Commissioners will work with the market to develop more independent provision for our use in and much closer to Rotherham.
- Review of the service and remit of Silverwood Local Authority Children's Home to explore number and nature of placements offered.

6.3.2. Development of roadshow workshops on placement stability for staff. The workshops will be delivered to children's social workers and staff in family placement and residential services over the early months of 2014. The workshops focus on good practice in achieving placement stability and are informed by theory and research findings.

6.3.3. Restructuring the model of service delivery for care leavers and for looked after children aged 16 and 17 to ensure that organisational structures promote continuity of relationships. The current LAC service for 16 and 17 year olds and the leaving care service are provided by Action for Children.

Currently, when Looked after Children reach age 16 they have to have a new social worker and move to the Action for Children service. They also have to change to a new personal adviser when they turn 18 and move from Action for Children's under 18 team to their over 18 team. We think these changes are not helpful for young people at these key transition points in their life and can be avoided. From April 1st 2014 the service detailed above will be run in-house directly by the Council. The new model will allow for young people to keep the same social worker up to age 18 when they leave care and the same personal advisor from age 16 to 25.

These changes will help us to achieve continuity of relationships for young people.

6.4. How will we know when we get there?

6.4.1. Placement stability statistics for looked after children according to Government performance indicators will be significantly improved compared to now, higher than the national average, and higher than statistical neighbours.

6.4.2. The proportion of our looked after children placed in family placements compared to residential placements will have increased compared to now, and will be above the national average and higher than statistical neighbours.

6.4.3. The number of children adopted from care will have increased compared to now

6.4.4. The percentage of children adopted who are placed within 6 months and within 12 months of the decision that they should be adopted has improved and is higher than the national average and statistical neighbours.

6.4.5. Our performance on all measures of the adoption scorecard has improved compared to now and is higher than the national average and statistical neighbours.

6.4.6. The proportion of our looked after children placed out of borough will have decreased significantly and be below the national average and statistical neighbours.

6.4.7. Children and young people tell us that they have good stable relationships, they feel safe, have people they can talk to if worried or feeling unsafe, and they feel attached to and part of the family/residential home that they live in.

7. PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 2:

To improve the emotional wellbeing and physical health of looked after children.

7.1. Where do we want to be?

7.1.1. We want to be able to improve children and young people's emotional wellbeing from when they first become looked after and to be able to demonstrate that we are doing so. We will need to make systematic use of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire to measure progress here.

7.1.2. We want to have a good understanding of the needs of our looked after population in relation to emotional wellbeing and have therapeutic services and placements options to respond to and meet all such need.

7.1.3. We need a CAMHS strategy and service for looked after children that allows for looked after children in need to have prioritised and timely access to services.

Appendix 1

7.1.4. We need all staff and carers involved with looked after children to understand normal and abnormal child development, theories on attachment theory, separation and loss and for their work parenting and care for looked after children in way than

7.2. Where are we now?

7.3. How will we get from where we are now to where we want to be?

7.3.1. We will systematically use the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire as a means to measure children and young people's emotional wellbeing on entry to care and periodically to measure progress.

7.3.2. We will use collated results for the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire to inform our commissioning and delivery of therapeutic services.

7.3.4. Commissioners will work with the local CAMHS to ensure there is provision of sufficient services to meet the needs of our looked after children population.

7.3.5. The Looked After and Adopted Children's Support and Therapeutic Team(LAACST) will support the new Fostering Plus foster care placements to ensure placements for adolescents and children with complex needs benefit from therapeutic input.

7.3.6. Managers and commissioners will work with CAMHS, the LAACST and other identified services to develop therapeutic support services for young people who have been sexually exploited.

7.4. How will we know when we get there?

8. PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 3:

To improve educational progress and attainment and narrow the gap between attainment of looked after children and their non-looked after peers.

8.1. Where do we want to be?

8.1.1. We want all children to progress and achieve in education to their full potential.

8.1.2. We want to reach a position where almost all of our looked after children progress at least 2 levels between key stages

8.1.3. We want a higher proportion of looked after children to achieve 5 A to Cs at GCSE level compared to now.

Appendix 1

8.1.4. We want the gap between attainment of looked after children and attainment of their non-looked after peers to reduce.

8.1.5. We want all staff and carers involved with looked after children to have a good understanding about education and to act as champions and advocates promoting children's involvement, progress and attainment.

8.1.6. We want key educational staff in the local authority and in schools, for example Designated Teachers, to understand about the particular needs of looked after children.

8.1.7 We want to support as many of our young people as possible to go to university.

8.1.8. We want our Virtual School to cater for children and young people aged 0 to 25.

8.2. Where are we now?

8.3. How will we get from where we are to where we want to be?

8.3.1. Our Virtual School Head Teacher is now deployed full time in this role and can from now on focus exclusively on it.

8.3.2. Revising Personal Education Plan templates to ensure the document more requires clear details about educational progress and attainment.

8.3.3. Establishing a new procedure for the completion of Personal Education Plans which involves the Designated Teacher in the school taking the lead role.

8.3.4. Establishing a new joint education and social care panel, chaired by the Virtual School Head Teacher, to address individual admissions/exclusion cases. Panel to meet monthly and include Virtual School Head Teacher, Service Manager looked after Children, Get Real Team Manager and Admissions Officer/Manager.

8.3.5. Work towards extending the remit of the Virtual School so that it spans age 0 to 25.

8.4. How will we know when we get there?

9. PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 4:

To improve the support for and opportunities open to care leavers sufficiently to increase the number and proportion of them who are in employment, educations or training (EET)

9.1. Where do we want to be?

9.1.1. We want a more integrated service for older young people looked after and care leavers and one that promotes continuity and stability of relationships.

9.1.2. We want a higher number of care leavers aged 19 in education, employment or training compared to now and to have a proportion higher than our statistical neighbours.

9.1.3. We want all care leavers to be living in suitable accommodation.

9.2. Where are we now?

9.3. How will we get from where we are now to where we want to be?

9.3.1. The LAC service for young people aged 16 and 17 and the leaving care service is being transferred on April 1st 2014 to become a service run in-house directly by the local authority again. The new model of service proposed will enable young people to maintain their existing social worker up to age 18, rather than having to change social worker at age 16 in the current service, and to retain the same personal advisor from age 16 to 25 rather than having one before age 18 and a different one beyond 18.

9.3.2. We will develop our ability to enable young people in foster care to stay living with their foster carers through enhancement of a range of 'Staying Put' and supported lodgings arrangements.

9.3.3. We will look to work with voluntary organisations to enable young people to take advantage of opportunities to volunteer that will develop their confidence, skills, experiences and employability.

9.4. How will we know when we get there?

10. PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 5:

To listen to children and young people so as to ensure that their views influence their own plans, as well as wider service delivery and development.

10.1. Where do we want to be?

10.2. Where are we now?

10.3. How will we get from where we are now to where we want to be?

10.3.1. Development and support of the LAC Council so that it is as representative as possible of looked after children and takes a key lead role steering and championing looked after children's involvement and influence on service development and service delivery.

10.3.2. Regular collation and review of consultation papers completed by children and young people for their statutory looked after children review and the review of the foster carers.

10.3.3. Annual survey of looked after children covering same issues as those covered by the national annual survey undertaken by the Children's Commissioner, so as to allow for comparison with what young people across the country are saying about being in care.

10.3.4. On-going involvement of young people in staff recruitment, and staff and foster carer training.

10.3.5. On-going training for staff and carers on listening and engaging with children and young people.

10.3.6. Regular meetings between the Elected Members on the Corporate Parenting Panel and the LAC Council.

10.3.7. Supporting the LAC Council to review the extent to which the local authority and partner agencies are delivering on promises made in the Pledge to Looked after Children.

10.3.8. Involvement of the LAC Council in the development of this LAC Strategy.

10.3.9. Communication strategy to be developed to ensure that all children and young people know about their 'entitlements' as looked after children and care leavers.

10.4. How will we know when we get there?

Paul Dempsey,

Service Manager, Family Placements and Residential Services

14.1.14

DRAFT

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – Report to Members
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1	Meeting:-	Corporate Parenting Panel
2	Date:-	21st January 2014
3	Title:-	Development of the Sufficiency Strategy for Looked After Children
4	Directorate:-	CYPS

5. Summary

It is a statutory requirement under Section 22G of the Children Act 1989 for local authorities to secure, so far as reasonably practical, sufficient accommodation for looked after children in their local authority area.

This is a brief report advising Corporate Parenting Panel members of the on-going work to develop Rotherham's Sufficiency Strategy. The strategy document is attached to this report as Appendix 1. It is a work in progress and as such is unfinished.

The sufficiency strategy sets out our strategic approach to ensuring that we can provide the right kind of accommodation in the right places to meet the differing needs of all our looked after children. As such the strategy is essential for improving outcomes for looked after children.

Whilst the work is unfinished, enough is known about our care population and our placement resources, both internally and within the independent sector, for officers to have developed strategic proposals for improving the extent to which we provide sufficient local accommodation.

Section 7 below briefly sets out the current ideas for moving forward.

6. Recommendations

That Corporate Parenting Panel:

6.1. Note the information provided and the progress being made.

6.2. Comment on and contribute to the strategic proposals taking shape as outlined in the strategy document.

7. Introduction

7.1 Background

The local authority is required by law to produce a strategy detailing how it proposes to meet the requirement to provide sufficient accommodation for looked after children, as detailed above.

Work is on-going to develop and implement the strategy and the strategy document is attached as Appendix 1.

7.2 Strategic Proposals

Whilst the work developing the strategy is not complete, we know enough to have developed a set of proposals to improve our ability to provide sufficient local accommodation. The following lists key strategic actions identified for implementation over the next year:

7.2.1. Development of the 'Fostering Plus' scheme to recruit fee paid and therapeutically supported foster carers to care for older children and those with complex needs.

7.2.2. Review and revision of existing payment for skills scheme for in-house foster carers so that it more closely rewards carers for caring for children we most need placements for rather than skills payments being determined solely by experience and training record.

7.2.3. Review and possible revision of the remit and size of Silverwood residential home. Options to include a reduction in the home's capacity and a reduction in the maximum duration of stay from 20 to 12 weeks.

7.2.4. Engagement with the market and development of smarter commissioning to ensure independent providers make provision available in or very close to Rotherham. In particular we will explore the possibility of residential providers opening new homes for our use in or very close to Rotherham.

7.2.5. Use of innovative marketing and recruitment activity to recruit adopters for difficult to place children and on-going use of new family finding events such as consortium wide Adoption Activity Days.

7.2.6. Establishment of Fostering to Adopt scheme to enable some children to be placed with prospective adoptive families before a court has granted a Placement Order, thereby meaning they will begin living with their forever family at a younger age and begin making attachments earlier.

7.2.7. Review and potential revision of financial and practical support arrangements for Special Guardians and Residence Order holders to ensure that we are doing all that we can to promote these legal forms of permanence.

7.2.8. Deliver education and guidance to social workers about the duty to place with extended family members where possible, and explore any other potential reasons for the very low numbers of connected persons/relative foster carers in Rotherham.

8. Finance

8.1. The vast bulk of the Children's Social Care budget is spent on accommodation for looked after children. One of the aims of this strategy is to increase the extent to which we achieve value for money from our budget and to reduce the overall spend on placements.

8.2. Proposed new initiatives requiring investment will be delivered within existing resources. It is the intention that any developments will lead to reduced spending elsewhere in the placement budget and that this reduced spending will more than offset the costs of the development.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

9.1. Failure to take action to address weaknesses in our provision of sufficient local accommodation risks reputational damage to the local authority via poor inspection reports, poorer outcomes for children and young people, and increasing pressure on the budget as a result of a failure to achieve best value in placement commissioning.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

10.1. The provision of sufficient accommodation for looked after children is essential to achieve good performance against all of the key performance indicators set by Government and our plans and actions in this respect will be subject to scrutiny by Ofsted.

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ROTHERHAM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE PLACEMENT SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Overview

1.2. Sufficiency Strategy Aims

- To provide a sufficient range and number of local placements for Rotherham's looked after children that both contribute to improved outcomes and increase value for money.
- To reduce the number of children placed outside of the borough and at distance from their families and community.
- To ensure that where children are placed out of the borough, they are able to access education, health and therapeutic services to meet their needs.
- To increase the proportion of children in family placements and reduce the proportion placed in residential care.
- To increase in-house fostering provision.
- To reduce the number of children placed both in independent residential and independent foster care.
- To increase placement stability for looked after children.
- To achieve the most secure form of permanence for children without unnecessary delay in particular through Adoption, Special Guardianship and Residence Orders.
- To increase the percentage of children adopted from care and to improve the timeliness of such adoptions.

1.3. The Importance of the Sufficiency Strategy

The sufficiency strategy sets out our strategic approach to ensuring that we can provide the right kind of accommodation in the right places to meet the differing needs of all our looked after children. As such the strategy is essential for improving outcomes for looked after children.

It is a statutory requirement under Section 22G of the Children Act 1989 for local authorities to secure, so far as reasonably practical, sufficient accommodation for looked after children in their local authority area.

There are a number of 'requirements' set out in the new Ofsted inspection framework related to sufficiency of accommodation that local authorities have to meet in order to receive a judgement of at least good.

They are as follows:

- Children and young people live in live in safe, stable, and appropriate homes or families with their brothers and sisters when this is in their best interests. They do not move frequently.
- Children and young people who live away from their 'home' authority have immediate access to education and health services that meet their needs as soon as they begin to live outside of their 'home 'area'.
- The placement of children and young people into homes and families that meet their needs is effective because there is a comprehensive range and choice available.
- Family finding strategies are informed by the assessed needs of children and young people.
- Carers recruited to care for children are safe and sufficient in number to care for children and young people with a wide range of needs.
- Early planning and case management results in appropriate permanent placements, including Special Guardianship or Residence Orders.
- Children and young people are helped to develop secure primary attachments with the adults caring for them.

1.4. Summary of Goals and Recommendations

To complete once analysis is completed.

2. Contents

3. Situational Analysis

3.1. Care Population Analysis

Breakdown of Care Population by Placement Type as at January 2014.

Total Looked After Children Population = 371

Children placed for adoption = **33**

Children placed in foster care = **256**

Children placed in children's residential homes = **42**

Children placed in secure accommodation = **3**

Children sectioned in hospital on mental health grounds = **2**

Children placed with parents = **18**

Young people in independent living arrangements = **11**

Profile by Age of Total Looked After Children Population

Children aged 0 to 4 = **75**

Children aged 5 to 10 = **96**

Children aged 11 to 15 = **134**

Children aged 16 plus = **66**

Profile by Ethnicity of Total Looked After Children Population

White British = **308**

Asian Pakistani = **7**

Black African = **4**

Dual heritage white and black Caribbean = **6**

Dual heritage white and black African = **2**

Dual heritage white and Asian = **18**

Gypsy/Roma = **9**

White Irish = **2**

White other = **2**

Other/non recorded = **9**

Foster Placement Type

Children placed with local authority foster carers = 150 in total

Of those placed with LA carers:

Number placed with relative foster carers = **10**

Number placed with mainstream foster carers = **140**

Number placed geographically in borough = **125**

Number placed geographically out of borough = **15**

Profile by age of children placed with local authority foster carers

Children aged 0 to 4 = **39**

Children aged 5 to 10 = **36**

Children aged 11 to 15 = **51**

Children aged 16 plus = **14**

Profile by Ethnicity of children placed with local authority foster carers

White British = **120**

Asian Pakistani = **2**

Black African = **1**

Dual heritage white and black African = **2**

Dual heritage white and Asian = **6**

Dual heritage other = **1**

Gypsy/Roma = **1**

White Irish = **1**

White other = **1**

Other/non recorded = **4**

Children placed with independent agency foster carers = 106 in total

Of those placed with independent agency foster carers:

Number placed geographically in borough = **14**

Number placed geographically out of borough = **92**

Profile by age of children placed with independent agency foster carers

Children aged 0 to 4 = **6**

Children aged 5 to 10 = **39**

Children aged 11 to 15 = **46**

Children aged 16 plus = **15**

Profile by ethnicity of children placed with independent agency foster carers =

White British = **84**

Asian Pakistani = **3**

Dual heritage white and black Caribbean = **2**

Dual heritage white and Asian = **9**

Dual heritage white other = **1**
Gypsy/Roma = **5**
Other/non recorded = **2**

Residential Home Placements

Children placed in local authority children's homes = **15**

(All of these are homes located within borough.)

