

## **CABINET**

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

**Date: Wednesday, 14 January 2015**

**Time: 10.30 a.m.**

## **A G E N D A**

1. To consider questions from Members of the Public.
2. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
3. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th December 2014 (copy supplied separately)
6. Minutes of a meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group held on 21st November, 2014 (herewith) (Pages 2 - 7)
  - Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services to report.
7. Calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2015/16 (report herewith) (Pages 8 - 12)
  - Strategic Director of Resources and Transformation Services to report.
8. Council Tax Support Grants to Parishes for 2015/16 (report herewith) (Pages 13 - 18)
  - Strategic Director of Resources and Transformation Services to report.
9. Housing Rent Increase 2015/16 (report herewith) (Pages 19 - 24)
  - Strategic Director of Resources and Transformation to report.
10. District Heating Scheme Charges 2015/16 (report herewith) (Pages 25 - 28)
  - Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services to report.

11. Education Lifestyle Survey Results 2014 (report herewith) (Pages 29 - 65)
  - Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services to report.
12. Scrutiny Review on Supporting the Local Economy (report herewith) (Pages 66 - 74)
  - Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services to report.
13. Scrutiny Review - Urinary Incontinence (report herewith) (Pages 75 - 82)
  - Director of Public Health to report.
14. Exclusion of the Press and Public.  
Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006), the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the any individual).
15. Rotherham Healthy Weight Framework: Competitive Tender Outcome (report herewith)\* (Pages 83 - 93)
  - Director of Public Health to report.

**In accordance with Section (7) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed that the item marked (\*) contains a decision which needs to be acted upon as a matter of urgency and which cannot be reasonably deferred (see notice attached)**

**Cabinet Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2015**

Take notice, in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, that the following reports are to be considered in the private part of the meeting without having provided the required twenty-eight days' notice:-

- **Rotherham Healthy Weight Framework: Competitive Tender Outcome**

An exemption under Paragraph 1 (information in respect of an individual) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 is requested, as this report contains commercially sensitive information.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed that this item is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.

**Jacqueline Collins**  
**Director of Legal and Democratic Services**  
**6<sup>th</sup> January, 2015**

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2015</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ROTHERHAM LOCAL PLAN MEMBERS' STEERING GROUP</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES</b>

### **5. Summary**

In accordance with Minute No. B29 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2004, minutes of the Rotherham Local Plan Members' Steering Group are submitted to the Cabinet.

A copy of the minutes of the Rotherham Local Plan Members' Steering Group held on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2014 is therefore attached.

### **6. Recommendations:-**

**That progress to date and the emerging issues be noted, and the minutes be received.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

The Council is required to review the Unitary Development Plan and to produce a Local Development Plan under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

The policy change of the coalition Government should be noted re: the Localism Act 2011 and implications for the Local Plan.

## **8. Finance**

The resource and funding implications as the Local Plan work progresses should be noted.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

- Failure to comply with the Regulations.
- Consultation and responses to consultation.
- Aspirations of the community.
- Changing Government policy and funding regimes.

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

There are local, sub-region and regional implications. The Local Development Scheme will form the spatial dimension of the Council's Community Strategy.

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

Minutes of and reports to the Rotherham Local Plan Members' Steering Group.

Attachments:-

- A copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2014.

**Contact Name : Karl Battersby, Strategic Director,  
Environment and Development Services  
ext 23815**

**[karl.battersby@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:karl.battersby@rotherham.gov.uk)**

**ROTHERHAM LOCAL PLAN STEERING GROUP**  
**Friday, 21st November, 2014**

Present:- Councillor Godfrey (in the Chair); Councillors Cowles, N. Hamilton and Sims.

**7. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2014**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group, held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2014.

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

**8. LOCAL PLAN REFRESH**

The Planning Policy Manager gave the following powerpoint presentation on the Local Plan:-

- What is the Local Plan
- Why are we doing it
- Adopted Core Strategy
- Where will growth go
- Sites and Policies
- Site Selection
- Environmental designations
- New infrastructure
- Consultation plan
- Next steps

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

- The version of the Sites and Policies document intended for submission to Government had to be published for a 6 weeks period. Any comments submitted to the Authority were collated and sent to the Government. The avenue for commenting became quite technical and legal
- Public Examination expected early 2016
- Once submitted, the timetable was set by the Planning Inspector who would decide what the main issues were that they wished to investigate and set dates for the Public Examination Hearings
- Anybody who made comments at the Publication stage could be invited to the Hearings but this was at the invitation of the Planning Inspector. There was public seating to observe but not to participate

Agreed:- That the presentation be noted.

**9. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - DRAFT CHARGING SCHEDULE**

The Senior Planning Officer submitted a report summarising the progress of Rotherham's Community Infrastructure Levy including consultation on a draft charging schedule

The Cabinet, at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 (Minute No. 89) had approved consultation on a Rotherham Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule for a 6 weeks period from 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 to 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2015. It would largely be a web-based consultation targeted at key stakeholders.

The Council would then have an opportunity to consider issues raised by respondents before the Draft was submitted to Government for independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate. Adoption would then follow as soon as possible.

The Community Infrastructure Levy would largely replace off-site Section 106 financial contributions negotiated on a site-by-site basis. Section 106 Agreements would still be used, where appropriate, to secure affordable housing and on-site mitigation. In the majority of cases, the charges would replace the amounts currently paid via Section 106 so most developers were not likely to notice a difference in development cost. However, developments that had previously been below current Section 106 thresholds (in terms of size) would now be required to make a contribution towards cumulative infrastructure costs.

An amount of Community Infrastructure Levy would also be required to deliver a "meaningful proportion" of infrastructure improvements locally by direct payment to local Parish Councils. In Rotherham, this would amount to 15% of any Community Infrastructure Levy revenue generated by development in a Parish's area (this would be 25% where any local Neighbourhood Plan was adopted - there were none in Rotherham at present).

The recommended Community Infrastructure Levy rates were based on the ability of development to pay. The Viability Study had shown that Community Infrastructure Levy remained viable for residential, supermarkets and retail warehouses, but not for any other development type. A new separate charge category for retirement living was also proposed.

The following points were raised:-

- The charges for higher market areas of the Borough would correspond accordingly

- There were no charge for office/commercial development
- As the market/economy improved the charges could be revisited
- If a building was redeveloped for a chargeable use and the floorspace increased charges would be applicable
- The CIL revenue paid to a Parish Council had to be spent on infrastructure or anything else that was concerned with addressing the demands that development placed on an area. They had to report to the Authority and if found not to have spent the funding on what it should have, there was an ability to recover the funding
- The CIL implementation procedures for monitoring and administration would take detailed planning
- Need for corporate co-ordination and for the Council to decide what its priorities were for when funds start to be received
- Useful to discuss with Parish Councils

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

(2) That the matter be discussed at the forthcoming Parish Council network meeting.

#### **10. LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY - ADOPTION**

The Planning Policy Manager presented an update on the adoption of the Core Strategy.

Following adoption by the Council (Minute No. A37 of 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2014), the adopted Core Strategy had been published on the Council's website and copies placed in all Rotherham libraries. Press notices were placed in local newspapers providing notification of the adoption of the Strategy. Emails/letters were sent to the individuals or organisations who had requested notification of the Core Strategy adoption.

A 6 weeks legal challenge period followed the Council's resolution to adopt during which any person aggrieved by the adoption of the Rotherham Core Strategy could make an application to the High Court on the grounds that (a) the document was not within the appropriate power or (b) a procedural requirement had not been complied with.