Children placed in independent sector children's homes = **27**

(All of these homes are located outside of the borough)

Profile by age of young people placed in local authority children's homes

Young people aged 10 to 11 = **2**

Young people aged 12 to 13 = **1**

Young people aged 14 to 15 = **5**

Young people aged 16 = **2**

Young people aged 17 = **5**

Profile by ethnicity of young people placed in local authority children's homes

White British = **14**

Asian Pakistani = **1**

Profile by age of young people placed in independent sector children's homes

Young people aged 10 to 11 =

Young people aged 12 to 13 =

Young people aged 14 to 15 =

Young people aged 16 =

Young people aged 17 =

Profile by ethnicity of young people placed in local authority children's homes

White British =
Black African =
Dual heritage white and black Caribbean =
Dual heritage white and black African =
Dual heritage white and Asian =
Gypsy/Roma =
White Irish =
White other =
Other/non recorded =

Adoption Placement Type

Children placed with Rotherham local authority approved adopters =
Children placed with other local authority approved adopters =
Children placed with voluntary adoption agency approved adopters =

Profile by age of all children placed for adoption

Children aged 0 to 12 months = 2
Children aged 1 = 14
Children aged 2 = 1
Children aged 3 = 1
Children aged 4 = 5
Children aged 5 = 4
Children aged 6 = 2
Children aged 7 = 1
Children aged 8 = 2
Children aged 9 = 1

Profile by ethnicity of all children placed for adoption

White British = 25
Black African = 3
Dual heritage white and black Caribbean = 2
Gypsy/Roma = 1
White other = 1
Other = 1

Profile by age of children placed with other local authority and voluntary agency approved adopters

Children aged 0 to 12 months =

Children aged 1 =

Children aged 2 =

Children aged 3 =

Children aged 4 =

Children aged 5 =

Children aged 6 =

Children aged 7 =

Children aged 8 =

Profile by ethnicity of children placed with other local authority and voluntary agency approved adopters

White British

Black African =

Dual heritage white and black Caribbean =

Dual heritage white and black African =

Dual heritage white and Asian =

Gypsy/Roma =

White Irish =

White other =

Other/non recorded =

3.2. Current Placement Supply

3.2.1. In-house Provision

Local Authority Foster Care

Total number of approved foster carers = **174**

Number of children in placement = **150**

Number of approved mainstream foster carers = **164**

Number of children in placement = **140**

Ratio of children in placement to carers = **0.85 children placed per carer**

Number of approved relative/connected person foster carers = **10**

Number of children in placement = **10**

Ratio of children in placement to carers = **1 child in placement per carer.**

Current Vacant Approved Placements in Total for Local Authority Mainstream Foster Carers = **60** full time plus **22** for respite.

Full time vacancies by age category

Vacancies for children aged 0 to 4 = **36** including **8** for sibling groups of 2

Vacancies for children aged 5 to 10 = **19** including **8** for sibling groups of 2

Vacancies for children aged 11 to 15 = **5** including **1** for a sibling group of 2

Respite vacancies = **22**

Local Authority Residential Provision

Rotherham has a total of five in-house residential homes as follows:

Silverwood – Maximum of 7 beds for the provision of emergency residential placements for mainstream/non-disabled young people aged 12 to 17. The maximum stay for young people in this home is 20 weeks.

Woodview – 6 bed home for the provision of long term accommodation for non-disabled young people aged 12 to 17.

St. Edmunds – 6 bed home for the provision of long term accommodation for young people aged 12 to 17.

Cherry Tree – 5 bed home for the provision of long term accommodation for severely learning and or physically disabled children aged 8 to 17.

Independent Sector Residential Provision

We currently have a total of 27 young people placed in independent sector children's homes, plus 3 young people placed in secure accommodation. All of these are placements outside of Rotherham and only 7 of these are placements in South Yorkshire. The rest, 23 young people, are placed at distance from Rotherham in places ranging from Southampton to Derby to Gateshead.

In addition there are 3 children sectioned in hospital in relation to their mental health needs and two children placed in residential schools.

Independent sector residential placements are commissioned by the commissioning team. Rotherham is part of a regional partnership commissioning residential placements via the White Rose contract.

Placement Costs

Unit costs per placement per week:

Overall average unit cost of a child in care in Rotherham = **£883**

National average overall unit cost of a child in care = **£838**

Local authority foster care = **£360**

National average = **£428**

Independent sector foster care = **£942**

National average = **£864**

Local authority residential care = **£2481**

National average = **£2866**

Independent sector residential care = **£3231**

National average = **£2960**

The above sets out how in Rotherham the average cost of a placement per week per child is higher than the national average by £45.

Whilst the unit costs for Rotherham's own foster care and residential placements are lower than the national average local authority unit costs, our unit costs for commissioned placements in independent sector fostering and residential are higher than the national average.

We have an overall higher unit cost for children in care because we use proportionately more independent sector placements than the national average. These placements are more expensive in almost all cases than local authority provision and in addition Rotherham pays more for independent sector placements than the average local authority does.

3.3. Current and Forecast Placement Demand

Forecasts will be made here based on historical data up to now and anything we know from our swot and pest analysis that might impact on future demand.

3.4. P.E.S.T. Analysis

This section lists political, economic, social and technological factors that may need to be accounted for in developing and delivering the strategy.

Political Factors:

- Sufficiency duty legislation
- New Ofsted framework for inspection
- View in the community and the political view amongst councillors about in-house versus external provision.
- Community view about the siting of existing and additional residential accommodation in Rotherham

Economic Factors:

- Our need as an LA to make significant savings on the cost of accommodation for looked after children and to achieve best value.

- The need to work in partnership with other local authorities in the region to achieve cost efficiencies and reduce costs on commissioning of placements.
- The reduction in the Adoption Reform Grant amount for 2014/15 compared to 2013/14. (We are currently awaiting confirmation of the amount Rotherham will receive)
- The reality that if we want to increase the number of in-house carers for older and more complex children we have to compete in the mixed economy for potential foster carers with independent fostering agencies. This means providing an attractive package of financial and practical support.

Social Factors:

- The potential impact of austerity measures on the community and care population now and in future.
- The increasing number of children and young people with increasingly complex needs requiring local authority accommodation.

Technological Factors:

- Need to make the most of technology for management information/performance and contract monitoring.
- Need to make the most of online recruitment and marketing for new foster carers and adopters.

3.5. S.W.O.T. Analysis

The section is an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of our services and any opportunities for and threats to our success in improving sufficiency.

Strengths

- High numbers of children placed for adoption including difficult to place children.
- Improving trend in timeliness for adoption.
- Recent Ofsted rating of good for the fostering service.

- Significant recruitment of new foster carers for younger children over the last two years has eradicated our need to use the independent sector for children aged under 10.
- Sufficient existing staff resources in the fostering service to deliver new initiatives to improve recruitment of carers for older children and to improve support and supervision of carers.
- Lower unit costs in local authority residential care than councils nationally.
- The existence of our own Looked After and Adopted Children Support and Therapy Team to support care and adoptive placements.

Weaknesses

- Uncompetitive financial and practical support package for foster carers means we have difficulty recruiting carers for older children and those with complex needs.
- Whilst it may appear strength that our unit costs for our own foster care are significantly lower than the national average, it is a reflection of the fact that our package for carers is uncompetitive and this in turn results in our high use of much more expensive independent sector placements, and so it is therefore a weakness.
- Our payment for skills scheme for foster carers does not reward carers for taking on the more difficult fostering roles.
- As a result of inadequate fostering resources in-house we commission too high a proportion of placements from the independent sector.
- The independent sector placements we commission, both in fostering and residential sectors, are more expensive than councils nationally are being charged for.
- In addition, the market is not working for us in terms of providing local placements. As a result far too many children are placed outside and at distance from Rotherham. As well as not being in the child's interests in most cases, these placements are much more difficult and expensive financially and in staff travelling time to support and monitor.
- Our own emergency residential children's home, Silverwood, is at maximum a seven bed home. This is large even for a long term home and it might be argued that even a five bed home for emergency placements is too large to operate successfully. This is perhaps reflected in the occupancy rates, with Silverwood only rarely over the last year having five children in placement. Under occupancy results in higher unit costs.

Opportunities

- Development of new scheme, Fostering Plus, using existing staff resources and 'pay as you go' funding from the out of authority budget that would otherwise have to be used to commission independent sector placements, to provide placements for older children and those with complex needs.
- Implementation of Fostering to Adopt scheme to increase timeliness in relation to adoption.
- Proactive re-engagement with the market to look creatively at how to provide more local independent sector placements.

Threats

- Increasing pressure on local authority budgets and reduced central government funding.
- Increasing need to provide placements for young people with very complex needs that necessarily involve high cost.

4. Sufficiency Strategy Objectives

The overriding objective of the sufficiency strategy is to develop sufficient accommodation to meet children and young people's placement needs locally whilst achieving best value in the way in which we utilise the local authority budget.

5. Strategy

In moving to a position where we provide sufficient accommodation of the right type in the right place, which will almost always be in or very close to Rotherham, and where we can provide such accommodation whilst achieving cost efficiencies on the current spend on accommodation, the following strategies will be applied:

- We will strive to ensure that we manage the demographics of the care population such that we make good early decisions to bring younger children into care rather than propping up unsustainable family arrangements. This will mean children spend less time in difficult family circumstances and when they enter care at a younger age we have a better opportunity to secure good forms of permanence for them such as adoption or special guardianship. A different approach of support to sustain family arrangements for adolescents is required so that fewer adolescents come into care.

- We will move towards changing the composition of our placement types. We need to have more children in foster placements and less in residential. We need to have many more of our children and young people placed in Rotherham than is currently the case. And we need to move towards providing many more placements through our own fostering service and less via independent fostering agencies.
- We will pro-actively engage with independent sector residential and fostering providers and develop smarter commissioning that results in significantly more independent sector placements being provided in and very close to Rotherham.
- We will strive to maintain and improve upon the very high numbers of children we secure adoption for, we will continue to speed up our processes for moving children through the adoption process and we will improve timeliness of adoption through further innovative recruitment activity for families to adopt difficult to place children.
- We will actively promote legal permanence through Special Guardianship and Residence Orders where adoption is not achievable or suitable.

6. Strategic Actions

6.1. Development of Fostering Plus scheme to recruit fee paid and therapeutically supported foster carers for older children and those with complex needs.

6.2. Review and revision of existing payment for skills scheme for in-house foster carers so that it more closely rewards carers for caring for children we most need placements for rather than skills payments being determined by experience and training record.

6.3. Review and possible revision of the remit and size of Silverwood residential home. Options to include reduction in capacity and maximum duration of stay from 20 to 12 weeks.

6.4. Engagement with the market and development of smarter commissioning to ensure independent providers make provision available in or very close to Rotherham. In particular exploring the possibility of residential providers opening new homes for our use in or very close to Rotherham.

6.5. Use of innovative marketing and recruitment activity to recruit adopters for difficult to place children and on-going use of new family finding events such as consortium wide Adoption Activity Days.

6.6. Establishment of Fostering to Adopt scheme to enable some children to be placed with prospective adoptive families before a court has granted a Placement

Order, thereby meaning they will begin living with their forever family at a younger age and begin making attachments earlier.

6.7. Review and potential revision of financial and practical support arrangements for Special Guardians and Residence Order holders to ensure that we are doing all that we can to promote these legal forms of permanence.

6.8. Deliver education and guidance to social workers about the duty to place with extended family members where possible, and explore any other potential reasons for the very low numbers of connected persons/relative foster carers in Rotherham.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. All new initiatives and strategic actions discussed above will need to be more than offset by resulting reduction of spending from other areas of the placement budget, giving that one of the key aims of the strategy is to reduce overall spend.

8. Controls and Evaluation

Paul Dempsey

Service Manager, Family Placements and Residential Services.

Briefing Note: Improving Lives Select Commission

2013/14 Quarter 2 Report: Key Performance Information

This report provides an update on the status of looked after children as at the end of September 2013. The report should be considered alongside the data tables provided.

Children Missing From Care or Home

Please note: Data only currently available to end of August 2013.

From April 2013-August 2013, 58 children went missing a total of 123 times.

15 children who were looked after at 30th September 2013 went missing a total of 38 times.

Personal Education Plans

89.0% (219/246) of LAC have an up-to-date Personal Education Plan. Of the 27 LAC without an up-to-date PEP, 10 have one that is over one year old and 17 do not have one recorded. Moving forward work is taking place to ensure that quality PEPs are in place.

Commissioned Placements

There were 115 children in a commissioned foster placement at 31st September 2013, compared to 113 at 31st March.

Care leavers in suitable accommodation

94% (27/28) of care leavers are living in suitable accommodation. The one young person 'not' in suitable accommodation is remanded in custody.

Care leavers in employment, education or training

53.6% (15/28) of care leavers are in employment, education or training. All young people have appropriate Pathway Plans in place which address EET; where not in EET, they address employability and education readiness skills. Young peoples are able to access bespoke Connexions support through the IYSS service.

The 13 who are NEET are categorised as below:

NEET Category	Number
In receipt of ESA	3
Participating in voluntary work	2
Parent	2
In custody	1
NEET	5

Youth Offending

2.8% (6/218) of LAC aged 10-17 and looked after for over a year had a Court Disposal, Reprimand or a Final Warning in April-August 2013.

Looked After Children Health Assessments

The percentage of LAC receiving relevant health assessments so far in 2013/14 is 40.5%. The percentage of LAC receiving dental assessments so far is 24.2%.

Work is ongoing between health and social care to improve the process for carrying out health and dental assessments.

Foster Carers

14 foster carers were recruited in April-August 2013, with 7 deregistered.

OFSTED Ratings for Children's Residential Establishments (as at end of September 2013)

Children's Homes	Rating
Cherry Tree	Adequate
Liberty House	Adequate
Silverwood	Good
St. Edmund's	Adequate
Wood View	Good

All children's homes have been rated as good or adequate under the new inspection regime. St. Edmund's was rated inadequate after being inspected in July 2013, but has improved to adequate in its last inspection in August 2013.

This section provides trend information for a range of indicators in Children and Young People's Services from the Safeguarding, Children and Families Service showing information for the last 4 years and the current position (Quarter 3). Where possible, it also shows comparator information

Children in Need cases (rate per 10,000)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	Q3
Rotherham	473.10	443.9	382.20	326.90	273
Yorkshire and Humber	-	348.7	351.90	355.00	-
Stat Neighbours	348.41	379.85	409.50	410.95	-
England	341.3	346.2	325.70	332.20	-

There has been a steady decline in the number of Children In Need (CIN) cases since 2010 in Rotherham, however interestingly Statistical Neighbours (SNs) have seen a steady increase, whereas nationally the rates have been relatively stable.

There is a clear link with CIN and Child Protection Plans (CPP) as the thresholds for these cases can often be very similar and impacted by the level of risk. Early Help interventions and the early help strategy should see a decline in the numbers of CIN.

Child Protection Plans (rate per 10,000)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	Q3
Rotherham	49.8	59.4	73.3	59.3	64.9
Yorkshire and Humber	-	40	42.10	46.7	-
Stat Neighbours	44.23	47.51	49.71	47.68	-
England	35.5	38.7	37.80	37.9	-

Following a steady rise in the number of CP Plans from 2010 to 2012 there was a decrease in 2013, with interestingly a corresponding increase in LAC numbers. This followed the OFSTED inspection in 2012 where we were challenged on neglect cases and when "enough is enough" for those children subject to long term neglect. Benchmarking showed a similar picture upto 2012 with SN also seeing a reduction in 2013.

Looked After Children (rate per 10,000)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	Q3
Rotherham	73.00	69.00	68.00	70.00	66.1
Yorkshire and Humber	63.00	65.00	67.00	66.00	-
Stat Neighbours	71.40	70.90	75.60	81.30	-
England	57.00	58.00	59.00	60.00	-

The numbers of LAC declined from 2010 to 2012 with an increase in 2013, with numbers slightly higher than Y&H, but lower than SNs. This also correlates with the reduction in CP Plans. In addition to this there has been an increase in the numbers of families coming into care with large sibling groups

Number of LAC adopted in Year (actuals)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	Q3
Rotherham	25	35	25	35	27
Yorkshire and Humber (total)	400	400	450	510	-
Stat Neighbours (avg)	19	20	21.5	24.5	-
England (total)	3200	3090	3470	3980	-

Number of LAC adopted in Year (actuals)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	Q3
Rotherham	25	35	25	35	27
Yorkshire and Humber (total)	400	400	450	510	-
Stat Neighbours (avg)	19	20	21.5	24.5	-
England (total)	3200	3090	3470	3980	-

Scrutiny on the number of children adopted has increased with the introduction of the national adoption scorecards. Rotherham's numbers saw a dip in 2012, with a similar increase in 2013. This can be directly attributable to the impact of the Invest to Save Bid and the success of the Adoption Reform Grant. Rotherham has focussed on those children who have been hard to place and who have been in the care arena for a number of years.

Benchmarking shows that all LA's have shown a steady increase in numbers of children adopted from care over the period. The target for 2013/14 is 36.