The legal challenge period expired on 21<sup>st</sup> October with no application for legal challenge being made.

The Core Strategy now forms part of the Borough's statutory development plan and was being used when determining planning applications. The Council would monitor the Core Strategy to ensure that its policies were achieving their intentions and determine whether there was a need to review them.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

#### **11. SITES AND POLICIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT -**

## CONSULTATION

The Senior Research and Spatial Analysis Officer gave a verbal update on the above document:-

- Consultation had commenced on 13<sup>th</sup> October for 6 weeks – closes 24<sup>th</sup> November at 5.00 p.m.
- Over 2,000 e-mails, 9,000 letters and 4,000 letters to those living within 100m of new sites had been sent
- Document available in all libraries and on CD
- 4 drop-in successful sessions held between 2.00-7.00 p.m. in Rawmarsh, Dinnington, Wickersley and Rotherham Town Centre – 575 people over the 4 sessions
- 359 representations received into the office from 168 people
- Currently only 1 petition/standard letter received but probably more would be received before the deadline
- The areas that had received the most responses were Lathe Road, Whiston, Todwick (residential site and the new employment site) and Bassingthorpe Farm

Upon completion of the consultation, all responses would be analysed and responses prepared. A further report would be submitted in due course.

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

(2) That a further report be submitted in due course.

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other business to report.

## 13. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group take place at the Town Hall, Rotherham on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2014, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> January 2015</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2015/16</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Resources</b>

## 5. Summary

This report sets out the calculation of the Council's proposed Council Tax base for the forthcoming financial year 2015/16. The calculation of the Tax Base takes into account: the Council's own Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS), the discretionary discounts and exemptions awarded to empty properties and second homes, future tax collection rates ( 96.5%) and estimates of the changes and adjustments in the tax base that occur during the financial year.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 governing its calculation, it is determined that the Council's Tax Base for the financial year 2014/15 is **65,477.52** Band D Equivalent Properties.

## 6 Recommendation

**That Cabinet is asked to recommend that Council:**

- **Resolves that the amount calculated by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council as its Council Tax Base and those of the Parish Councils shown at Appendix A for 2015/16 shall be a total of 65,477.52 Band D Equivalent Properties.**

## 7 Proposals and Details

- 7.1 Setting the Tax Base is a precursor within the Budget setting process to the determination of the Council Tax level. Regulations under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require Full Council to approve the Council's annual Council Tax Base before 31 January in the preceding financial year.
- 7.2 The formula for calculating the Council's Tax Base is set out by the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 and the projected Tax Base is shown in Appendix A. The Council Tax Base is derived from the total number of properties within the Council's area as at the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014, which, in the opinion of the Government's Valuation Office Listing Officer, were subject to Council Tax.
- 7.3 The calculation of the Tax Base takes into account several factors: the Council's own Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS), the discretionary discounts and exemptions awarded to empty properties and second homes, future tax collection rates and estimates and projections reflecting the changes and adjustments in the Tax Base that occur during the financial year, in particular, newly built properties.
- 7.4 Rotherham's local CTRS for 2015/16 was approved by Full Council on October 22<sup>nd</sup> – the current scheme is to be retained in its present format - working age claimants will continue to be required to contribute a minimum 8.5% of their Council Tax liability. Local Council Tax Reduction Schemes are required by statute to protect pensioners and, provided their financial circumstances do not change, there will be no change in the Council Tax support that a pensioner receives.
- 7.5 The impact of the CTRS on the Tax Base across the borough is determined by assessing the number and value of claims by Tax Band across the borough (including in parishes) and converting them to Band D Equivalent properties, which are then deducted from the Council Tax Base. Experience since 2013/14 indicates that overall there has been a decrease in claimant numbers of around 5%. Although the rate of decline does appear to be slowing, the downward trend in caseload is expected to continue and the projected CTRS costs for 2015/16 reflect this trend, with the result that the Tax Base is increased.
- 7.6 To compensate for the reduction in the Tax Base, the Council received grant of £17.51m in 2013/14 (the Police and Fire and Rescue Authorities also received grant funding). Since 2014/15 this funding has been subsumed within RSG and it is not possible to separately identify the CTRS grant allocation. Although Ministers have asserted that the grant has not reduced, the consensus is that this funding has declined in line with central government grant reductions and the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy reflects this.
- 7.7 From 2013, technical changes in Council Tax Regulations allowed the Council to reduce the discretionary discounts awarded to empty properties and second homes and in some cases charge tax premiums. For 2015/16 these have been rolled forward at the same levels as in 2014/15.
- 7.8 Estimated Council Tax collection rates were reviewed for 2014/15 in light of the substantial changes in the system and collection performance during 2013/14. Although, collection rates had remained high during 2013/14 and the challenging 97% target was expected to be achieved, a prudent view of future Tax Collection rates taking account of a greater sustained risk with collecting Council Tax income in future given the expected continuing effect on payment and default levels of the economic downturn and

ongoing welfare reform meant that an increase of 0.5% in the provision for collection losses adjustment to 3.5% was recommended.

7.9 This increase was not suggested lightly - but not increasing the estimated level of losses given the risks and pressures identified would have placed pressure on the Council's Collection Fund. Experience to date in 2014/15 indicates that the 96.5% collection rate will be achieved, and Rotherham's record as one of the best performing metropolitan authorities will be maintained (the Council was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in 2013/14). In light of the continuing high level of performance it is proposed that the adjustment for losses on collection of 3.5% is retained giving a collection rate of 96.5%, which has been fully reflected in the Council's MTFS.

7.10 The Council Tax Base in previous years has included estimates and projections reflecting the changes and adjustments in the Tax Base that occur during the financial year. These have included:

- The completion of new properties;
- Changes in banding as a result of adjustments and appeals;
- Discounts, exemptions and reliefs (for example, single person discounts, and reductions in liabilities for disabled persons).
- The ending of the discount period on empty properties or their reoccupation.

For 2015/16 it is estimated that some 728.55 new and reoccupied Band D Equivalent properties will be added to the Council Tax base - an increase of 1.1%. This increase is significantly higher than in recent years and reflects the recovery of the construction industry in the town as the number of new builds and the rate of completions has increased and is now above even the estimates (including those provided by builders last year) which had been built into the MTFS. The most significant growth has been in relation to the Waverley development in the Parish of Orgreave, where the number of Band D properties is increasing by 57% or 133.66 Band D equivalents. There has also been 6.0% - 103.92 Band D equivalent properties growth in Thurcroft. Not only have more properties been built but the new properties are more likely to fall into the higher value Council Tax bands – bands D-F having increased by 2.3% on average. Finally, the Council's decision in 2013/14 to use new discretions to reduce the discounts on empty properties from nil for 6 months to 25% for 3 months combined with the already robust approach to the issuing of completion notices has meant that new properties are promptly included in the tax base.

7.11 In addition to new build properties the tax base has also increased as a result in the reduction in the cost of the Council's CTRS scheme and the number of working age claimants. Overall the 2015/16 Tax base of shows a net increase of 2.0% or 1,298.51 Band D equivalent properties compared with the 2014/15 Tax Base of 64,179.01 Band D Equivalents. This increase in Band D equivalent properties will generate additional Council Tax yield of £1.6m in 2015/16. £937k of this increase has already been reflected in the MTFS, meaning that the additional new tax yield to support the Council's 2015/16 budget will be £691k.

7.12 The result of applying the 96.5% collection rate to the Band D Equivalents for each of the parishes within the Borough and for the Borough as a whole is shown in the final column of Appendix 1 attached.