Percentage of LAC adopted in Year

	2010	2011	2012	2013	Q3
Rotherham	17	20	17	25	24
Yorkshire and Humber	17	15	17	19	-
Stat Neighbours	16.2	15.6	17.2	20.1	-
England	13	11	13	14	-

There has been a steady increase in the percentage of children adopted from care since 2010, this increase is in line with comparators, however Rotherham's percentage is actually better than our comparators. The adoption team has focussed on ensuring that the outcomes for children in young people who have been in care for the longest time improve.

Fostering Placements (actuals)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	Q3
Rotherham	285	265	280	285	253
Yorkshire and Humber (total)	5,020	5,220	5,540	5,400	-
Stat Neighbours (total)	2,520	2,565	2,815	2,975	-
England (total)	47,200	48,530	50,260	50,900	-

Fostering placements have been relatively stable in Rotherham, with a small reduction in 2011. This figure is a combination of Rotherham Foster Carers and those from an IFA, work is underway to ensure that we increase the number of children placed a Rotherham Foster Carer. Nationally and SN have also shown a steady increase over the years.

Being placed with a family is the better option for young people, in particular younger children in our care.

Residential Placements

	2010	2011	2012	2013	Q3
Rotherham	86	97	80	85	82

No comparator information available

The number of children living in a residential placement (both within our own 5 establishments and those who are placed out of authority) has been relatively steady but saw an increase in 2011.

It is often young people with the more complex needs who are in residential placements, however work is underway to enhance our fostering provision (Fostering Plus) to try to accommodate more young people with complex needs within in-house foster carer.

Looked After Children	Number	Total	%	Prev. Period	DOT
Total Number of looked after children		388		396	
Looked after children with three or more placements (NI 62)	40	388	10.3%	9.1%	↘
Long-term looked after children in stable placements (NI63)	101	155	65.2%	62.2%	↗
LAC cases which were reviewed within required timescales (NI66)	329	331	99.4%	96.1%	↗
LAC not allocated to a key team	0	388	0.0%	0.0%	→
LAC not allocated to a qualified key worker	0	388	0.0%	0.0%	→
LAC with a care plan recorded on Swift	355	388	91.5%	94.9%	↘
Admitted to care since 1st April	77			169	
Discharged from care since 1st April	72			146	
Participated in LAC Reviews (over 4 years old)	212	233	91.0%	91.4%	↘
Complaints received from LAC				10	

Placements of mainstream LAC	Number	Total	%	Prev. Period
Rotherham fostering placements (F1,2,3)	166	388	42.8%	45.2%
Out of authority fostering placement (F4,5,6)	112	388	28.9%	24.0%
Rotherham childrens homes (H3)	21	388	5.4%	5.3%
Out of authority childrens homes (H4)	14	388	3.6%	4.0%
Other residential accommodation (H5, R1)	17	388	4.4%	2.5%
Placed with parents (P1)	15	388	3.9%	4.8%
Independent living (P2)	7	388	1.8%	2.5%
Placed for adoption (A4,5,6)	25	388	6.4%	6.1%
Other	11	388	2.8%	5.6%

Commissioned Placements	Number	Prev. Period	DOT
Children in a commissioned fostering placement	115	113	↘
New fostering placements commissioned this financial year	17	52	
Commissioned fostering placements that have ceased this financial year	19	60	
Projected total cost of commissioned fostering placements so far this financial year [£]	5,095,722	5,552,812	↗
Children in a commissioned residential placement	28	25	↘
New residential placements commissioned this financial year	14	33	
Commissioned residential placements that have ceased this financial year	19	27	
Projected total cost of commissioned residential placements so far this financial year [£]	2,963,236	2,719,206	↘

Health	Number	Total	%	Prev. Period
LAC with up to date health assessments (In Yr)	134	331	40.5%	86.8%
LAC with up to date dental assessments (In Yr)	80	331	24.2%	67.4%

(Note: in year total should not be compared to end of year total)

Fostering	Number	Total	%	Prev. Period	DOT
No. of Foster carers active	110			112	↘
No. of Foster carers	167			162	↗
Foster carers recruited this financial year	14			34	
Foster carers deregistered this financial year	7			15	
No. of carers with placements over regulatory numbers	1	110	0.9%	0.9%	→

Adoptions	Number	Total	%	Prev. Period	DOT
LAC placed for adoption within 1yr of agency decision (NI 61)	10	17	58.8%	61.1%	↗
Children with SHOBPA (best interest) decision	70			77	
No. of children we are family finding for	46			55	
Children currently placed for adoption	25			22	
Children placed whose SHOBPA decision is over 12 months ago	24			15	
Children we are family finding for whose SHOBPA decision is over 12 months ago	9			14	

Education	Number	Total	%	Prev. Period	DOT
LAC with up to date personal education plan	219	246	89.0%	88.1%	↗
Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)	6	25	24.0%		

LAC missing from care	15 children	38 instances	
Children missing from home	58 children	123 instances	
LAC aged 10-17 involved with Youth Offending Services	6	218	2.8%

Children's Homes	Rating	Prev. Rating	DOT
Cherry Tree (SC037371)	Adequate	Good	↘
Liberty House (SC037521)	Adequate	Adequate	→
Silverwood (SC0369339)	Good	Good	→
St. Edmund's (SC033587)	Adequate	Good	↘
Wood View (SC375540)	Good	Good	→

Care Leavers	Number	Total	%	Prev. Period
NI 147 - Care leavers in suitable accommodation	27	28	96.4%	94.0%
NI 148 - Care leavers in employment, education or training	15	28	53.6%	60.7%

Looked After Children	Number	Total	%	Prev. Period	DOT
Total Number of looked after children		396			
Looked after children with three or more placements (NI 62)	36	396	9.1%	8.2%	
Long-term looked after children in stable placements (NI63)	92	148	62.2%	62.0%	↗
LAC cases which were reviewed within required timescales (NI66)	347	361	96.1%	95.9%	↗
LAC not allocated to a key team	0	396	0.0%	0.0%	→
LAC not allocated to a qualified key worker	0	396	0.0%	0.0%	→
LAC with a care plan recorded on Swift	376	396	94.9%	95.5%	↘
Admitted to care since 1st April	169			155	
Discharged from care since 1st April	146			128	
Participated in LAC Reviews (over 4 years old)	287	314	91.4%	91.3%	↗
Complaints received from LAC	10			10	

Placements of mainstream LAC	Number	Total	%	Prev. Period	DOT
Rotherham fostering placements	179	396	45.2%	41.7%	↗
Out of authority fostering placement	95	396	24.0%	31.3%	↘
Rotherham childrens homes	21	396	5.3%	4.8%	↗
Out of authority childrens homes	16	396	4.0%	3.8%	↗
Other out of authority residential placements	10	396	2.5%	3.8%	↘
Placed with parents	19	396	4.8%	5.1%	↘
Independent living	10	396	2.5%	1.8%	↗
Placed for adoption	24	396	6.1%	7.1%	↘
Other	22	396	5.6%	0.5%	↗

Commissioned Placements	Number	Prev. Period	DOT
Children in a commissioned fostering placement	113	127	↗
New fostering placements commissioned this financial year	52	50	
Commissioned fostering placements that have ceased this financial year	60	34	
Projected total cost of commissioned fostering placements so far this financial year [£]	5,552,812	5,586,522	↗
Children in a commissioned residential placement	25	21	↘
New residential placements commissioned this financial year	33	22	
Commissioned residential placements that have ceased this financial year	27	21	
Agreed cost of commissioned residential placements so far this financial year [£]	2,719,206	2,498,977	↘

Health	Number	Total	%	Prev. Period
LAC with up to date health assessments (In Yr)	250	288	86.8%	78.7%
LAC with up to date dental assessments (In Yr)	194	288	67.4%	53.3%

Fostering	Number	Total	%	Prev. Period	DOT
No. of Foster carers active	112			115	↘
No. of Foster carers	162			152	↗
Foster carers recruited this financial year	34			20	
Foster carers deregistered this financial year	15			11	
No. of carers with placements over regulatory numbers	1	112	0.9%	0.0%	↘

Adoptions	Number	Total	%	Prev. Period	DOT
LAC placed for adoption within 1yr of agency decision (NI 61)	22	36	61.1%	55.6%	↗
Children with SHOBPA (best interest) decision	77			79	
No. of children we are family finding for	55			46	
Children currently placed for adoption	22			29	
Children placed whose SHOBPA decision is over 12 months ago	15			15	
Children we are family finding for whose SHOBPA decision is over 12 months ago	14			18	

Education	Number	Total	%	Prev. Period	DOT
LAC with up to date personal education plan	222	252	88.1%	83.9%	↗
Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)	6	31	19.4%		

LAC missing from care	28 children	188 instances	
Children missing from home	93 children	123 instances	
LAC involved with Youth Offending Services	11	186	5.9%

Children's Homes	Rating	Prev. Rating	DOT
Cherry Tree	Good	Good	→
Liberty House	Adequate	N/A	
Silverwood	Good	Good	→
St. Edmund's	Good	Good	→
Wood View	Good	Good	→

Care Leavers	Number	Total	%	Prev. Period
NI 147 - Care leavers in suitable accommodation	27	28	94.0%	96.0%
NI 148 - Care leavers in employment, education or training	17	28	60.7%	53.3%

PLEASE NOTE - DATA CONTAINED IS UNVALIDATED AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Improving Lives Select Commission
2.	Date:	12 th March, 2014
3.	Title:	Lifestyle Survey 2013
4.	Directorate:	CYPS Performance & Quality

5. Purpose:

The report provides information on action taken as a result of 2012 Lifestyle Survey results.

The report provides the findings from 2013 Lifestyle Survey for Secondary Schools.

6. Recommendations:

Members are asked to note this report and put forward any questions about this survey and its findings

7. Background:

Lifestyle Survey is an annual survey carried out with pupils in Year 7 and Year 10 at secondary schools. This has been ongoing since 2006.

It is not compulsory for any school or pupil to participate but all are encouraged to do so.

Questions in the survey, capture young people's views on Food and drink; Health, activities and fitness; Being in school; Out of school; Young carers; Bullying and safety; Smoking, drinking and alcohol; Sexual health and their local neighbourhood.

The Lifestyle survey captures the views and perceptions from young people covering the 'Big Issues' that the Health & Well Being Board prioritised, starting well, developing well and living and working well.

In 2013 all 16 secondary schools participated in the survey, which is the first time since the survey commenced in 2006 this has been achieved.

A 55% participation rate was achieved with 3474 pupils completing the survey. (In 2012, 1434 pupils completed the survey)

Contributing to this excellent result by schools was the communication plan keeping in touch with schools during the planning and the period of time the survey was open. Also after feedback from schools the period of time the survey was open was extended to 7 weeks from 4 weeks.

8. Key Issues:

The findings from the analysis of the 2013 results have been compiled in a Borough Wide Report, and this year there were positive outcomes in areas

The positive results in the survey in particular around healthy lifestyle

- Fruit is the most popular break time snack
- An increase in % of pupils feeling they are a healthy weight
- More pupils are taking part in regular exercise

Contributing to these results has been the work carried out by the Obesity Strategy Group. In the past 4 years 1,721 children have accessed tiered weight management services provided by MoreLife Clubs (DC Leisure), RIO (Rotherham Institute for Obesity and Residential Camps which on average have had an 87% success rate. Food and drink choices are integral part of the programmes offered

- More pupils responded that they are from a smoke free home
- More pupils responded that they had never tried smoking

Contributing to these results has been the work carried out by the Healthy Schools Team, promoting the benefits of non-smoking and confidence building with young people in schools to help them not to give in to peer pressure

Suggested areas for attention are similar to 2012

- Rotherham Town Centre and public transport were where pupils said they felt least safe
- More young people identified themselves as young carers
- Bullying rates remained same as in 2012, however the number of pupils reporting bullying has reduced
- Local shops were identified as the places where pupils purchase their cigarettes and alcohol
- Parents supplying their children with cigarettes and alcohol
- Pupils feeling good about themselves has reduced

Changes and improvements that have been made during the past 12 months to support these areas have included

- Member of Youth Cabinet are attending a Rotherham Transport user group and putting forward their ideas to make safety improvements
- Youth Cabinet have made safety around transport and in town centre one of their priorities
- Rotherham Town Centre Voice and Influence Group has been established and their first meeting was held January 2014.
- Delivered on for 27th February 2014 Youth Cabinet held their Children's Commissioner Day discussed and actions supported by members safety issues around transport and town centre and presentations given around self-harm, actions to be taken forward by health and social care
- There has been a Young Carers card developed, which will allow a register of young carers to be developed, which will allow schools to identify which young carers need support; this has been developed with support from commissioning, youth cabinet and health.
- Schools are appointing anti-bullying ambassadors
- All schools have signed up to implement a national anti-bullying charter
- Trading standards are working locally to strengthen the policy around under age purchasing of cigarettes and alcohol

- Smoke-free policy has been implemented at all schools and support is offered from members of tobacco control and strategy group to establish the policy and ensure that staff, pupils, parents and carers are aware of the policy
- E-learning package around the issues of alcohol and in particular under-age drinking has been developed and is being promoted by Health and Well-Being Board
- Healthy schools coordinators are working in schools to improve image and feelings issues

9. Resources:

The reduction in costs to produce the survey were continued from the 2012 survey. All printing costs removed, schools accepted that they would communicate lifestyle survey information with parents and school packs were sent electronically rather than printed and posted.

The main resource was staff time from Service Improvement Officer and Research Analyst

10. Sources of reference

Rotherham Secondary School Lifestyle Survey 2012
Joint Health & Well Being Strategy 2012 - 2015
Rotherham Joint Action Plan for Carers 2013-2016

11. Contact Name:

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Rotherham Secondary School
Lifestyle Survey
2013

Borough Wide Report

Contents

Section	Title	Page
1.	<u>Message from Cllr Lakin</u>	3
2.	<u>Demographic Information</u>	4
3.	<u>Food and Drink</u>	6
4.	<u>Sport and Exercise</u>	7
5.	<u>How Pupils Think and Feel</u>	8
6.	<u>In School</u>	9
7.	<u>Out of School</u>	10
8.	<u>Young Carers</u>	11
9.	<u>Bullying and Safety</u>	12
10.	<u>Smoking, Drinking and Drugs</u>	14
11.	<u>Sexual Health</u>	18
12.	<u>Your Local Neighbourhood</u>	20

Message from Cllr Lakin

Dear Head Teacher,

I am writing to personally thank you for participating in Secondary Lifestyle Survey in 2013. The 2013 survey has produced the highest participation rates of any year that the survey has run and for this I would like to praise every school for their effort in achieving this result.

Feedback from the consultation with schools, youth services, health and schools effectiveness team led to improvements being made to the survey and we would like to feel this has contributed to this increase in participation rate which this year has achieved 55%. Participation rate for 2012 was 23%.

As you know, there is a lot of interest both locally and nationally regarding seeking the views of children and young people about what matters to them and ensuring that appropriate changes are made. The 2013 survey has shown that all 16 secondary schools have participated in the survey and in total 3474 pupils have given their feedback.

The results of the survey have been analysed to produce the Rotherham wide report and the local authority and key partners will look at these results to work throughout the year to address issues raised, looking at key areas such as health, wellbeing, safety, caring and leaving school.

The information produced by the Lifestyle Survey has informed the development of the Children and Young People's Plan, Corporate Plan, Health & Well Being plan and teams such as Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Healthy Schools Team and NHS Rotherham have taken on board the results of the survey on young people perceptions and are making changes as a result of this survey.

The team working on the lifestyle survey will be contacting you soon to capture feedback about the 2013 survey and asking if any further improvements can be made. Please give them your feedback about the survey and the report you have received to ensure that continuous improvements are made for the 2014 Lifestyle Survey. I hope that you will continue to give your support to this important project.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul', with a large, sweeping initial 'P'.

Cllr Lakin, Cabinet Member Children & Young People's Services

Demographic Information

All 16 secondary schools in Rotherham participated in the 2013 Lifestyle Survey, with 3,474 pupils completing the survey out of a possible 6,384 year 7 and year 10 pupils in Rotherham (55% participation rate). This is a significant increase of 2,040 from the 2012 survey which had 1,434 responses and 8 schools took part.

A number of secondary schools experienced problems with timetabling the survey last year and fitting it in to their lesson plans which impacted greatly on their ability to complete the survey in 2012 and resulted in a lower participation rate. This has been addressed in 2013 as schools were given the survey earlier in the term and were also given longer to complete it. This has had a positive impact as the number of schools and pupils participating this year has doubled.

The table below shows the Schools that participated in the survey and the numbers of pupils that took part from each School.