7.13 The Tax Base for the Council as a whole (both parished and unparished areas) is made up as follows: allowing for the additions, discounts and reliefs the estimated property base is converted into Band D Equivalent properties, giving a total of **65, 477.52** Band D Equivalents.

<u>Tax Band</u>	<u>Band D Equivalent Properties</u>
Band A	25,013.27
Band B	13,683.29
Band C	11,113.83
Band D	7,654.68
Band E	4,805.43
Band F	2,169.24
Band G	976.50
Band H	61.28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65,477.52</b>

## 8 Finance

The consequence of the increase in the Council Tax Base in terms of increased resources to support the revenue budget is set out in section 7.11 above and the £691k additional resources identified will be reflected in the Council's Revenue Budget plans. Determining the Council Tax Base is also a fundamental part of the budget setting process. The Tax base is central in determining the amount of Council Tax income to be raised, which represents a significant proportion of the Council's resources for the coming financial year.

## 9 Risks and Uncertainties

As the Council Tax Base must be set by the 31 January 2015, it contains projections in respect of the additions, adjustments, discounts and reliefs to be granted before the 31 March 2015 and during the financial year 2015/16, including the projected cost of the Council's CTR scheme and an estimate of future collection rates.

## 10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The setting of the Council Tax Base is essential in underpinning all parts of the Council's activities.

## 11. Background Papers and Consultation

- The Localism Act 2011
- Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (Statutory Instrument 2012 no 2914)
- Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations (Statutory Instruments 1992 no.612 and 1999 no.3123).
- Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base/Supply of Information) Regulations 1992 (Statutory Instrument 2904).
- Section 84 of the Local Government Act 2003
- The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (prescribed requirements)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2013
- Housing Benefit circular A24/2013
- Report to Cabinet 24 September 2014 and Council 22 October 2014 – Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2015/16.

**Contact Name:** *Stuart Booth, Director of Financial Services,*  
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**2015/16 COUNCIL TAX BASE - BAND D EQUIVALENTS**

Appendix

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	TOTAL	Losses	Total (After Losses)
Anston	401.29	1,079.76	398.92	392.76	374.19	183.24	53.30	11.50	2,894.96	101.32	2,793.64
Aston	1,098.98	1,285.21	652.31	578.51	498.46	114.58	24.60	1.00	4,253.65	148.88	4,104.77
Bramley	572.46	401.97	654.48	422.59	207.51	13.00	7.97	1.00	2,280.98	79.83	2,201.15
Brampton Bierlow	552.99	158.27	113.63	272.70	142.07	-	1.70	-	1,241.36	43.45	1,197.91
Brinsworth	684.78	1,180.88	335.44	135.07	12.80	1.40	-	-	2,350.37	82.26	2,268.11
Catcliffe	258.98	129.90	95.67	83.70	14.40	5.04	-	-	587.69	20.57	567.12
Dalton	1,027.78	349.04	566.91	206.33	249.89	27.80	10.16	1.00	2,438.91	85.36	2,353.55
Dinnington	1,008.59	341.64	326.03	457.98	97.16	40.52	12.50	4.00	2,288.42	80.10	2,208.32
Firbeck	6.51	18.53	14.28	12.30	33.00	30.69	22.50	-	137.81	4.82	132.99
Gildingwells	2.29	0.82	1.30	8.00	10.47	17.00	1.70	-	41.58	1.46	40.12
Harthill	132.61	80.62	91.54	111.08	89.11	91.37	40.38	-	636.71	22.28	614.43
Hellaby	30.15	175.03	20.12	16.00	7.90	-	-	-	249.20	8.72	240.48
Hooton Levitt	3.77	6.38	1.80	4.50	15.00	15.52	6.70	1.00	54.67	1.91	52.76
Hooton Roberts	6.08	1.90	6.69	14.50	26.01	17.30	10.80	-	83.28	2.91	80.37
Laughton	84.69	56.86	43.08	108.60	76.10	54.43	26.70	-	450.46	15.77	434.69
Letwell	1.92	1.90	0.90	4.50	18.28	20.60	19.20	-	67.30	2.36	64.94
Maltby	2,042.37	638.21	646.57	540.75	95.86	31.80	38.80	2.00	4,036.36	141.27	3,895.09
Orgreave	28.15	190.84	56.95	77.05	23.55	4.34	-	-	380.88	13.33	367.55
Ravenfield	90.92	100.96	280.65	239.50	208.82	103.47	11.24	-	1,035.56	36.24	999.32
Thorpe Salvin	8.03	8.72	11.74	28.61	44.68	59.24	40.40	2.00	203.42	7.12	196.30
Thrybergh	554.24	47.39	50.23	51.84	40.51	39.91	13.73	-	797.85	27.92	769.93
Thurcroft	898.40	329.63	314.11	243.09	69.83	36.14	24.13	-	1,915.33	67.04	1,848.29
Todwick	30.33	68.65	76.12	250.06	135.00	51.09	47.10	-	658.35	23.04	635.31
Treeton	359.05	197.71	32.78	159.31	88.90	16.60	-	1.00	855.35	29.94	825.41
Ulley	8.69	8.80	11.68	7.11	12.80	10.22	6.30	-	65.60	2.30	63.30
Wales	768.61	369.76	412.10	250.08	116.22	61.88	24.20	-	2,002.85	70.10	1,932.75
Wentworth	30.00	96.91	106.56	102.62	103.43	66.40	42.78	4.00	552.70	19.34	533.36
Whiston	324.28	347.74	338.78	127.00	202.60	90.40	47.50	3.50	1,481.80	51.86	1,429.94
Wickersley	185.83	638.38	576.82	275.86	303.33	393.02	244.64	2.00	2,619.88	91.70	2,528.18
Woodsetts	63.07	185.98	131.94	89.20	59.34	37.20	29.20	8.00	603.93	21.14	582.79
<b>Total Parished</b>	<b>11,265.84</b>	<b>8,498.39</b>	<b>6,370.13</b>	<b>5,271.20</b>	<b>3,377.22</b>	<b>1,634.20</b>	<b>808.23</b>	<b>42.00</b>	<b>37,267.21</b>	<b>1,304.36</b>	<b>35,962.85</b>

<b>Un-Parished</b>	<b>14,654.65</b>	<b>5,681.19</b>	<b>5,146.79</b>	<b>2,661.11</b>	<b>1,602.50</b>	<b>613.72</b>	<b>203.69</b>	<b>21.50</b>	<b>30,585.15</b>	<b>1,070.48</b>	<b>29,514.67</b>
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,920.49</b>	<b>14,179.58</b>	<b>11,516.92</b>	<b>7,932.31</b>	<b>4,979.72</b>	<b>2,247.92</b>	<b>1,011.92</b>	<b>63.50</b>	<b>67,852.36</b>	<b>2,374.84</b>	<b>65,477.52</b>
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<b>Losses</b>	<b>907.22</b>	<b>496.29</b>	<b>403.09</b>	<b>277.63</b>	<b>174.29</b>	<b>78.68</b>	<b>35.42</b>	<b>2.22</b>	<b>2,374.84</b>
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<b>Adj Total</b>	<b>25,013.27</b>	<b>13,683.29</b>	<b>11,113.83</b>	<b>7,654.68</b>	<b>4,805.43</b>	<b>2,169.24</b>	<b>976.50</b>	<b>61.28</b>	<b>65,477.52</b>
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<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> January 2015</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Council Tax Support Grants to Parishes for 2015/16</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Resources</b>

## **5. Summary**

This report provides details of the current level of grants provided by the Council to Parish Councils in order to compensate them for the effects of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) on their Tax Base and makes recommendations about the proposed level of grant funding for the period 2015/16 and beyond.