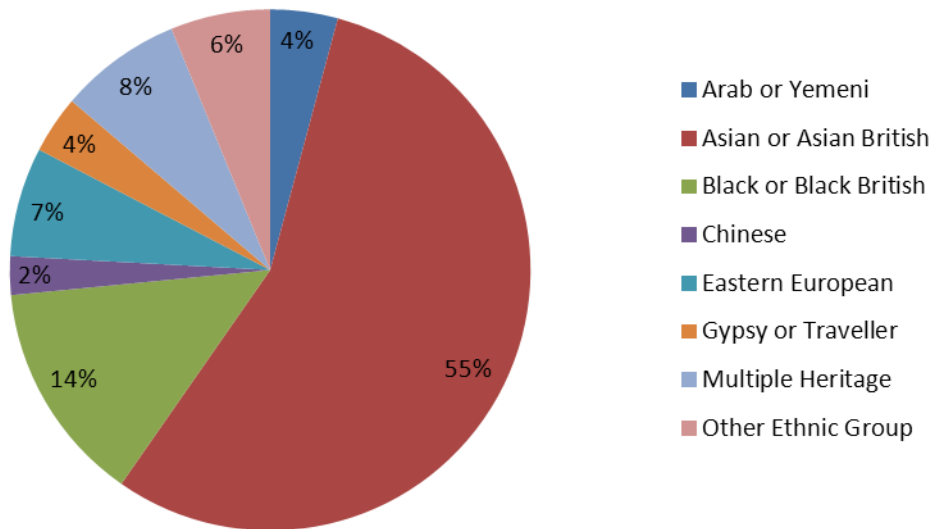
School	Total No. of Pupils Y7	Total No. of Pupils Y10	Overall Total	Total Participation Number	Overall Response Rate %
Aston	268	262	530	232	44%
Brinsworth	217	232	449	333	74%
Clifton	179	246	425	131	31%
Dinnington	200	221	421	54	13%
Maltby	151	212	363	260	72%
Oakwood	181	210	391	252	64%
Rawmarsh	149	182	331	230	69%
Saint Bernards	140	135	275	116	42%
Saint Pius	125	124	249	202	81%
Swinton	136	143	279	133	48%
Thrybergh	82	105	187	134	72%
Wales	228	251	479	158	33%
Wath	297	300	597	405	68%
Wickersley	299	306	605	384	63%
Wingfield	153	171	324	190	59%
Winterhill	233	246	479	260	54%
TOTAL	3038	3346	6384	3474	55%

This year a separate survey was produced for both year 7 and year 10 pupils. This allowed us to tailor the questions for the two year groups and ask some additional age-appropriate questions to year 10 pupils.

Of the pupils that completed the 2013 survey, 51% were female and 49% were male. 1,809 (52%) are currently in year 7 (more than three times number of year 7s that completed last year's survey) and 1,665 (48%) are in year 10 (nearly double the number from last year).

When asked about their ethnicity, 2,882 pupils described themselves as White British (83%, down from 85% in last year's survey), 501 were classed as BME (14%, up from 13% last year) and 91 preferred not to say (3%). Of the 501 BME pupils, the pie chart below shows a further breakdown of BME pupil ethnicity, with the majority classing themselves as Asian or Asian British.

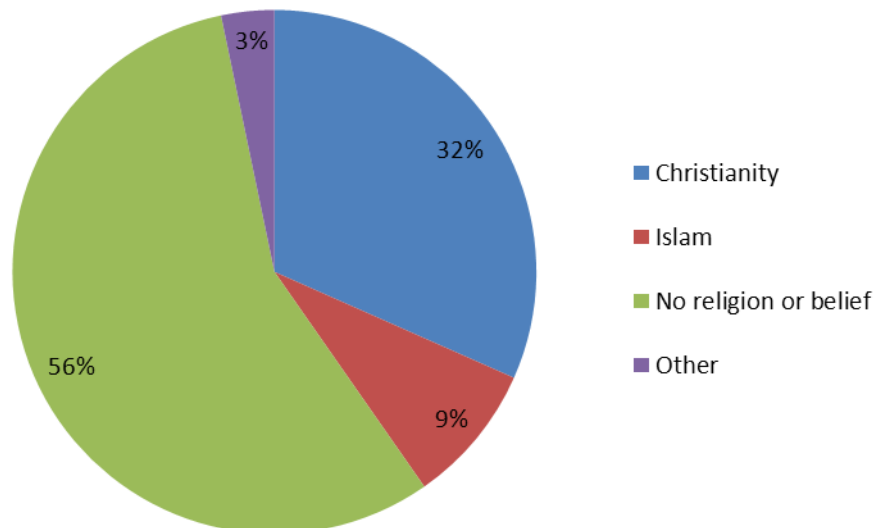
BME Pupil Ethnicity Breakdown



9% of pupils said they had a long term illness, health problem or disability (up from 8% last year). 2% of pupils were registered disabled and 6% said that they didn't know if they were registered disabled (both figures the same as last year).

A new question on religion was added this year for both year 7 and year 10 pupils. More than half of pupils said that they had no religion or beliefs (56%). The main choices are shown in the chart below.

Religion



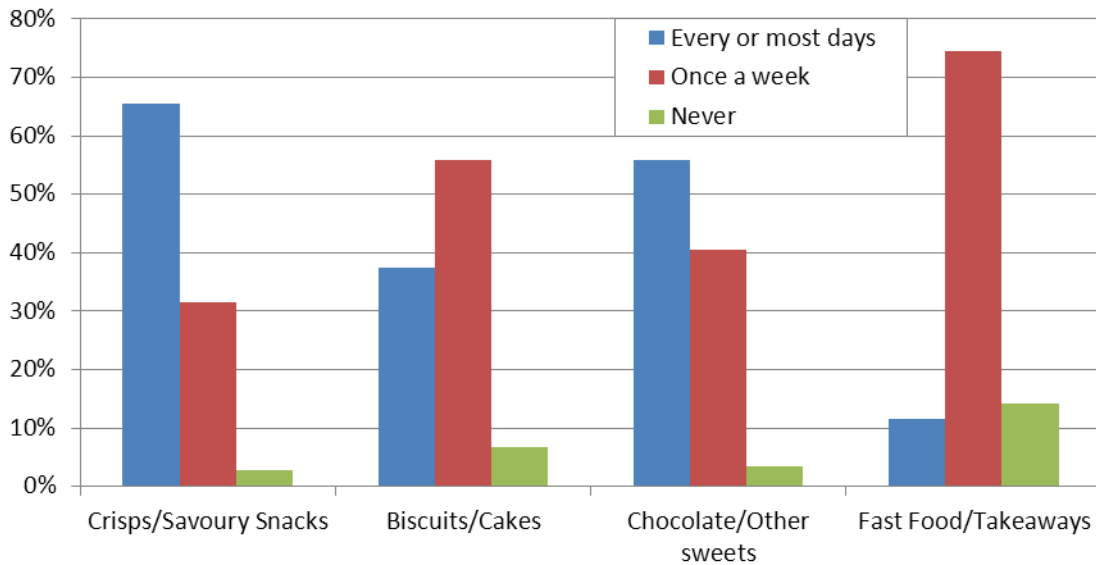
Less than 1% of pupils said that they practiced one of the following religions: Buddhism, Judaism, Humanism, Sikhism or Hinduism.

Another new question for year 10 pupils this year was around sexual orientation. 88% of pupils said that they were heterosexual, 3% said that they were bisexual and 1% said that they were lesbian or gay. 2% identified themselves as 'other' and 6% preferred not to say.

Food and Drink

43% of pupils said that they ate five portions of fruit and vegetables per day (1% higher than 2012). Looking at the age groups separately, 53% of year 7 pupils eat five portions of fruit and vegetables per day compared to only 33% of year 10. This may be due to more year 7 pupils still having food prepared for them at meal times by their parents and are also less likely to buy snacks for themselves.

When asked how often the pupils ate food that was less healthy, i.e. crisps, biscuits, cakes and takeaways the results are as follows:

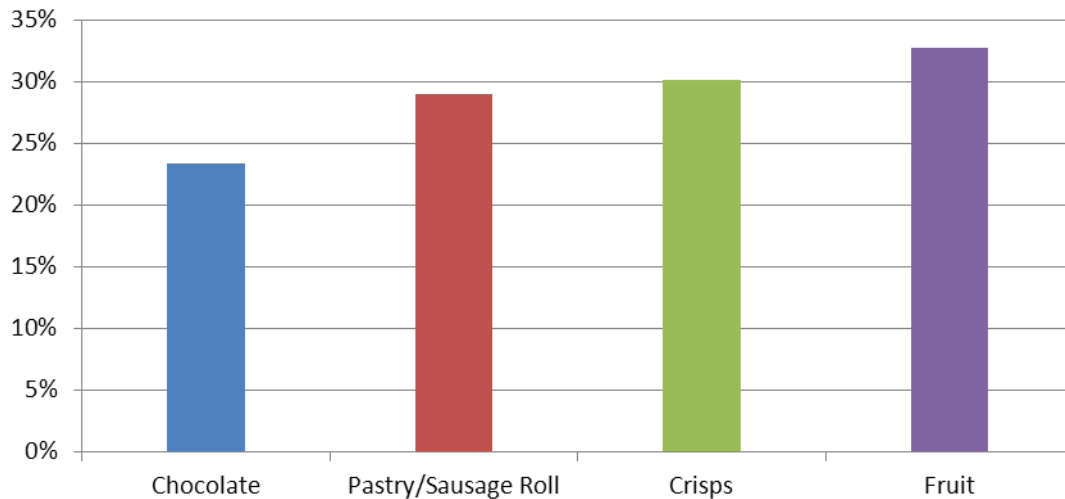


The responses show a high number of young people are eating crisps, chocolate and sweets every day or most days. There are also high numbers of young people having biscuits, cakes, fast food and takeaways once a week.

When asked about how many glasses of water they drank a day, 67% of young people questioned said that they drank 1 to 5 glasses of water (up 2% since last year), 25% said they had 6-10 glasses and 9% said that they drank no water at all (down from 11% in 2011). More year 7 pupils said that they drank 6-10 glasses than year 10 (29% compared to 21%) and more year 10 pupils said that they drank no water (11% compared to 7% of year 7 pupils).

A new question for this year's survey was whether the pupils ate breakfast or not. 71% of all pupils said that they had breakfast. Year 7 pupils are more likely to have breakfast (77% compared to 64% of year 10). Of the pupils that said they have breakfast, 79% had breakfast at home (higher than last year's figure of 67%). 4% said that they had breakfast on the way to school and a further 4% said that they ate it at school.

63% of pupils have a snack at break time (the same as 2012). This year, fruit is the most popular choice compared with crisps last year. The different types of snacks are shown in the chart below:

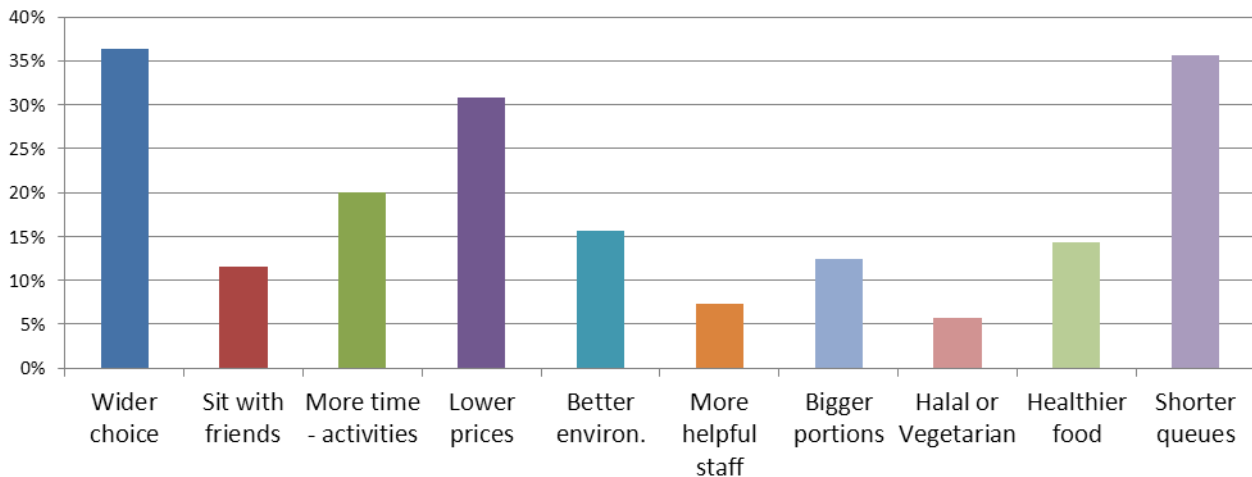


53% of pupils that had snacks brought them from home (down from 60% in 2012), 20% bought them from the school snack bar and 21% bought them from a shop on the way to school.

When asked if they had school meals, 28% said that they always have them (up from 22% last year), 42% said that they sometimes have them and 30% never have school meals. Year 7 pupils are more likely to have school meals than year 10 pupils (37% of year 7 pupils always have them compared to 18% of year 10).

When the pupils didn't have school meals, 63% said they had lunch at home (up from 56% in 2012), 17% bought lunch from the local shop (down from 23% in 2012) and 9% said that they didn't have lunch (up from 7% last year).

Pupils were then asked what would encourage them to have school meals, below are the responses.



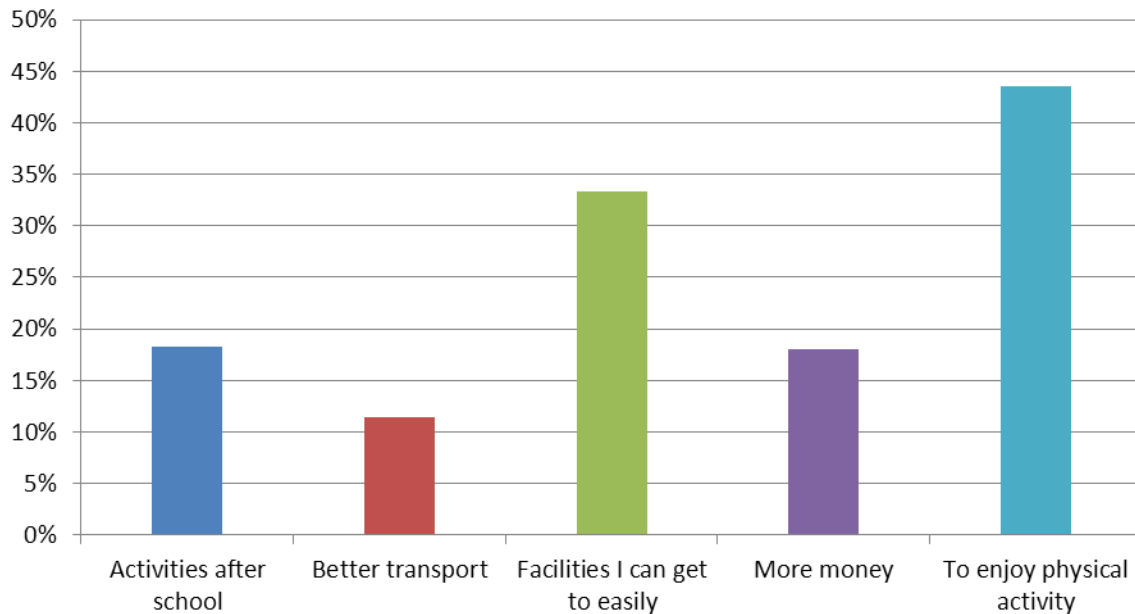
The three main things that would encourage pupils to have school meals are; wider choice, shorter queues and lower prices (same as the last three years).

Sport and Exercise

81% of pupils said that they regularly take part in sport or exercise (up from 79% in 2012). 23% of those said that they did their sport or exercise out of school, 16% did it in school and 50%

said that they did their exercise both during school time and out of school. 86% of year 7 pupils exercise regularly compared to 76% of year 10 pupils. In year 7 the same percentage of both male and female pupils take part in exercise (86%), however by year 10 the number of females taking part in exercise decreases more than males (71% compared to 82%).

Pupils were also asked what they would need to be in place in order for them to do more physical activity and increase their fitness. The responses are show in the graph below:



The majority of pupils felt that they would do more physical activity if they enjoyed it more and if they had facilities nearby that they could get to easily.

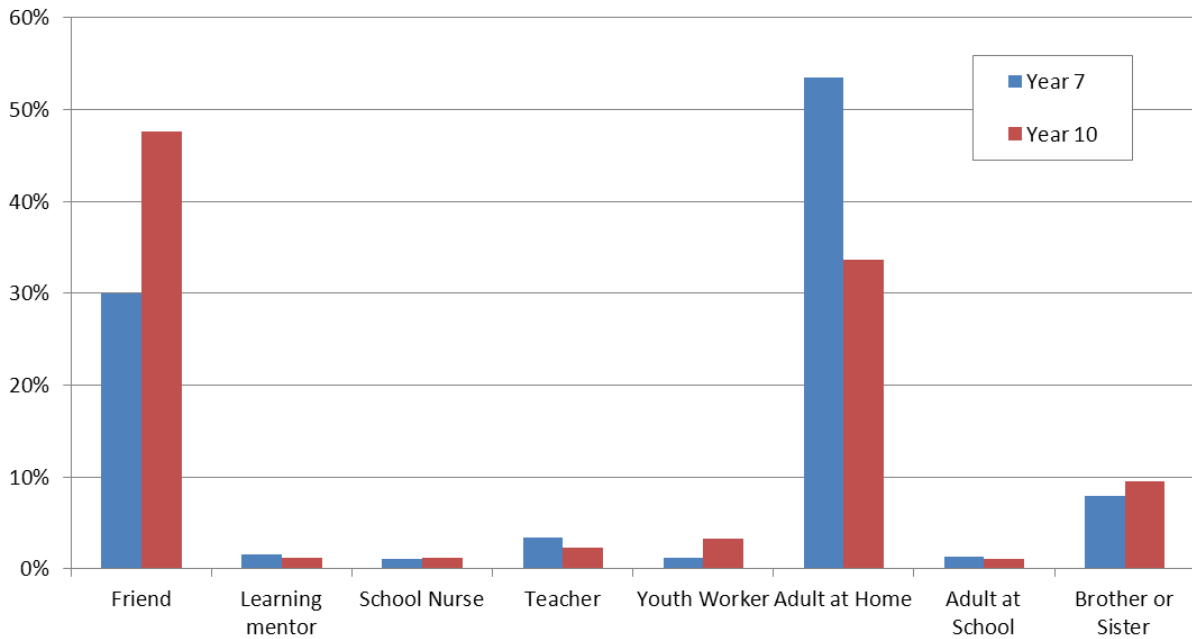
When asked about their weight, 74% felt that they were a healthy weight for their age (up from 70% last year). 16% felt that they were overweight (down from 17% last year), 2% felt that they were very overweight and 8% felt that they were underweight. More year 7 pupils thought they were a healthy weight (76% compared to 71% of year 10) and more year 10 pupils felt that they were overweight (18% compared to 14%).

29% of pupils were worried about their weight and 54% of pupils knew where to go for support or advice if they were concerned about their weight.

How Pupils Think and Feel

When asked about how they feel about their home and social life, 62% felt good about their family and home life (slightly lower than 64% in 2012) and 74% felt good about their friendships (down from 77% last year). When asked about how they feel about themselves, 37% felt good about the way they looked (down from 44% in 2012). When asked about how they felt about their schoolwork, 44% felt good about it (down from 57% last year). The responses from both year 7 and year 10 pupils for the above questions were almost identical.

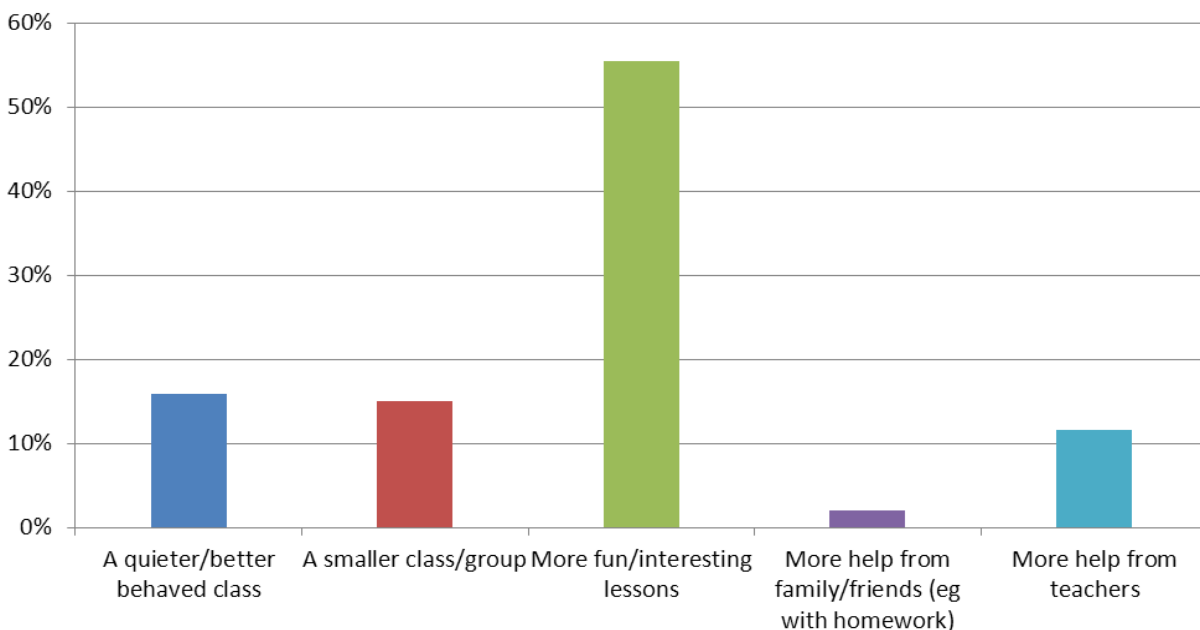
The pupils were then asked about whom they felt they would mainly discuss their problems with. The results are show in the chart below:



The majority of year 7 and year 10 pupils would speak to either an adult at home (54% year 7 and 34% year 10) or a friend (30% and 48% respectively). Around 9% of both year 7 and year 10 pupils would talk to their brother or sister about their problems. Only 3% of both year groups would mainly talk to a teacher and only 1% of pupils would approach a youth worker, learning mentor, school nurse or other adult at school about their problems. Females in both year groups are more likely to mainly speak to a friend about their problems and males in both year groups are more likely to speak to an adult at home.

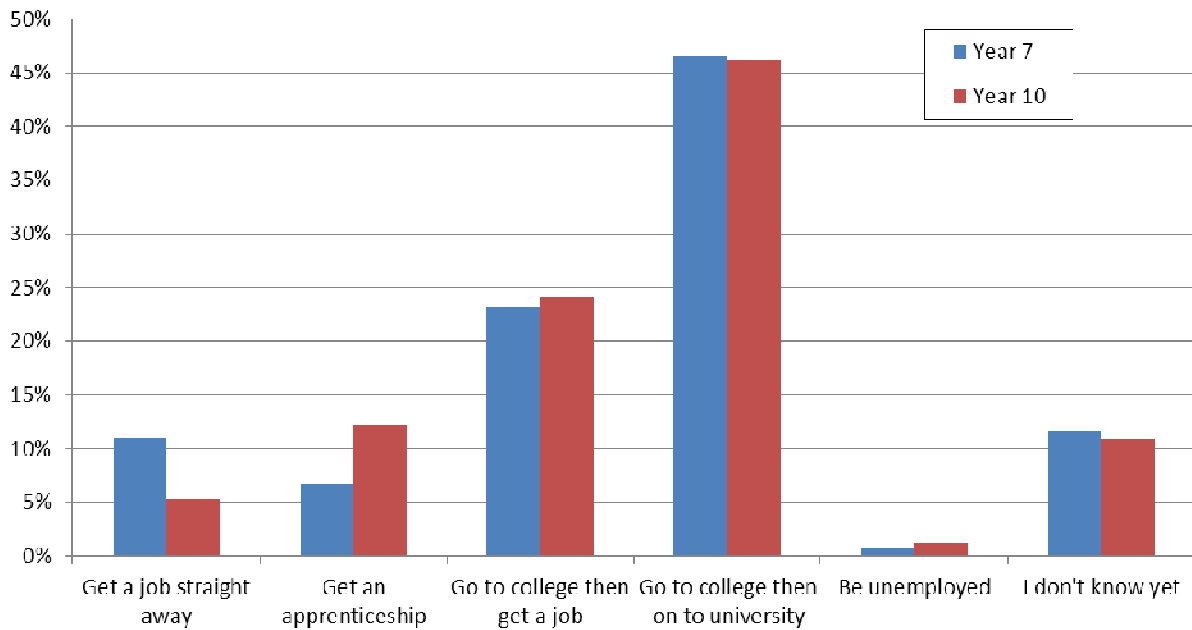
In School

Pupils were then asked what would help them to do better at school. Overwhelmingly the main thing that would help pupils to do better in school is more fun and interesting lessons, which was also the main option chosen last year.



The graph below shows the responses from pupils when they were asked what they hope to do when they leave school. 11% of year 7 and 5% of year 10 pupils said they want to leave school and get a job at 16 (this was around 9% for both year groups in 2012 and will no longer

be an option for pupils in 2014). 7% of Year 7 pupils and 12% of Year 10 pupils would like to get an apprenticeship (compared to 5% and 14% respectively last year).



Around 23% of both year 7 and year 10 pupils would like to study and then get a job at 18 (the same figure as last year's survey). 46% of both year 7 and year 10 pupils would like to study and go on to university. This is a drop of 8% since last year's survey for year 7 pupils and an increase of 4% for year 10.

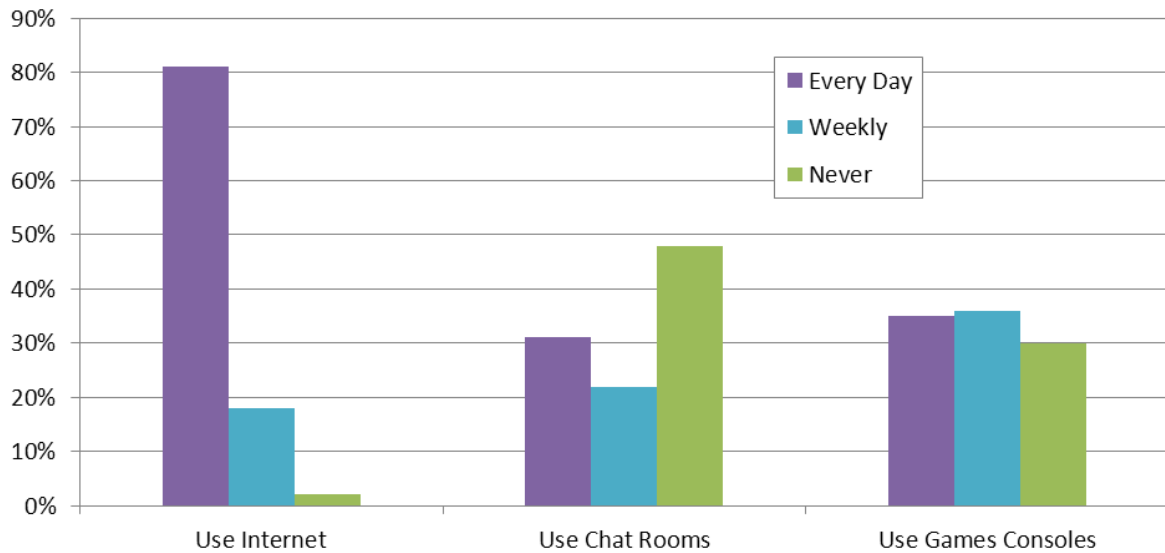
Around 1% of pupils said that they wanted to be unemployed when they leave school, which is the same as last year's figure. This shows that increasingly pupils are raising their aspirations and realising that they would prefer to get a job and earn some money, or continue in education. Around 11% of pupils said they didn't know what they wanted to do yet, which is a slight increase from last year's figure of 10%.

When asked if their school had a School Council, 83% of pupils said yes (the same as 2012) and 17% said no or that they didn't know. However, only 34% felt that their School Council made a difference (also similar to last year).

Out of School

Pupils were asked what activities they did outside of school. 19% of pupils were involved with volunteering or a community group (a decrease from 21% in 2012).

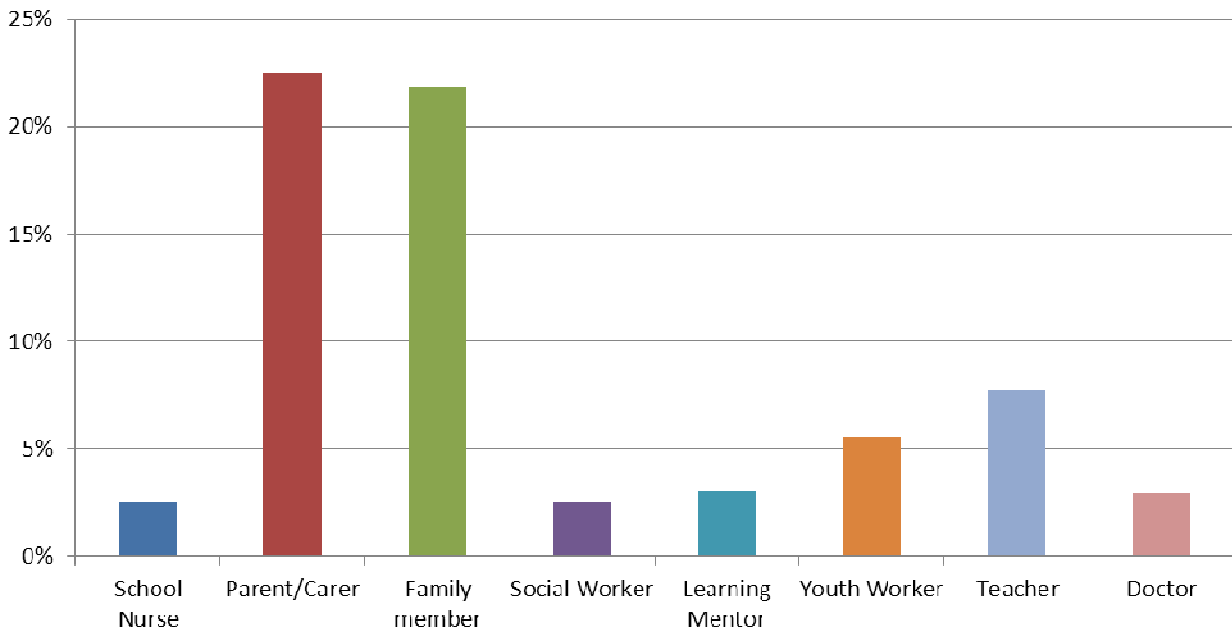
The pupils were then asked how often they used computers on a daily or weekly basis out of school:



The majority of pupils (81%) use the internet on a daily basis (up from 76% in 2012). The number of pupils using chat rooms on a daily basis is similar to last year (31%). The number of pupils using games consoles daily has increased from 30% in 2012 to 35% in 2013.

Young Carers

27% of pupils consider themselves to be young carers, this is a slight increase from last year's figure of 25%. A higher number of year 7 pupils said that they were young carers than year 10 pupils (31% compared to 23%). Of the pupils that said they were young carers, 57% are caring for their parents, 60% for their brother or sister, 41% for another family member and 22% are caring for a friend of the family. 57% of these cared for someone for 1 to 5 hours a week (up from 52% in 2012), 18% looked after someone for 6 to 10 hours, 15% looked after someone for between 11 and 50 hours (both same as last year) and 10% looked after someone for more than 51 hours a week (down from 15% last year). This demonstrates that whilst there is a higher percentage of young carers this year, the number of hours spent caring has decreased. When asked who they could talk to about being a young carer, the responses are as follows:

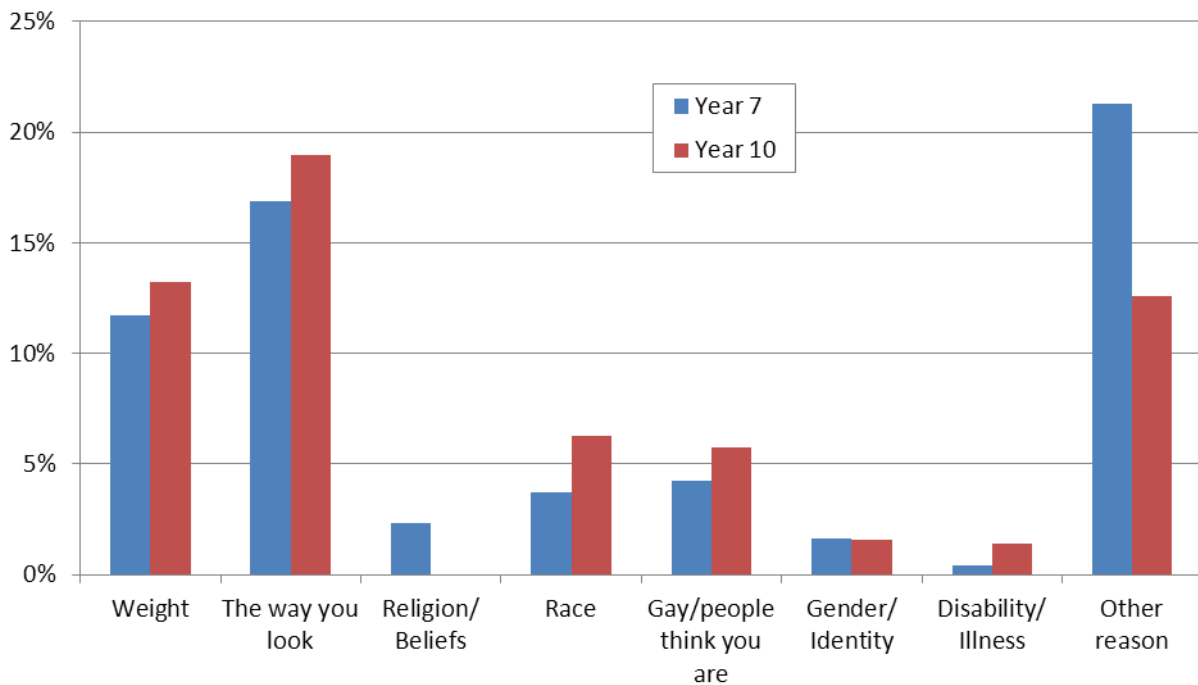


The majority of pupils would prefer to speak to either a parent or family member about being a young carer, this is the same as last year. 20% of pupils had heard about the Young Carer's Service, this is a slight decrease from 24% in 2012.