Originally the tax base adjustment described above was funded by a specific government grant in 2013/14. From 2014/15 government support has been merged within Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and cannot be separately identified. RSG has been scaled back substantially in recent local government finance settlements and indications are that this will continue into the future.

Going forward the Council must determine whether to maintain grant allocations at 2013/14 levels or to reduce the grant to Parishes in 2015/16. This report also recommends the proposed level of grant allocation to parishes beyond 2015/16.

## **6. Recommendations**

**Cabinet is asked to:**

- **Note the contents of the report;**
- **Consider the options and the associated risks to the Council in respect of Council Tax Support Grants to Parishes; and**
- **Agree that grants to Parish Councils will be paid in 2015/16 at the same level as in 2014/15, and that grants in 2016/17 will be reduced by a third, with a further third reduction from present levels in 2017/18 phasing out the grant by 2018/19. (This will aid Parish Councils with their financial planning). The proposed grant allocations being set out in the attached appendix.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

**7.1 Background** – There are 30 Parishes in Rotherham, covering 55% of the properties in the Borough. Of these, 27 set parish precepts in 2014/15, which totalled £2.1m giving an average Band D Tax of £32.92. Individual parish precepts for a Band D property, however, varied between £15 (Wentworth) and £101.27(Catcliffe). These parish precepts were added to the Council's Band D Tax of £1,253.34 in parished areas and the combined tax collected. The Council pays the parishes the value of the additional tax collected (i.e. the parish precept multiplied by the tax base within the parish area).

**7.2** Previously these parish precepts (like the Police and Fire and Rescue Authority precept) qualified for Council Tax Benefit - an income related benefit administered by local authorities on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). A grant from the DWP met in full the cost of benefits awarded. However, in 2013/14 Council Tax Benefit was replaced by Council Tax Support (CTS) which included locally determined discounts. These discounts covered the whole Council Tax bill, including precepts. Replacing a benefit with a discount meant that the Council Tax base for the borough, and within it the parishes, was reduced.

**7.3** In 2013/14 to offset the reduction in the Council Tax Base, a specific government grant was provided to Councils. This was set at 90% of the Government's forecast of the cost of Council Tax Support for 2013/14 (not the actual cost) and included a specific provision for Parishes. In Rotherham's case the figure was £17.510m which included funding for parishes. There were no specific government guidelines on how much grant should be passed down by Councils to Parish authorities although the Government repeatedly stressed the need for authorities and parish councils to work together on the grant allocation.

**7.4** In 2014/15 the situation changed again. Central Government funding for Council Tax Support (the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)) was merged into Revenue Support Grant (RSG) rather being paid as a separate grant. In line with the overall reduction in local government funding, the Council's Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) has declined sharply since 2013/14 from £142.3m to a projected £108.7m in 2015/16 – a reduction of 23.6% just under a quarter. Within Rotherham's SFA, Revenue Support Grant (RSG) allocations have been cut by even more - the projected fall in 2015/16 is 28.1% in cash terms and on a like for like basis (allowing for the earmarking of Welfare Reform funding within RSG) by 29%. Ministers have however, asserted that Council Tax Support Funding within the settlement has not reduced. This therefore implies that the reduction in RSG for general purposes has been even greater.

**7.5 Rotherham's approach:** In 2013/14 the Council chose to allocate sufficient grant to each parish to allow it to set a precept with the same Band D tax level as in 2012/13. This meant that if a Parish Council did not increase its precept and

Council Tax their Council Tax income was the same as in 2012/13 and their financial position was unchanged. This year (2014/15) the Council followed the same approach and allocated sufficient grant to allow Parishes to maintain Council Tax at 2013/14 levels by reducing the amount the parish requires in precept. The value of the grants allocated to parishes was £354k in 2014/15., The grant allocation represented around 16.8% of the total requested in precepts and the grants to parishes ranged between £84 and £41,498. Around 75% of the grant went to 9 Parishes which received grants over £20k. (Anston, Aston, Brinsworth, Dalton, Dinnington, Maltby, Thrybergh, Thurcroft and Wales).

**7.6 Options for 2015/16** – the Council must decide whether it wishes to reduce the grant it distributes to Parishes or continue with its current approach and pay the grant allocations at the same value as in 2014/15. If the decision is to reduce the grant then the Council must decide:

- By how much the grant should be reduced; and
- How any reduction should be determined (e.g. a straight percentage cut or by recalculating shares of a reduced total based on updated precept and tax base figures).

And

- If a decision is taken to reduce the grants to parishes it is necessary for the Council to decide whether this should be from 2015/16 or 2016/17 (to allow parishes time to review their financial plans).

**7.7** In reaching any decision there are several factors to consider:

- The potential savings generated by reducing the grants paid to parishes. Each 1% cut in grant would generate a saving of £3.5k and, as stated, Ministers have asserted that funding for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme has not been reduced even though RSG has been cut substantially and recently there has been pressure on authorities to maintain the grant payments to parish councils. On 23 October 2014, Local Government Minister, Kris Hopkins MP, stated that he intends to write to 31 local authorities that do not intend to pass down the funding to their parish councils to urge them to do so.
- Reductions in the grant could have a substantial impact on some Parish Council Budgets, as for some the grant represents a significant income stream. Most of Rotherham's parishes and town councils (17 of 27) set precepts below £100k. As the grant payments are intended to stabilise parishes' financial position by mitigating the reduction in tax base arising from the CTRS, reductions in grant could potentially lead to substantial increase in Parish Council Taxes. Each 1% reduction in total grant equates to an increase of 0.3% in the average Parish Band D Tax (£32.92 in 2014/15) should parishes decide that they needed to increase precepts to mitigate a reduction in grant of this level, before any change in the parish budget requirements. A consultation on extending the capping regulations to larger parishes and those subject to Public Interest Reports was announced as part of the Provisional Settlement on December 18<sup>th</sup> – although any change will not take effect in 2015/16.

- The budget process for 2015/16 is now well advanced and reducing grant allocations could mean significant financial difficulties for parishes. Freezing allocations for the coming financial year would allow parish councils time to prepare for the proposed reduction in funding in future years.

**7.8 Options.** In light of the above factors the Council's options can be summarised as:

- Reduce the 2015/16 grants across the board by a proportion to be agreed.
- Cease paying grants to parishes – potentially risking government action – saving £354k.
- Freeze grants to parishes at their current level for 2015/16 but confirm that they will be reduced by one third each year from 2016/17 ceasing in 2018/19. This would allow the Parish Councils time to prepare for the reduction in grant funding.

Future levels of grant funding were discussed at the recent meeting with Parish Councillors on December 9<sup>th</sup>. In light of this consultation and recognising the tight timescale for managing any reduction in grant, it is proposed to freeze the grant allocations for 2015/16 at the same level as in 2014/15. It is however proposed that grant allocations reduce by one third in 2016/17 and 2017/18, phasing the payments out by 2018/19. This will generate savings of £118k pa for the 3 years 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Given the potential level of savings that could be generated and the potential impact on parishes the latter option is recommended. In either case it would be helpful to notify Parishes as soon as possible to aid their financial planning.