Bullying and Safety

From the 3,474 pupils questioned, 1,321 (38%) had been bullied. This is the same percentage that said that they had been bullied in the 2012 survey. A higher percentage of year 7 pupils said that they were bullied (40%) than year 10 pupils (36%).

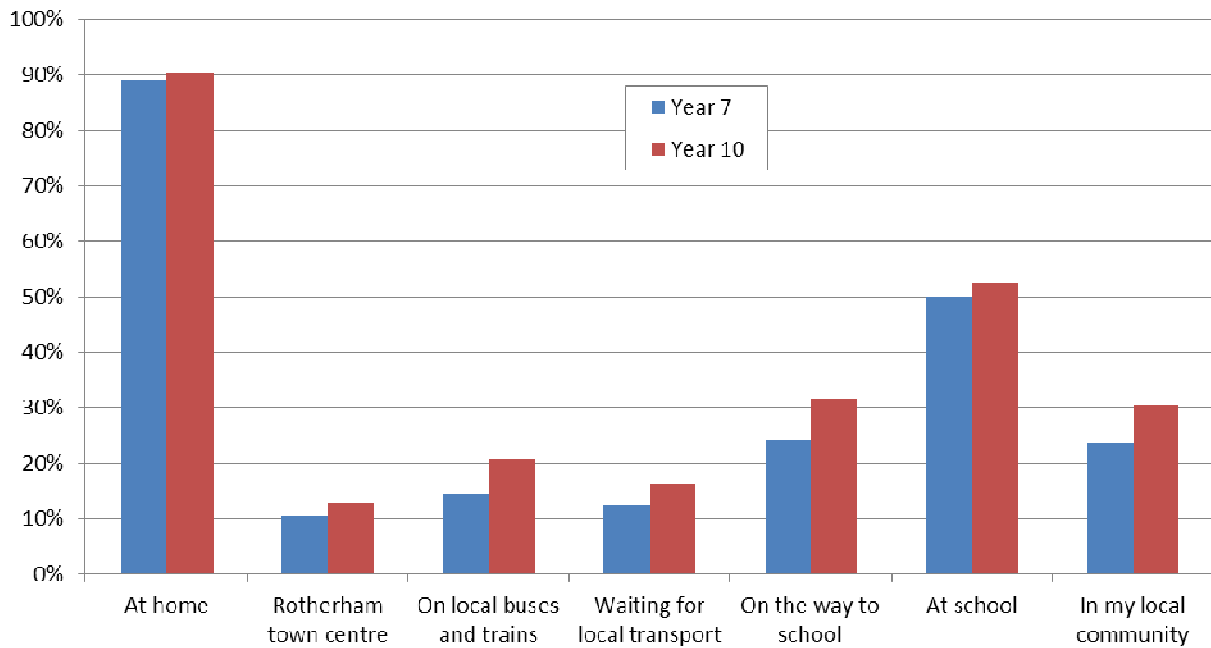
The most frequent form of bullying is verbal (90%), followed by being ignored (22%), physical bullying (21%) and cyber bullying (22%). These figures are all similar to last year's responses and virtually the same for both year 7 and year 10, except that a higher number of year 10 pupils said that they were victims of cyber bullying (29% compared to 19% of year 7). The main reasons for pupils being bullied are shown in the graph below:



The results show that the main things that people bully others about is their weight and the way they look (same as the 2012 survey). A high percentage of year 7 pupils also said that they were bullied for another reason, which could be explored further. Due to an error on the year 10 survey the new option 'bullied because of your Religion/Beliefs' was missing which meant that it could not be chosen by year 10 pupils.

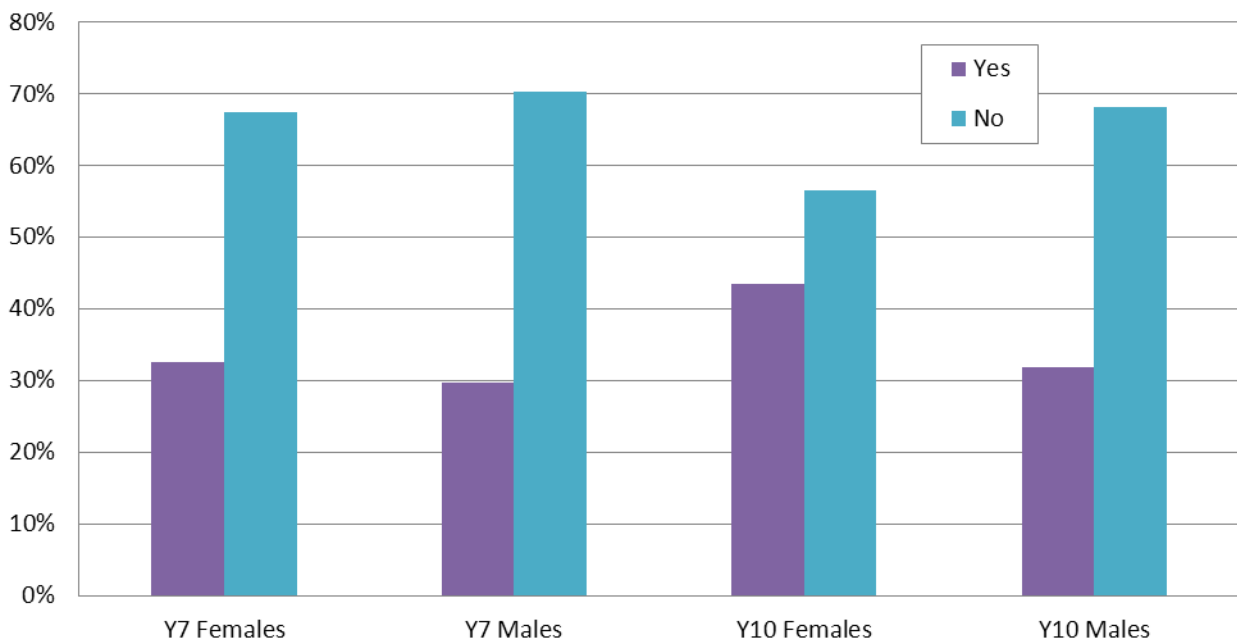
28% had reported the bullying (down from 44% last year) and 26% got help and support after reporting it (again, down from 43% last year). 43% of pupils that took part in the survey had witnessed bullying of others (similar to last year). 5% said that they had been involved in bullying someone in the last four weeks (down from 6% in last year's survey).

The pupils were then asked if they usually feel safe at the locations shown in the graph below:



The majority of pupils (90%) always felt safe at home (a slight decrease from 92% in 2012). There was a slight decrease in this year’s survey across all areas of where pupils feel safe: at school (51% compared to 56% in 2012), going to and from school (28% compared to 34%), on local buses and trains (18% compared to 21%), waiting for local transport (14% compared to 17%) and in my local community (27% compared to 29%). For each of the options the percentage of year 7 pupils that usually feel safe is lower than that of year 10 pupils which may be down to their age.

Only 12% of pupils said they usually feel safe in Rotherham town centre (which is similar to last year’s figure of 14%). An additional question was asked in this year’s survey, ‘Do you regularly go into Rotherham town centre?’. The results are shown here:



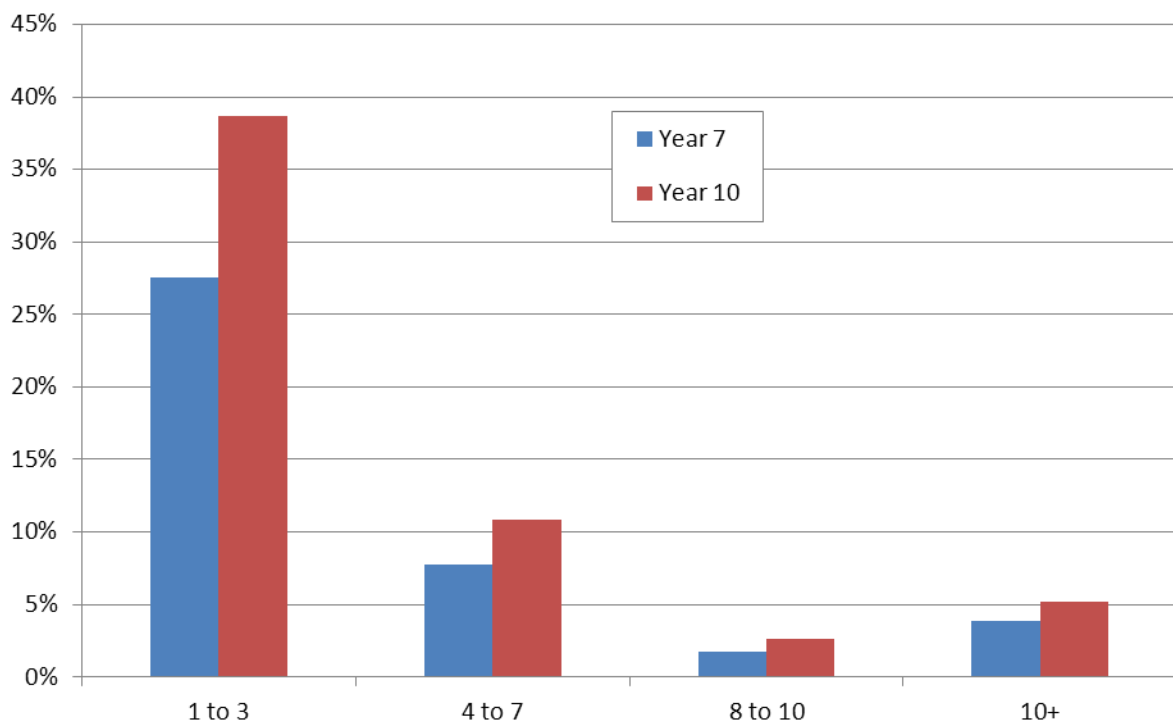
Only 34% of pupils said they visited regularly (31% of year 7 pupils and 38% of year 10). A higher percentage of females than males said they regularly went into the town centre,

especially in year 10 (44% of Y10 females compared to 32% of Y10 males). Of the pupils that went in regularly, 19% said that they feel safe there compared to 8% that didn't go regularly.

Around 5% of females in both year 7 and year 10 that regularly went into the town centre said that they felt safe there compared to 3% that didn't visit regularly. Males in both year groups generally felt safer in the town centre than females. A higher percentage of males in year 10 also said they felt safe compared to males in year 7 (10% compared to 7% respectively that regularly went into the town centre and 8% compared to 7% respectively for those that didn't visit regularly).

Smoking, Drinking and Drugs

Pupils were asked about their consumption of high energy caffeinated drinks such as Red Bull and Monster. 59% of pupils said they regularly drank high energy drinks, up from 51% last year. Of these 37% were year 7 pupils and 45% were year 10 pupils (compared to 46% and 54% respectively in 2012). The number of drinks consumed per week are shown below:

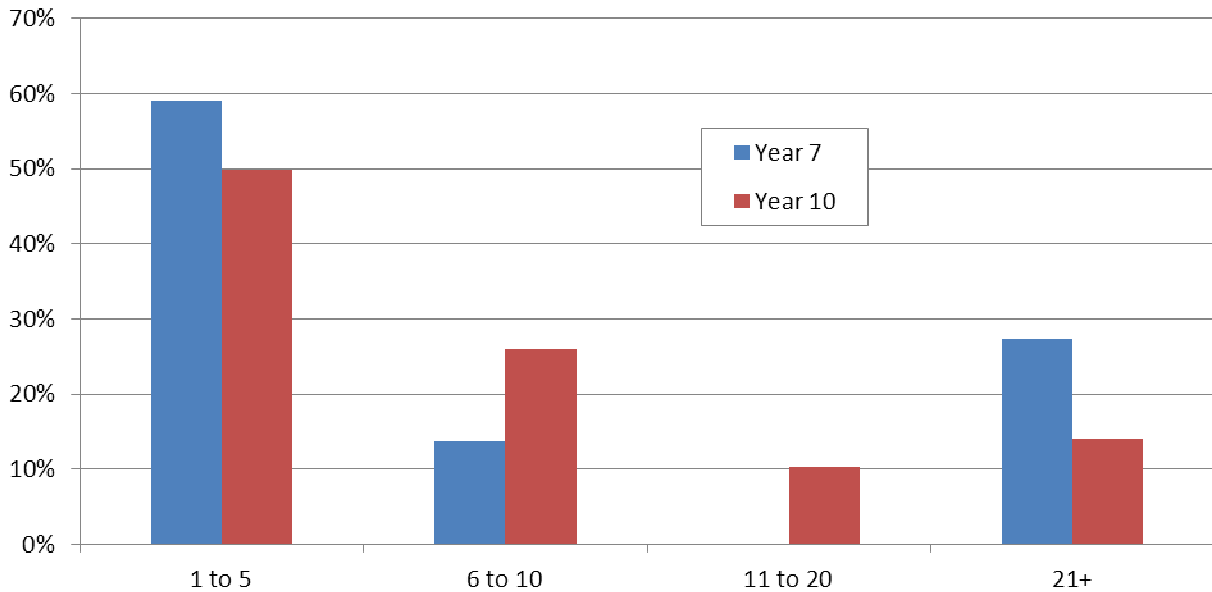


The majority of students that drink high energy drinks only have 1 to 3 drinks per week (similar to last year). However, around 10% of pupils in both year 7 and year 10 have these drinks every day and some pupils seem to be having more than one high energy drink every day.

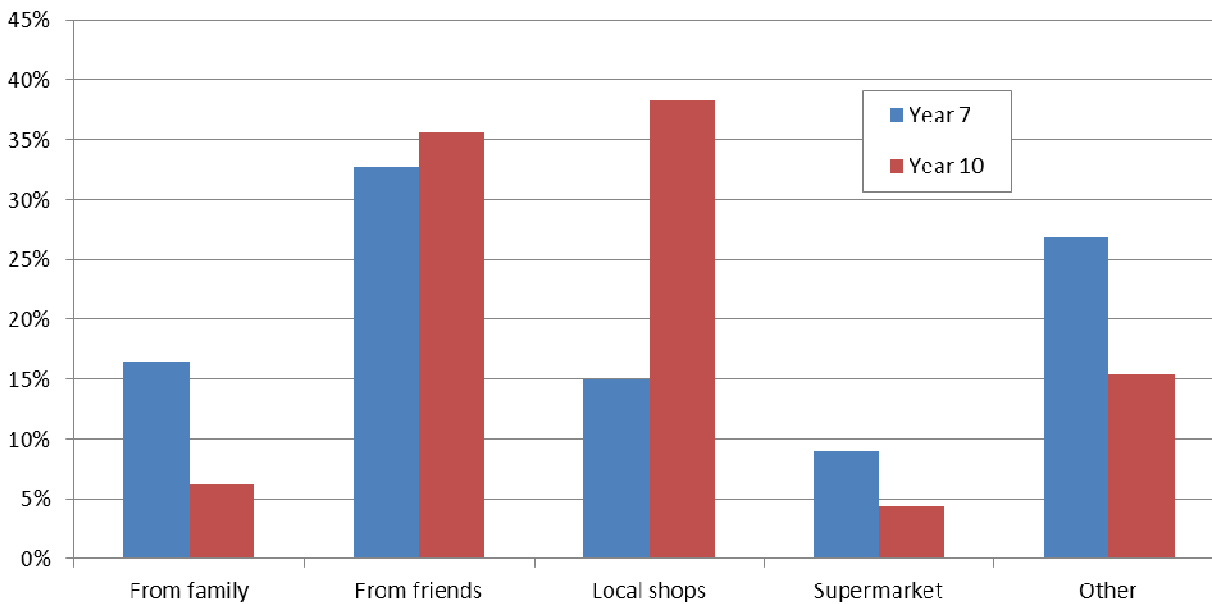
Smoking

When asked about smoking, 66% of pupils said that their home was smoke-free (64% in 2012). When asked if they smoked cigarettes, 94% of Year 7 and 64% of Year 10 pupils have never tried cigarettes (92% of Year 7 and 58% of Year 10 pupils in 2012 which shows a higher percentage of pupils have never tried cigarettes in this year's survey). 4% of Year 7 pupils had tried smoking once and not done it again, compared with 18% of Year 10 pupils (similar to last year). Currently, only 1% of year 7 pupils smoke regularly compared with 9% of year 10 (these figures have fallen for both year groups since last year's survey, 2% and 14% respectively).