## **8. Finance**

The projected reduction in RSG within total settlement funding for 2015/16 has been reflected in the Council's MTFs and a provision of £354k for the grant to parishes exists within the Council's revenue budget projections for 2015/16.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

Several elements of the Council Tax calculation are not yet known:

- The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was released on December 18<sup>th</sup> and grant allocations were broadly in line with expectations - a reduction of 15.2% in the Settlement Funding Assessment and a reduction of 21.6% in Government Grant. These proposals are now subject to consultation and the final allocations will be confirmed next year.
- The Council has not yet determined its Tax Base for 2015/16 (by statute the Tax Base must be set between December 1<sup>st</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup> of the preceding financial year). A report setting out the tax base will also be considered on this agenda. The Tax Base is a key element in determining

not only the Council's Tax but also the Parish Precepts and changes in the Tax Base will affect precept levels.

- Government ministers have indicated that they will encourage authorities to continue to make grant payments to parish and town councils and by implication that they expect local authorities and parishes to work together.

**10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Parishes are beginning to work on their budgets and some have already started to make enquiries about grant allocations for 2015/16 and there has been a substantial amount of correspondence with parishes on this matter in the current financial year. Bearing in mind that the Government has repeatedly stressed the need for authorities and parish councils to work together on the grant allocation it would be beneficial to determine the Council's approach and inform the parish councils as soon as possible so that any changes can be factored into their budget preparations.

**11. Background Papers and Consultation**

- 2013/14 Published Rotherham MBC CTRS Scheme.
- Report to Cabinet - Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014
- SIGOMA estimates of Council Tax Support Reductions in funding due to reducing SFA.
- Consultation meeting with Parish Councillors 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

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**ROTHERHAM MBC - GRANTS TO PARISH COUNCILS IN 2014/15 AND PROPOSED REDUCTIONS**

<u>PARISH</u>	<b>2014/15 Grant</b>	<b>Proposed 2015/16 Grant</b>	<b>Proposed 2016/17 Grant With Reduction of 33.3%</b>	<b>Proposed reduction in Grant</b>	<b>Proposed 2017/18 grant with reduction of 66.7%</b>	<b>Proposed Cumulative reduction in Grant</b>	<b>TOTAL Reduction in Grant by 2018/19</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Anston	31,121	31,121	20,748	-10,373	10,373	-20,748	31,121
Aston-Cum-Aughton	36,028	36,028	24,019	-12,009	12,009	-24,019	36,028
Bramley	11,225	11,225	7,484	-3,741	3,741	-7,484	11,225
Brampton Bierlow	10,826	10,826	7,218	-3,608	3,608	-7,218	10,826
Brinsworth	25,512	25,512	17,008	-8,504	8,504	-17,008	25,512
Catcliffe	11,788	11,788	7,859	-3,929	3,929	-7,859	11,788
Dalton	33,922	33,922	22,615	-11,307	11,307	-22,615	33,922
Dinnington	27,146	27,146	18,098	-9,048	9,048	-18,098	27,146
Firbeck	318	318	212	-106	106	-212	318
Gildingwells	-	-	-	0	-	0	-
Harthill-with-Woodall	4,649	4,649	3,100	-1,549	1,549	-3,100	4,649
Hellaby	797	797	532	-265	265	-532	797
Hooton Levitt	-	-	-	0	-	0	-
Hooton Roberts	-	-	-	0	-	0	-
Laughton-En-Le Morthen	2,536	2,536	1,691	-845	845	-1,691	2,536
Letwell	84	84	56	-28	28	-56	84
Maltby	41,498	41,498	27,666	-13,832	13,832	-27,666	41,498
Orgreave	548	548	366	-182	182	-366	548
Ravenfield	2,962	2,962	1,975	-987	987	-1,975	2,962
Thorpe Salvin	465	465	310	-155	155	-310	465
Thrybergh	23,495	23,495	15,664	-7,831	7,831	-15,664	23,495
Thurcroft	23,382	23,382	15,588	-7,794	7,794	-15,588	23,382
Todwick	2,212	2,212	1,475	-737	737	-1,475	2,212
Treeton	6,414	6,414	4,276	-2,138	2,138	-4,276	6,414
Ulley	767	767	512	-255	255	-512	767
Wales	22,699	22,699	15,133	-7,566	7,566	-15,133	22,699
Wentworth	1,074	1,074	716	-358	358	-716	1,074
Whiston	9,973	9,973	6,649	-3,324	3,324	-6,649	9,973
Wickersley	17,344	17,344	11,563	-5,781	5,781	-11,563	17,344
Woodsetts	5,602	5,602	3,735	-1,867	1,867	-3,735	5,602
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>354,387</b>	<b>354,387</b>	<b>236,268</b>	<b>-118,119</b>	<b>118,119</b>	<b>-236,268</b>	<b>354,387</b>

NB Those parishes with no grant did not levy a precept in 2014/15

Grant figures have been rounded up to the nearest £

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>The Cabinet</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday 14th January 2015</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Housing Rent Increase 2015/16</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Social Services</b>

## 5. Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from Cabinet for the proposed housing rent, new build rents, garage rent and communal facilities increases for 2015/16 to go forward for consultation, and subject to the outcome of that consultation to be presented at Cabinet for decision.

This year it is proposed to implement an annual increase of 1.2% for non-housing rent issues and 2.2% for dwelling rent in accordance with the new prescribed formula issued by Government. Members are asked to also note the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2015/16. In anticipation of a scrutiny recommendation being accepted by Cabinet, the proposed charges for district heating are considered within a separate report, elsewhere on this agenda.

## 6.0 Recommendations

**That Cabinet is asked to note the content of this report and recommend:**

- **An average dwelling rent increase of 2.2% in accordance with Central Governments (DCLG) Rent Formula which results in an average increase of £1.60 per week collected over 52 weeks.**
- **An average rent of £96.40 for new build (energy efficient) council properties.**
- **That rents are set at formula rent when the property is re-let after vacancy.**
- **An increase in line with the Consumer Price Index of 1.2% for garage rents, communal facilities and the cooking gas charge.**
- **Note the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2015/16.**

## **7.0 Proposals and Details**

### **Council Rent Setting**

- 7.1 Wherever possible this authority has sought to restrain annual charge increases, and it should be noted that Rotherham rents still rank as some of the lowest in the country. Since 2002/03 DCLG has, however, required all authorities to use a prescribed Formula to calculate each tenants rent and to apply annual increases to actual rents to achieve the Formula Rent (Formula Rent is the rent set under rent restructuring). The formula rent from April 2015 has been revised and will now be linked to Consumer Price Index (CPI) which is consistent with other inflation measures used in policy by the Government including benefits and pensions. Applying this new formula for 2015/16 produces an average rent increase for Council tenants of 2.2%. There would be major financial implications for the Council of not following this formula and these are addressed below.
- 7.2 The Government expects that all similar properties in the same local area will have equitable rent levels, even if properties are owned by different social landlords. This process is known as 'rent convergence'. The Government set a target for Authorities to achieve rent convergence by 2015/16. However, changes to the rent formula has removed the flexibility to increase rents by an additional £2 above the increase in formula rent where rent is below convergence, therefore 2014/15 was the final year to achieve full convergence. Rents in Rotherham will not have reached full convergence.
- 7.3 The average rent for 2014/15 was £72.79 over 52 weeks. The proposed 2015/16 average weekly rent using the new government formula, collected over 52 weeks would rise to £74.39, an average increase of £1.60 per week.
- 7.4 Total housing rent income generated through the proposed revised weekly rents is estimated to be £79.558m in 2015/16 assuming 120 Right to Buy sales, and voids and rent adjustments at 1.8%.
- 7.5 The Council completed the building of 132 new energy efficient properties in 2011/12. For these dwellings, the funding model assumed that rents would be aligned to the Councils existing rent structure based on these dwellings having a higher property value (than existing stock). These rents are assumed to be fully converged and are therefore set higher than those of the existing Council stock. Consequently the proposed average rent to be charged across these properties will be £96.40 over 52 weeks based on the new rent formula an increase of £1.93 per week.

### **Housing Self Financing Determination**

- 7.6 The Government replaced the former Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy system with a devolved system of council housing finance called self-financing in April 2012. The purpose of which was to give local authorities the resources, incentives and flexibility they need to manage their own housing stock for the long term and give tenants greater transparency and accountability as to how the rent collected is spent on the services provided.

- 7.7 A 30 year Business Plan has been refreshed to take into account the changes to the rent formula and investment plans to give indicative income and expenditure for the short, medium and long term. Key to the original Business Plan was the requirement to ensure that rents converge by the government's target by 2015/16 and increase in line with national guidelines. Changes to the formula rent from April 2015 will mean that the council will now not meet rent convergence which will result in lower levels of income and therefore impact on the investment plans within the HRA Business Plan. The updated HRA Business Plan will be shown in a separate report.
- 7.8 Due to historical decisions to limit rent increases, Rotherham's rents were not scheduled to reach full convergence until 2016/17 on the existing formula. Under the new formula, Rotherham will receive approximately £4m less income than planned under the convergence process. This shortfall would obviously be compounded over future years within the 30 year Business Plan, and will have a significant effect on the previously predicted surpluses within the plan. Government guidance states that where properties have not reached formula rent by April 2015 it is expected that the rent is moved up to formula rent when the property is re-let following vacancy. On average 1800 properties are re-let each year, adopting this policy would generate additional income of approximately £172k in 2015/16.
- 7.9 From a financial perspective even minor changes in percentage increases have a significant effect on the income level the council recovers and our ability to offer tenants a high quality service. Every 1% reduction below the proposed rent increase results in a loss of rent income to the Council of £778k (or for tenants an average reduction of 74p per week over 52 weeks). This obviously compounds over time and would further significantly erode the anticipated long term viability of the 30 year business plan. In addition, not to follow the new formula rent when rents have not reached full convergence would impact on investment plans within the HRA Business Plan.
- 7.10 As a comparator, this year's proposed average rent increase is significantly below previous increases. Over the last three years rents have increased by 6.57%, 6.19% and 9.45% respectively.

### **Garage Rents**

- 7.11 The Council has continued with its garage site improvement programme investing a further £250,000 in 2014/15. In line with changes to the rent formula and a move from the use of RPI to CPI it is proposed to increase the rents in line with CPI by 1.2%. This would increase garage rents from £5.03 to £5.09 per week in 2015/16 (an increase of 6p per week).

It is also proposed that garage plot sites are also increased by CPI, therefore for a surfaced site the charge would increase from £55.90 per annum to £56.57 in 2015/16 (an increase of £0.67 per annum) and for non-surfaced sites from £50.32 to £50.92 per annum (an increase of £0.60 per annum).

### **Cooking Gas**

- 7.12 The Council also charges for cooking gas facility at 86p per week. It is proposed to increase the charge by CPI (1.2%), which in 2015/16 will increase to 87p per week (an additional 1p per week).

**Communal Facilities**

- 7.13 The Communal charge for Neighbourhood Centres was increased in 2014/15 by inflation to £4.77 (3.2%) per week to cover increased costs of the service. For 2015/16 it is proposed to increase the charge by CPI (1.2%) taking the standard charge to £4.83 (an increase of 6p per week).

A review of the usage of the Neighbourhoods Centres has been undertaken together with tenant consultation and the findings and recommendations are subject to a separate report. This review included the use of the laundry facilities that are situated in some of the centres and the report proposes an increase in charge to enable the facilities to become more financially sustainable.

**Housing Revenue Account Budget 2015/16**

- 7.14 Appendix A of this report presents the 2015/16 detailed Draft Operating Statement which is effectively "The HRA Budget".

The table below presents an overall summary position of the Income and expenditure budgets:-

	<b>Proposed Budget 2015/16 £000</b>
Expenditure	75,776
Income	-84,810
Net Cost of Service	-9,034
Interest Received	-70
Net Operating Expenditure	-9,104
Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay	9,104
Transfer to Reserves	0
Surplus for the Year	0

It can be seen that based on the proposals to increase the dwelling rent income and service charges outlined in this report the budgeted income of £84.810m is anticipated to be collected in 2015/16 and that this is offset by £75.776m of budgeted expenditure, which represents the net cost of delivering the service. As budgeted income is greater than the net cost of delivering the service, there is an overall net income of £9.034m to the service.

Once capital financing interest has been charged to the HRA, and a Revenue Contribution to Capital of £9.104m has been made towards the HRA Capital

Programme, in accordance with the HRA Business Plan, there will be an overall balanced budget for 2015/16.

## **8.0 Risks and Uncertainties**

The greatest risk and uncertainty surrounds the level of rent income received into the Housing Revenue Account. This is dependent upon the number of properties available to generate income.

The level of properties is directly affected by the level of sales and demolitions which may vary to those used in the budget assumptions. New rules regarding Right to Buy (RTB) receipts were implemented in April 2012 included increasing the discount cap to £75k. This has seen the number of RTB sales increase significantly as a result of the higher discount cap. Total sales in 2013/14 were 99, it is estimated that there will be 100 RTB by the end of 2014/15 and the HRA Business Plan assumes a further increase to 120 sales in 2015/16.

The changes to the current rent formula from 2015/16 will result in the Council receiving less income than if rents were fully converged, therefore impacting on the 30 year business plan.

The Governments changes to welfare benefits and the introduction of Universal Credit will also impact on the level of rent income collected including the level of arrears and therefore be reflected in the Housing Revenue Account balances.

All budgets carry a certain level of risk in that unforeseen circumstances may arise, causing additional pressures on the level of resources applied.

## **9.0 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The proposals contained within this report are in line with Council priorities and policies, as established and set out in key planning documents. The aim is to deliver effective, value-for-money services for people within Rotherham ensuring people are able to live in decent affordable homes.

## **10.0 Background Papers and Consultation**

DCLG Guidance on Rents for Social Housing from 2015-16 – May 2014

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## APPENDIX A

## HRA - Draft Budget Operating Statement 2015/16 (2.2% Rent Increase)

Narrative	Full-year Budget 2014/15 £	Full-year Budget 2015/16 £	Change 14/15 to 15/16 £
Dwelling Rents	-77,427,560	-79,142,680	-1,715,120
Non-dwelling Rents	-805,430	-745,960	59,470
Charges for Services and facilities	-3,987,300	-4,548,220	-560,920
Other fees and charges	-273,300	-304,970	-31,670
Leaseholder Income	-50,900	-68,000	-17,100
<b>Income</b>	<b>-82,544,490</b>	<b>-84,809,830</b>	<b>-2,265,340</b>
Contributions to Housing Repairs Account	19,072,350	19,075,000	2,650
Supervision and Management	20,707,000	20,944,550	237,550
Rents, Rates, Taxes etc.	186,500	170,400	-16,100
Provision for Bad Debts	967,800	1,582,860	615,060
Cost of capital Charge	14,491,700	13,725,000	-766,700
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	19,905,970	20,068,210	162,240
Debt Management Costs	210,000	210,000	0
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>75,541,320</b>	<b>75,776,020</b>	<b>234,700</b>
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>-7,003,170</b>	<b>-9,033,810</b>	<b>-2,030,640</b>
Interest received	-70,000	-70,000	0
<b>Net Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>-7,073,170</b>	<b>-9,103,810</b>	<b>-2,030,640</b>
<b>Appropriations:</b>			
Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay	8,513,030	9,103,810	590,780
Transfer to(+)/from(-)Reserves	-1,439,860	0	1,439,860
<b>Surplus/Deficit for the year</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>The Cabinet</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday 14th January 2015</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>District Heating Scheme Charges 2015/16</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Social Services</b>

**5. Summary**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members for the proposed increase in charges for District Heating for 2015/16.