Of the pupils that smoke regularly, the number of cigarettes they smoke a day is shown in the chart below. The majority of year 7 and year 10 pupils that smoke cigarettes have 1 to 5 a day, although a high percentage of year 10 pupils also smoke between 6 and 10 a day. The number of pupils smoking more than 21 cigarettes a day is higher than those smoking between 11 and 20 a day, suggesting that this may have been slightly exaggerated by some pupils.



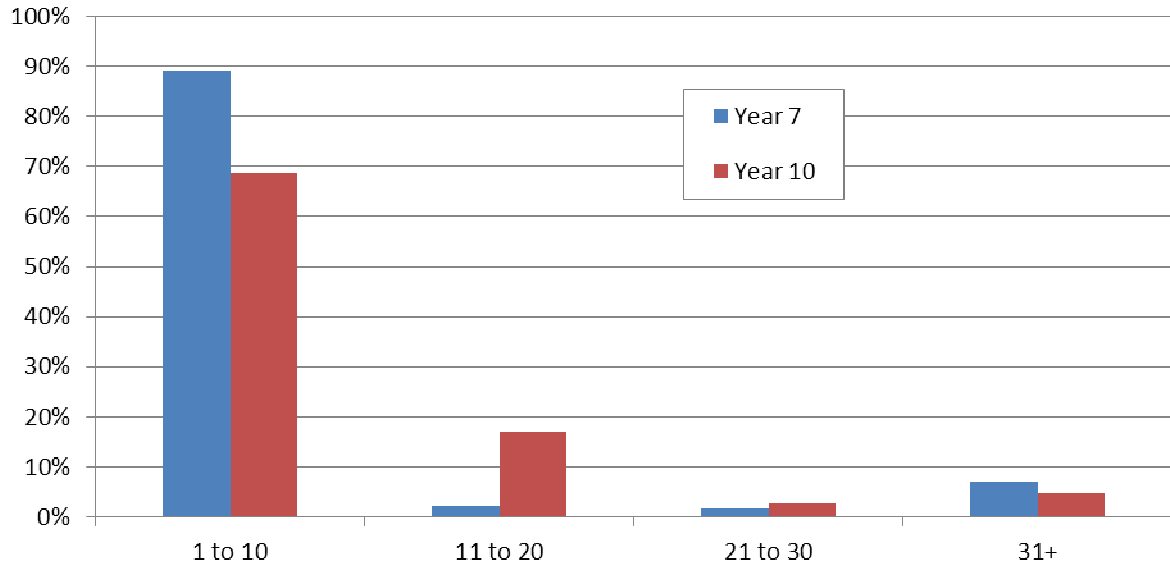
The pupils were then asked where they mainly got their cigarettes from. The results are shown in the chart below:



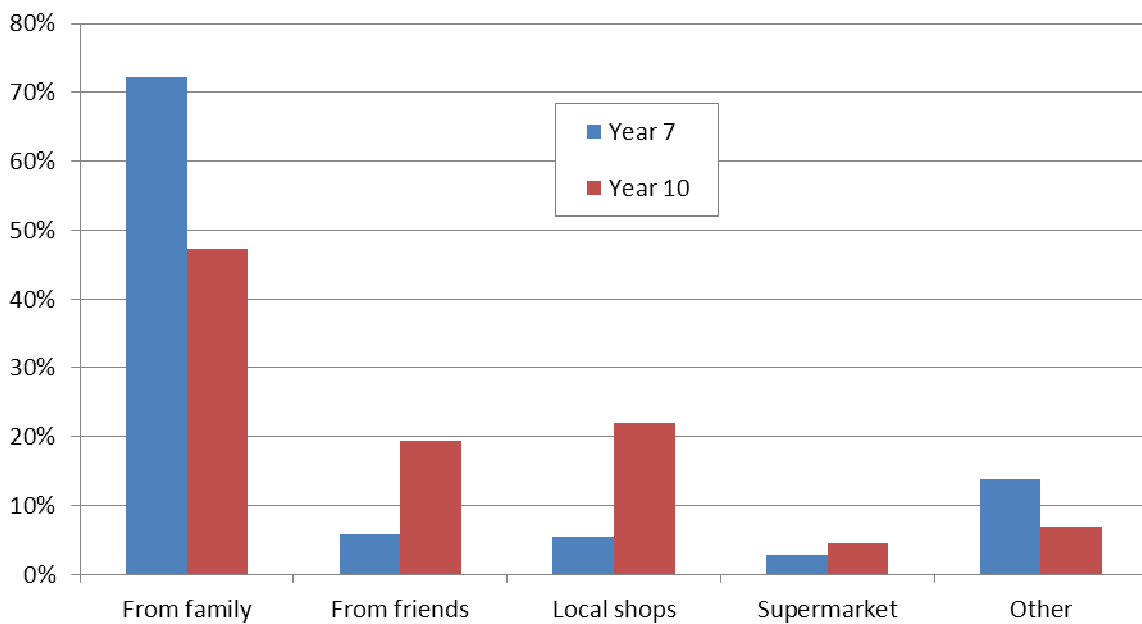
Year 7 and year 10 pupils that smoke are more likely to get their cigarettes from their friends, however a large number of year 10 pupils also get their cigarettes from the local shops which raises issues around the selling of cigarettes to underage young people. This seems to be less of an issue now with supermarkets. It is interesting to note that a significant number of smokers get their cigarettes from other sources, which may include informal contacts or 'tab houses' who supply cigarettes. Of those that smoke, the majority (75%) would like help to stop smoking.

Alcohol

The pupils were asked if they have ever drunk alcohol and if so, how often. 59% of year 7 pupils had never tried alcohol (63% in 2012) compared with 23% of year 10 (20% in 2012). 31% of year 7 and 17% of year 10 pupils had tried it once (both slightly higher than last year). 5% of year 7 pupils drink alcohol regularly compared with 11% of year 10 pupils. In last year's survey 2% of year 7 and 12% of year 10 pupils drank regularly. 6% of year 7 and 50% of year 10 pupils classed their drinking as 'social/infrequent' compared to 9% and 53% respectively last year. Of the pupils that drink alcohol on a regular basis, the following chart shows the number of units they usually drink per week:

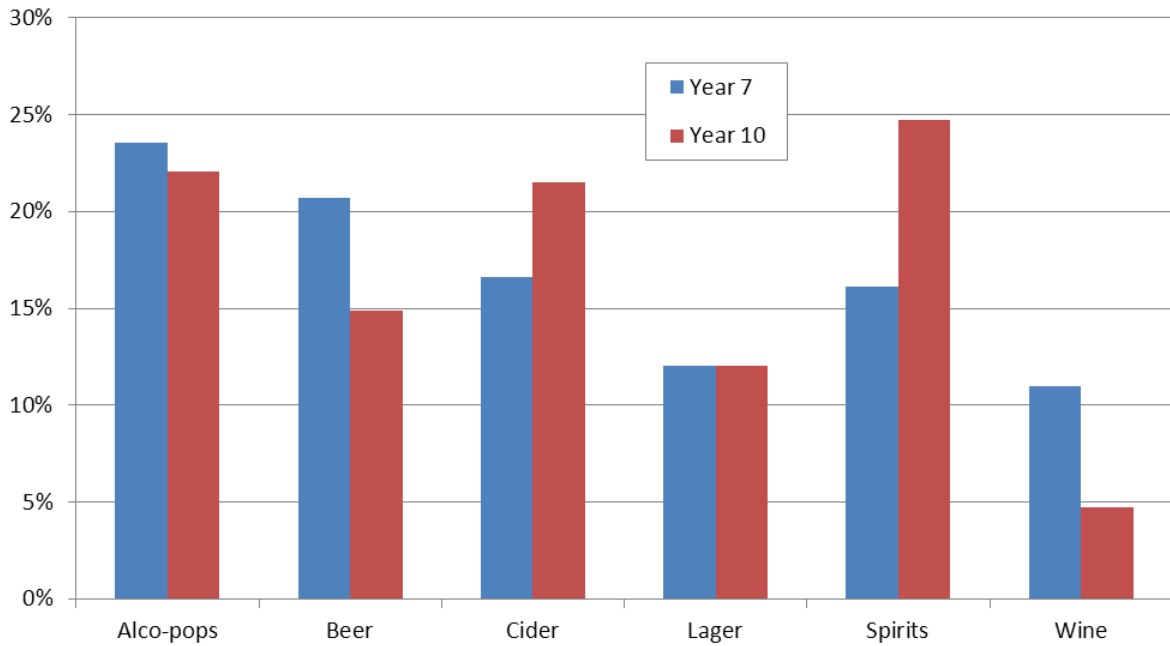


This shows that the majority of pupils from both year groups drink between 1 and 10 units a week (similar to last year) and 17% of year 10 drink slightly more (between 11 and 20 units a week). The number of pupils drinking over 31 units a week is higher than those drinking between 21 and 30 units and may be slightly exaggerated by some pupils. The pupils were then asked where they got their alcohol from. The results are as follows:



As in 2012, the majority of both year 7 and 10 pupils get their alcohol from family members, followed by friends and local shops (which again raises the issue of selling alcohol to underage young people). There are lower numbers buying their alcohol from supermarkets which

suggests that supermarkets are stricter on asking for ID and enforcing the law on underage drinking. The pupils were also asked which alcoholic drinks they would mainly drink. The results are shown below:

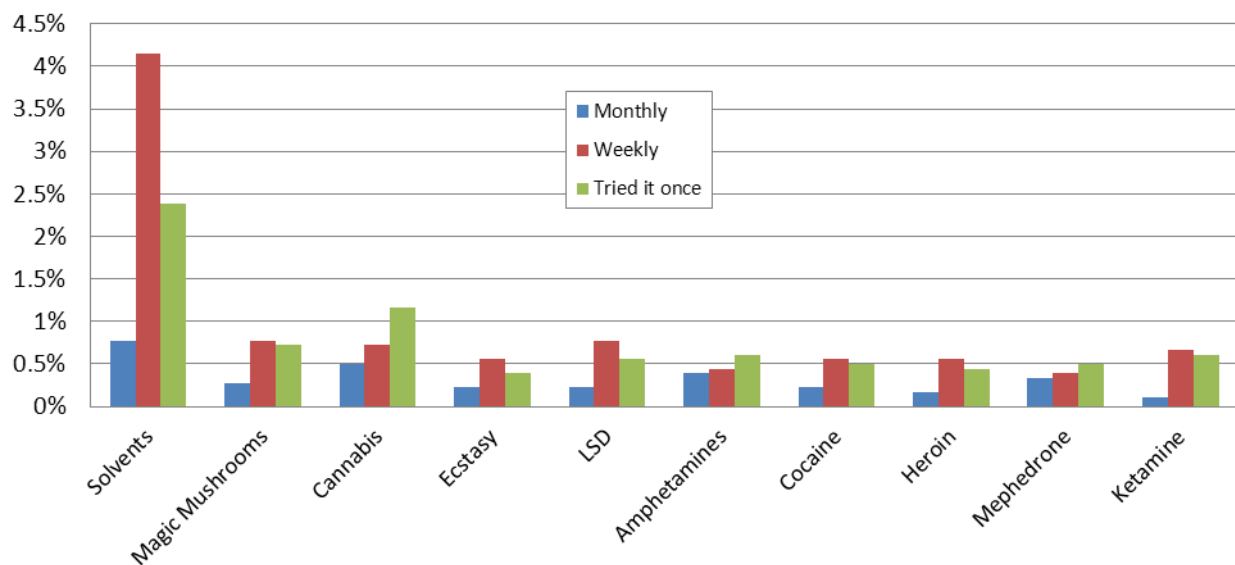


The three most popular drinks for year 7 pupils are Alco Pops, Beer and Cider (same as the previous two years). For year 10 the most popular are Cider, Spirits and Alco Pops (also the same as 2011 and 2012). Of the pupils that drink regularly, 12% of year 7 and 5% of year 10 pupils would like help to stop drinking.

Drugs

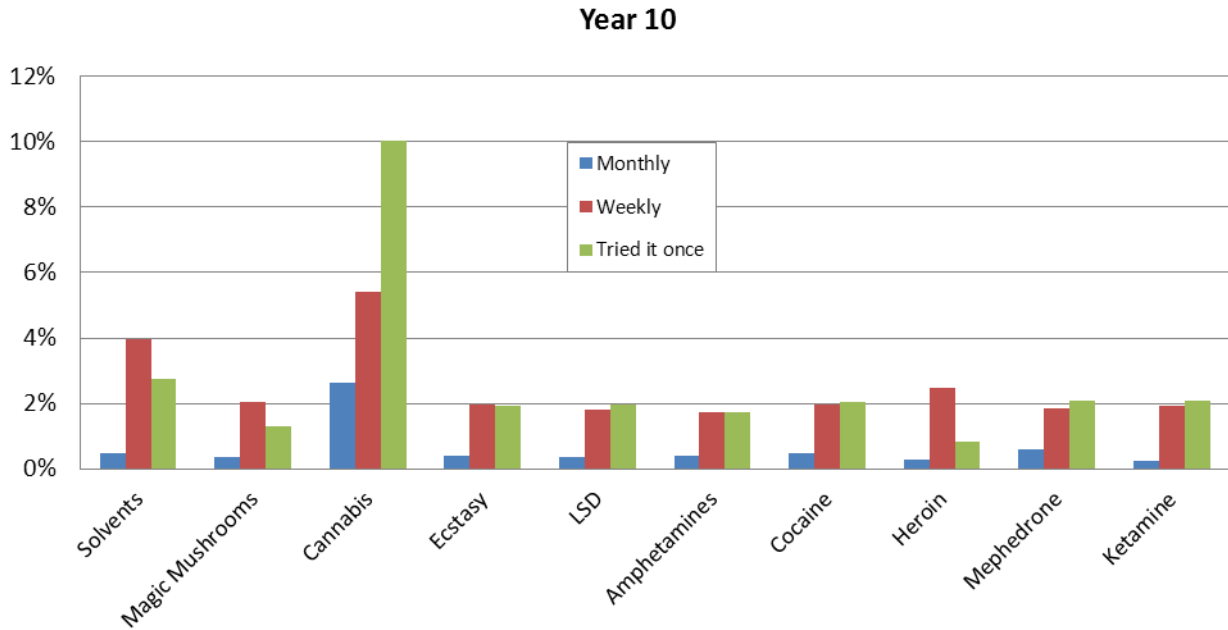
The pupils were asked if and how often they had taken various types of drugs. The results are shown below and are split into separate graphs for year 7 and year 10 responses:

Year 7



According to the year 7 responses, solvents are the most popular drug (as in 2011 and 2012) with just over 2% of pupils having tried solvents once and 4% of pupils using solvents every

week (same as the 2012 survey). 11 year 7 pupils (0.6%) claimed to use all the drugs every week which are likely to be questionable responses.



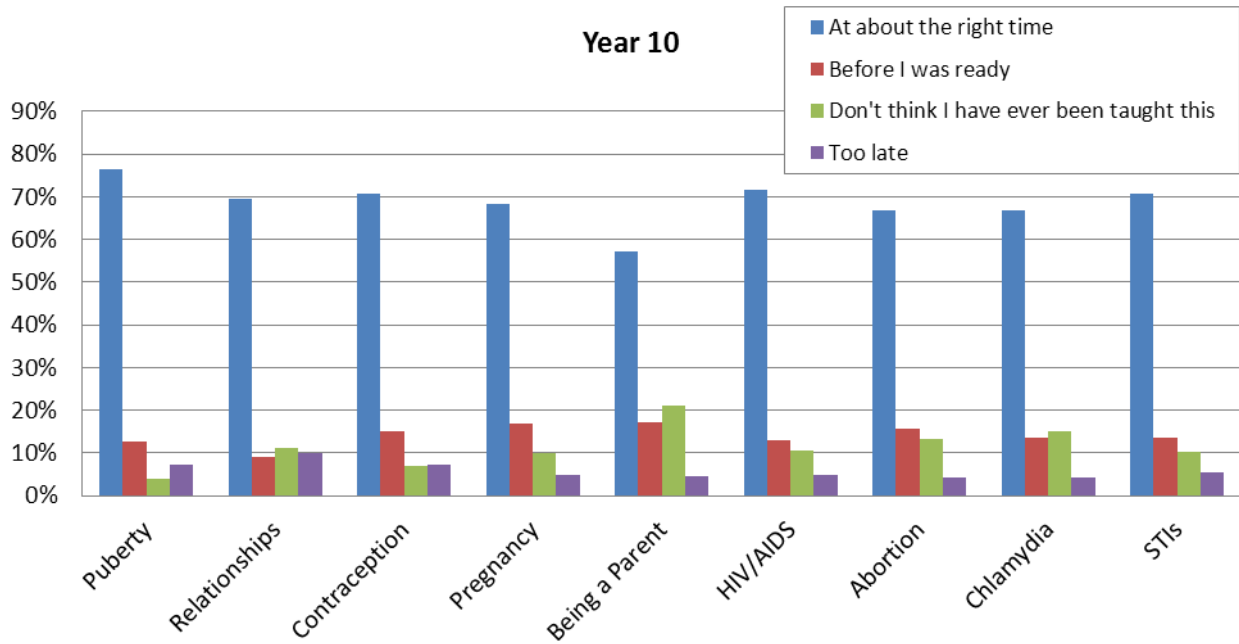
From the year 10 responses, it seems that cannabis is the most popular drug (as in 2011 and 2012), with 10% of pupils saying that they have tried it once (13% of pupils in 2012) and 5% of pupils saying that they use it every week (8% pupils in 2012). This shows that fewer year 10 pupils are using cannabis regularly or trying it at all. 21 pupils (1%) said that they take all the drugs every week which again are most likely questionable responses.