There are a range of heating schemes, but in general district heating charges are made up of two components, a weekly charge and a metered charge per kilowatt hour of heating used. Weekly charges for most schemes exceed the actual metered costs and hence 34% of all income received from weekly charges are returned to customers. This report recommends an increase in kilowatt hour charges to more accurately reflect true costs. The impact of this on consumers of district heating is that some consumers will receive less of a rebate once actual personal charges have been calculated following individual meter readings.

**6.0 Recommendations**

**That Cabinet is asked to note the content of this report and recommend:**

- **That there is no increase in the weekly charge for a further year.**
- **That the various proposed increases to the kilowatt hour charges outlined in section 7 of this report are approved as a means of achieving full cost recovery.**
- **That to assist tenants, increases in the kilowatt hour charge are phased, as agreed at Cabinet on 16 January 2013 (Minute C131(3)) and be achieved by 2016/17.**

## **7.0 Proposals and Details**

7.1 The Housing Rent Setting Report in January 2012 highlighted that the current charges for District Heating do not recover the full cost of providing the service. Due to ongoing and significant increases in the prices of gas and utility charges the initial three year strategy for ensuring full cost recover has yet to be fully realised. The Self Regulation Select Commission agreed to undertake a review to explore how cost effective and fuel efficient provision of District Heating can be achieved. This review proved to be extremely helpful and is influencing a major change in the way in which District Heating will be delivered in the future. One of the recommendations within the report was to consider the review of district heating charges separately from the annual rent review. District heating improvements have been built into the three year capital plan, to ensure that infrastructure is modern and efficient.

7.2 The council operate three distinct District Heating schemes:

- A pooled metered scheme;
- An unmetered scheme at Beeversleigh; and
- Switch 2 card meter scheme at Swinton

Each scheme currently has a separate charging scheme, and the extent to which full cost recovery differs between the various schemes, and between the numerous metered schemes themselves. Overall in 2013/14 district heating cost the authority £957k and of this total cost, £704k was received as income.

### **Pooled metered schemes**

7.3 Pooled metered schemes have a weekly pre-payment flat rate charge collected through the rent system, applied to all properties dependant upon the size of the property. The actual costs of each property's heating is determined by meter readings of the amount of kilowatt hours of heating actually used. In the vast majority of cases (79%) this results in a rebate. The current basis of kilowatt hour charges does not accurately reflect the actual costs of the pooled metered schemes. In order to achieve full cost recovery and ensure that charges are fair and affordable to tenants it is proposed that there is a phased approach to increasing unit costs of kilowatt hour charges.

7.4 The charges for the sixteen pooled schemes (1031 properties) including St Ann's in 2014/15 is proposed as follows:-

<b>Pooled district heating charges</b>			
	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>% Increase</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
<b>Unit Cost KWh</b>	8.72	10.00	7.93
<b>Pre-payment Charges per week</b>			
Bedsit	£12.80		£12.80
1 Bed	£14.90		£14.90
2 Bed	£17.10		£17.10
3/4 Bed	£19.78		£19.78

- 7.5 In order to move towards recovering more of the costs of the service it is proposed to increase the unit rate charged from 7.93 pence per kWh to 8.72 pence per kWh, an increase of 10%. This level of increase to achieve full cost recovery is being phased as agreed by Cabinet. It is also proposed not to increase the prepayment weekly charge for a further year due to the level of refunds.

### **Beeversleigh**

- 7.6 The 48 properties at Beeversleigh are not metered and therefore not part of the pooled metered district heating scheme. Weekly charges are in line with the pooled schemes and currently income collected almost covers the full cost of the scheme.

It is therefore proposed not to increase the weekly charge for 2015/16. This will enable costs on this scheme to remain in line with other pooled schemes.

<b>Beeversleigh</b>	<b>Proposed Charge 2015/16</b>	<b>Actual Charge 2014/15</b>
One bed flat	£14.90	£14.90
Two bed flat	£17.10	£17.10

### **Swinton**

- 7.7 A third category of district heating is the dwellings charged by the installation of "Switch 2" card meters at the 238 properties at Fitzwilliam, Swinton.

At present the income received from charges is significantly less (56% being recovered) than the full cost of the scheme. In 2013/14 the scheme cost £152,000, but recovered only £85,000 through income from charges.

Heating charges in Swinton have been historically much lower than elsewhere. The average annual cost paid by the tenant for heating a property in Swinton in 2013/14 was £358, compared to an average of £566 in other pooled metered schemes. To recover full costs on the Swinton scheme the average annual bill would need to rise to £640 at current prices. Seeking to recover the total cost in one go, would

potentially create significant budgeting problems for tenants, and it is therefore proposed to phase the recovery to full cost as agreed by Cabinet. It was agreed at Cabinet in January 2013 to phase increases in the unit charge over a period of up to five years from 2013/14 to achieve full cost recovery for the scheme. It is therefore proposed to increase the unit charge for 2015/16 from 7.61 pence per Kwh to 8.72 pence per kWh in line with other schemes. Whilst this amounts to a further increase of nearly 14.6%, it is still below the actual cost for pooled schemes and lower than previous years increases.

## **8.0 Risks and Uncertainties**

The risk of not recovering the full cost of District Heating in the long term would have an adverse impact on the Housing Revenue Account business plan which assumes the principle of full cost recovery agreed by members. Any significant increase in the future prices of gas could also result in further increases in charges.

## **9.0 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The proposals contained within this report are in line with Council priorities and policies, as established and set out in key planning documents. The aim is to deliver effective, value-for-money services for people within Rotherham.

## **10.0 Background Papers and Consultation**

District Heating Scheme Charges 2014/15 – January 2014.

Self Regulation Select Commission – Review of RMBC's District Heating Schemes – November 2012.

### **Contact Names:**

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<b>ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL Report to Members</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> January 2015</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Education Lifestyle Survey Results 2014</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, Performance &amp; Quality (CYPS)</b>

**5. Summary:**

This report covers details of the 2014 Borough Wide Lifestyle Survey Report. (Appendix 1)

It includes plans to distribute the lifestyle survey report to schools, the schedule for presenting the findings of the report and the on-going actions supporting the lifestyle survey results.

The Lifestyle survey is a valuable piece of consultation capturing the views of young people in years 7 & 10 at secondary school asking their opinions on -

- Food & Drink
- Health, Activities and Fitness
- Being In School
- Out of School
- Young Carers
- Bullying & Safety
- Smoking, Drinking & Alcohol
- Sexual Health
- Local Neighbourhood

Each year the results are shared with key stakeholders to ensure that activities are built into team plans to address any issues to make changes to improve the lives of young people and comparisons are made each year to see if the changes made are making a difference.

Secondary schools will receive a copy of the borough wide report and their individual school report, so they can see what pupils at their own school are saying and compare this against the borough wide average.

Healthy schools service will also receive a copy of the individual school reports, so they can identify which school needs support in specific areas.