8% of Year 7 pupils said that they would like help to stop taking drugs whereas only 4% of Year 10 pupils said that they would like help to stop (both figures lower than the 2012 survey).

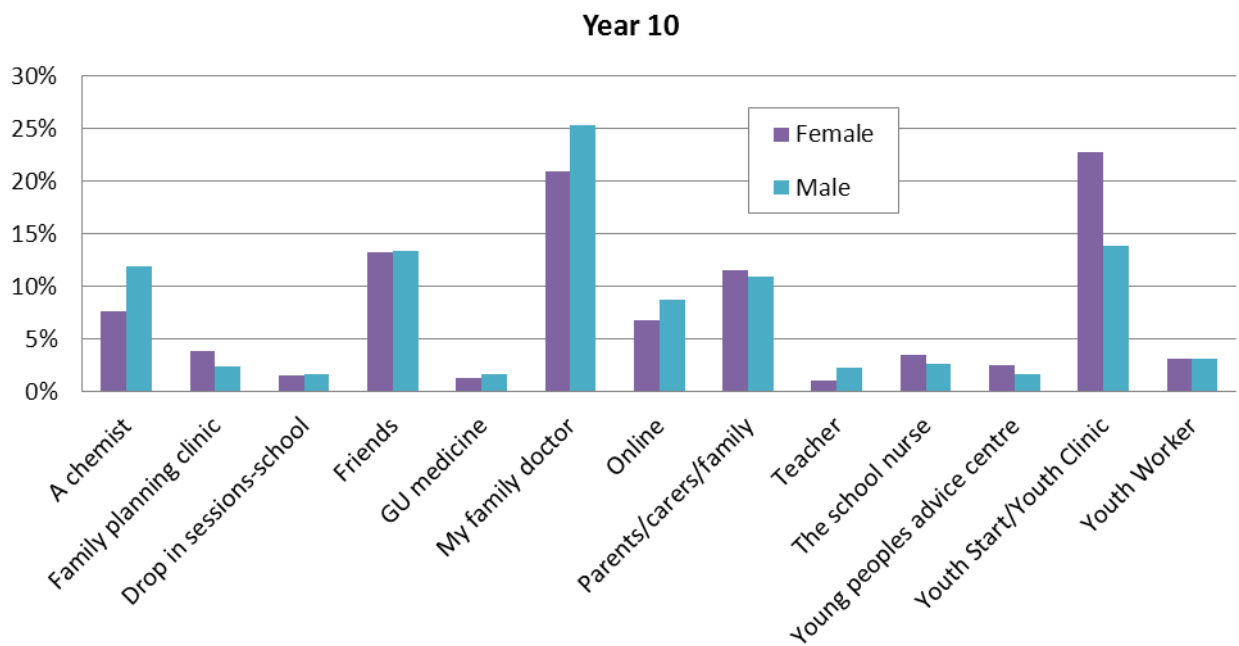
Sexual Health

In this section the pupils were asked about sexual health lessons in school. The survey looked at various individual sexual health topics and asked pupils if they had been taught the topics and if they felt they had been taught them at the right time.

For year 7 pupils, the majority felt that they had been taught about both puberty (68%) and relationships (59%) at the right time. Around 18% of Year 7 pupils felt that they were taught about both these topics before they were ready (10% last year). 8% felt that they had not been taught about puberty yet and 21% felt that they had not covered relationships yet. Around 5% felt that they had been taught about the topics too late. The year 10 questions went into more detail and are shown below:



Around 69% of year 10 pupils felt that they had been taught about all sexual health topics at the right time (67% in 2012). Around 14% of year 10 pupils felt that they had been taught about all sexual health topics before they were ready (16% last year). Only a few felt that they hadn't been taught about the topics or that they had been taught about them too late. Year 10 pupils were then asked where they would go for sexual health advice, information and services (split into male and female responses).



The most popular responses for both males and females accessing sexual health services are visiting their family doctor, visiting a Youth Start or Youth Clinic (a new option for this year's survey) or speaking to friends. Male pupils were more likely to visit their family doctor for advice and female pupils were more likely to attend a Youth Start/Youth Clinic. Both males and females were least likely to visit Genito-Urinary (GU) clinics or drop in sessions at school.

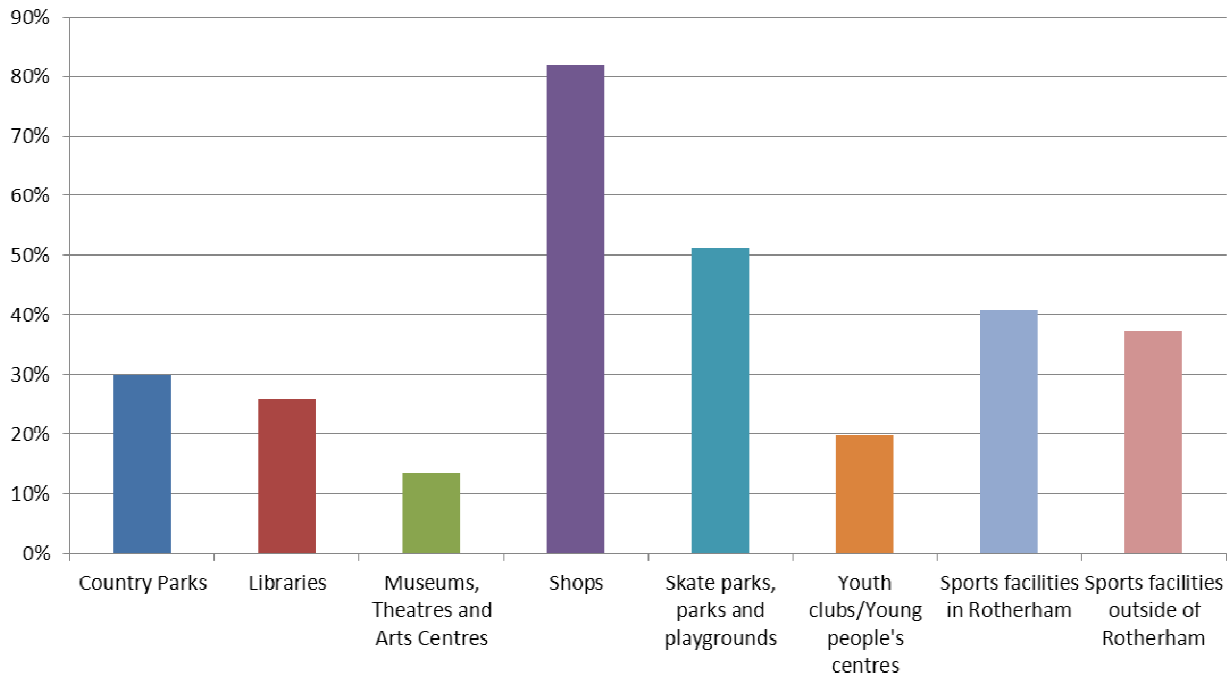
Year 10 pupils were then asked if they had heard of the following methods of contraception (the percentage of students that said yes are included). The figures for all methods are at least 3% higher than the 2012 survey, however it is worth noting that last year the figures included responses from year 7 pupils as well.

- Implant - 82%
- Pill - 92%
- Condom - 97%
- Injection - 71%

When asked if they knew who their school nurse was, 38% said yes (same as last year). More year 10 pupils knew who their school nurse was than year 7 pupils (41% compared to 35% respectively). The figures for male and female responses to this question are almost identical. 19% of pupils said that they had visited a Youth Start/Youth Clinic (another new question for this year's survey).

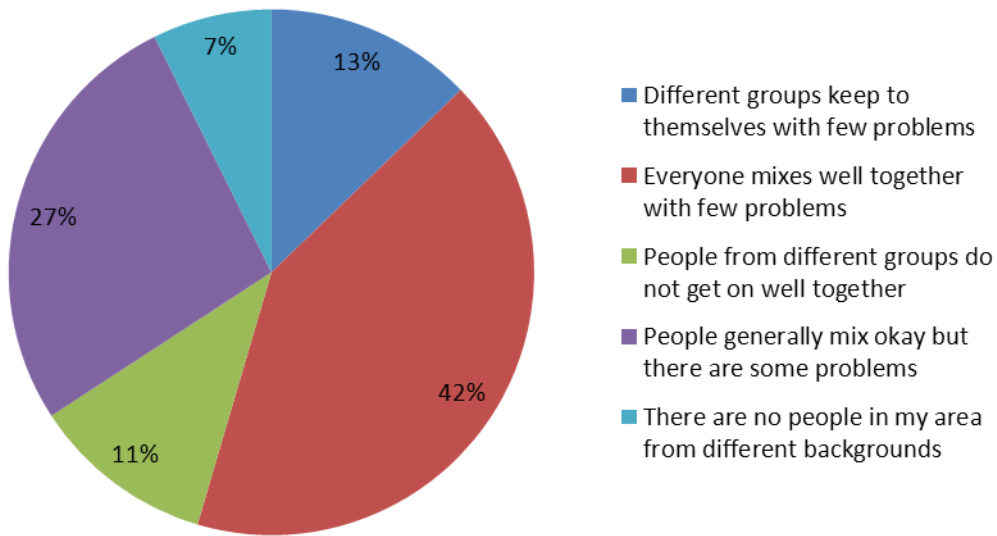
Your Local Neighbourhood

The pupils were then asked about the area where they live. They were asked if they use any of the following facilities listed below in their local area:



The facilities that pupils use the most in their local areas are shops, parks and playgrounds and sports facilities (similar to last year). The least used facilities are theatres, museums and arts centres (around 14%).

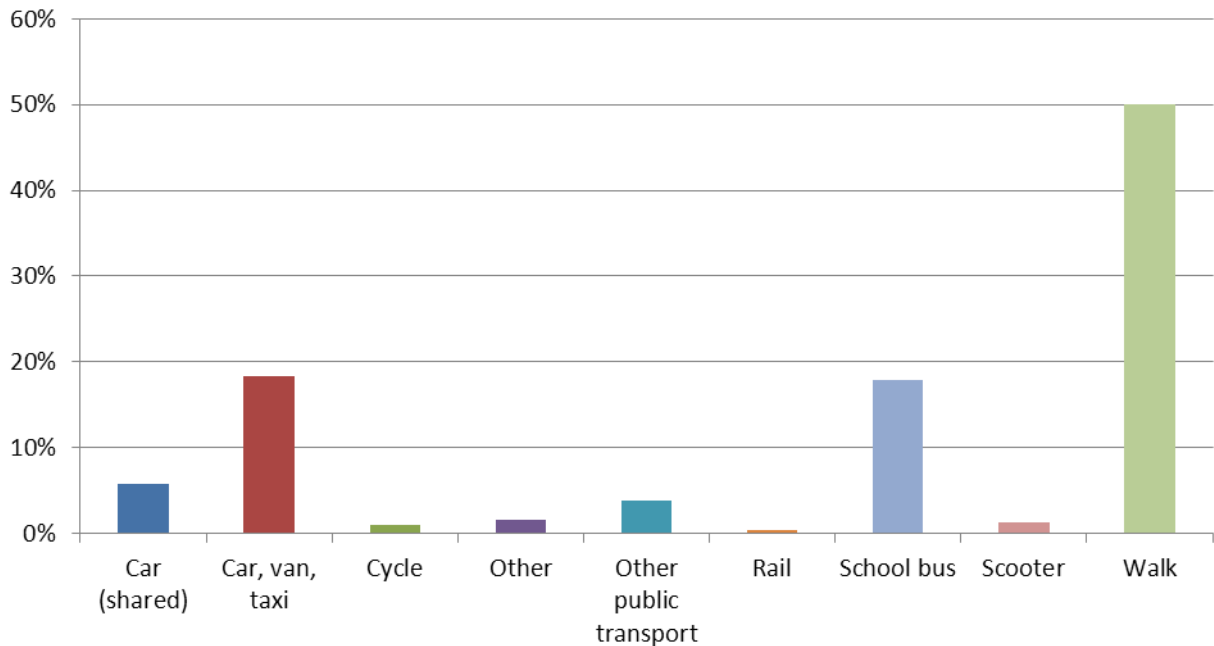
Pupils were then asked which of the following statements best described the way in which people get on with people from different backgrounds in their area. Here are the results:



The majority of pupils felt that people from different backgrounds mixed well together in their area but there were a few problems (42% compared to 38% last year).

Finally pupils were asked how they travelled to and from school. The results are as follows:

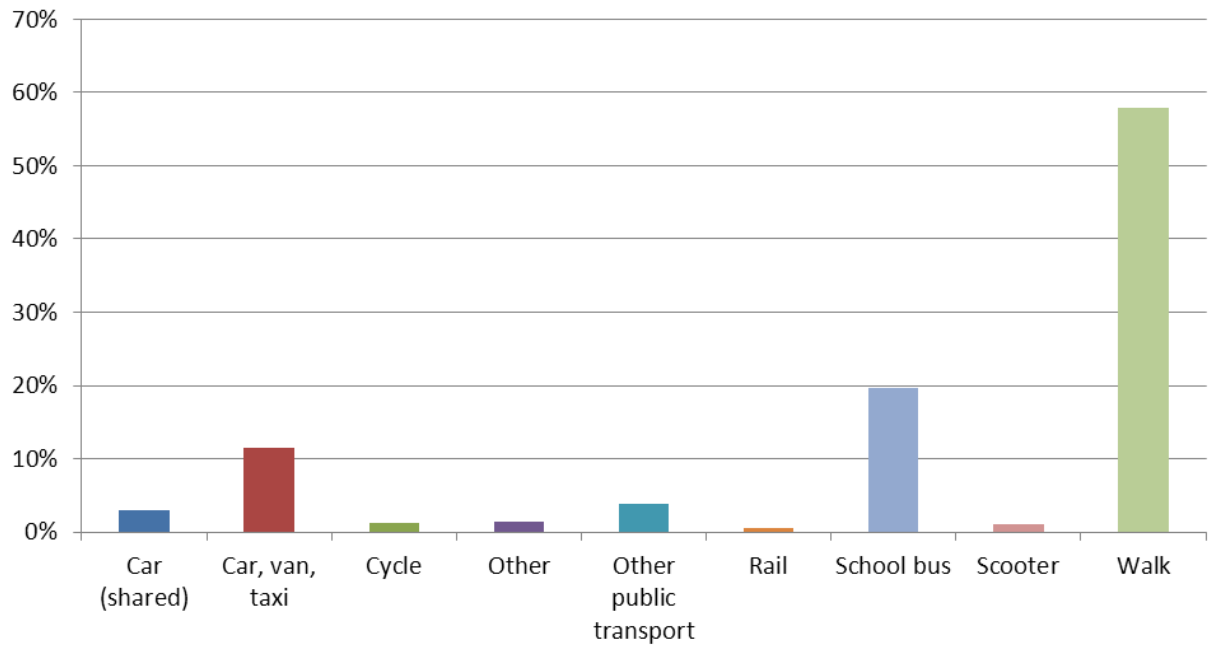
How do you usually travel to school?



Half of all pupils walk to school, this is lower than last year's figure of 65%. 18% travel by both car and school bus, compared to 15% travelling in by car and only 5% by school bus in 2012. The increase in the number of pupils that travel by school bus may reflect the greater range of schools taking part in the survey this year, especially faith schools.

The figures in the previous chart are similar to how pupils travel back home from school, although slightly more pupils walk home (58%) and slightly less travel home by car (12%).

How do you usually travel from school?



Pupils are more likely to share a car in the morning (6% as opposed to 3%). Very few pupils cycle, ride a scooter or take the train for their journeys to and from school (around 1% for each).