**6. Recommendations:**

Members are requested to

- (i) Note the Lifestyle Survey Report 2014
- (ii) Note and agree the action plan which is used to ensure that issues are actioned following completion of the survey

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

The 2014 Lifestyle Survey saw all 16 secondary schools in Rotherham participate, however one school did suspend their involvement due to the content of some of the questions, the issues that were raised by the school, were addressed, but the school informed us that it was then too late to reintroduce the survey. Overall 4,123 pupils participated which is a participation rate of 63%. This is the highest participation rate achieved since the commencement of the survey in 2006.

In the 2014 survey there were a number of new questions added after the formal consultation process. These requests came from public health, police and healthy schools consultant.

The new questions covered topics on safety, sexual health education, internet safety, e-cigarettes and young people's thoughts around alcohol, drugs and smoking

### **7.1 Positive results in the survey**

- More young people having breakfast, 80% compared to 73% in 2013
- More young people having school dinners for lunch, 44% compared to 28% in 2013
- Increase in the number of pupils volunteering, up to 20% from 19% in 2013
- Bullying rates saw a considerable decrease in the number of young people who said they have been bullied, down to 28% from 38% in 2013
- Also there was a considerable increase in the number of pupils who said they had received help after being bullied up to 58% from 26% in 2013
- Reduction in the number of pupils having tried high energy drinks down to 50% from 59% in 2013
- Increase in the number of Y10 pupils saying they had never tried a cigarette up to 70% from 64% in 2013
- Increase in the number of young people who said they have never tried alcohol
  - Y10 up to 24% from 23% in 2013
  - Y7 up to 63% from 59% in 2013
- A reduction in the number of pupils who have tried some type of drug
  - Y7 solvents the most popular drug, young people saying they use this regular has gone down to 1% from 4% in 2013.
  - Y10 cannabis the most popular drug with young people saying they use this regular has gone down to 5% from 6% in 2013
- More young people know who the school nurse is up to 40% from 38% in 2013
- More young people said they visited Rotherham Town Centre up to 40% from 34% in 2013

### **7.2 Areas for attention from the survey**

- Healthy eating - crisps is now most popular snack
- Less young people say they regularly participate in sport or exercise down to 77% from 81% in 2013.
- Feelings – pupils are asked how they feel about family, home life, friendships, the way they looked, schoolwork and themselves, in all areas young people do not feel as good as they did in 2013

- There is a slight increase in the number of young people identifying themselves as young carers although it is clearer now in relation to time spent and who they are caring for, after new questions added for 2014 survey
- Local shops are where young people are more likely to obtain their cigarettes from. Also young people obtain alcohol from local shops, more than supermarkets.
- Sexual Health – new questions added to the Y10 survey 25% of young people in Y10 said that they have had sex. Out of these 46% said they had sex after drinking alcohol and 22% did not use any method of contraception. This is a similar result to national figures.
- After consultation the safety questions particularly around the town centre were split further and subsequent questions added. In Rotherham Town Centre only 10% of young people said they felt safe, reduced from 12% in 2013.
- Questions were asked specifically about Town Centre bus and train stations, only 9% said they felt safe in the bus station and only 7% at the train station.
- Subsequent questions show the reasons for feeling unsafe; being approached by strangers, being approached by drunks and fear of gangs are the main reasons for feeling unsafe.

Key stakeholders and partners are involved identifying activities to address these issues; Lifestyle Survey Results Action Plan addresses these (Appendix 2)

### 7.3 Timetable for presentations

Date	Meeting	
18 <sup>th</sup> November 14	DLT CYPS	Bev Pepperdine Sue Wilson
18 <sup>TH</sup> November 14	DLT NAS	Bev Pepperdine Sue Wilson
19 <sup>th</sup> November 14	SLT	Bev Pepperdine Sue Wilson
25 <sup>th</sup> November 14	Councillor Beaumont Informal Briefing	Bev Pepperdine Sue Wilson
28 <sup>th</sup> November 14	EDS DMT	Bev Pepperdine
14 <sup>th</sup> January 15	Full Cabinet Meeting	Jane Parfremment
21 <sup>st</sup> January 15	Improving Lives Scrutiny	Bev Pepperdine Sue Wilson
5 <sup>th</sup> February 15	Chief Executive Officers Group	Bev Pepperdine Sue Wilson
18 <sup>th</sup> February 15	Health & Well Being Board	Bev Pepperdine Sue Wilson
Feb/March 15	Safeguarding Board	Bev Pepperdine Sue Wilson

Distribution of the report with an offer to attend subsequent meetings will be made to

- Public Health
- Healthy Schools Consultant – Kay Denton
- Safer Neighbourhood Partnership
- South Yorkshire Police
- South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
- Neighbourhood Crime Manager

- Young Carers Provider – Barnados
- Locality Team(s)
- School Nursing
- Families for Change
- Youth Cabinet
- Communications Team

**8. Finance:**

The cost reduction has continued as in previous 2 years.

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.

Staff time from Service Improvement Officer and Research Analyst

**9. Risks and Uncertainties:**

Various issues are highlighted within the body of the report and work is underway to mitigate these

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

Key partners with actions in the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy, Corporate Plan and will need to note the results from this survey

Bulletins will be sent out to key stakeholders highlighting the findings.

**11. Background Papers and Consultation:**

Rotherham Secondary School Lifestyle Survey 2013

Joint Health & Well Being Strategy

**Contact Name: Bev Pepperdine – Service Improvement Officer  
Elena Hodgson – Research Analyst**

Rotherham Secondary School  
Lifestyle Survey  
2014

Borough Wide Report

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### ***Message from Councillor Beaumont***

Dear Head Teacher/School Staff Member,

I am writing to personally thank you for participating in the Secondary Lifestyle Survey in 2014. The 2014 survey has produced the highest participation rates of any year that the survey has run and for this I would like to personally thank every school and all staff involved for their effort in achieving this result.

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 2014 survey has shown that all 16 secondary schools and 3 pupil referral units have participated in the survey and in total 4123 pupils have given their feedback, this equates to a 63% participation rate, and this is an outstanding result.

The results of the survey have been analysed to produce the Rotherham wide report. All establishments will receive a copy and this will also be shared with partners from health, housing, voluntary sector, police, South Yorkshire passenger transport (SYPT), councillors and youth cabinet. These results will be taken on board by these partners and will influence their policies around young people and their health & wellbeing, safety issues and young carers.

From the 2013 results, there has been excellent feedback and work ongoing examples include one school has achieved Good Practice Plus for their work to reduce the consumption of high energy drinks. The youth cabinet have been carrying out mystery shopping on behalf of SYPT to identify key safety issues. These are a couple of examples of the work that has happened as a result of the Lifestyle Survey results. Good Practice information has been included in the overall borough wide report and will be sent out to schools in the spring newsletter.

The results of the lifestyle survey will now also support in Ofsted inspections, with data being added to the Ofsted grade descriptor for outstanding quality of the curriculum in PSHE education – ‘The use of local data, such as information about levels of smoking, obesity, teenage pregnancy to inform planning is shown as a strength.’ The advice is the curriculum should be designed taking into account local health and social data. This further highlights the benefits of participating in the lifestyle survey. A member of Performance & Quality team will be contacting every school to capture their feedback about the survey, please raise with them any concerns you have about the survey or anything you feel will improve the survey.

Once again, thank you for your participation and I hope similar if not better participation will be achieved in 2015.

Yours faithfully



Councillor Beaumont  
Cabinet Member Children & Young People's Services

## Demographic Information

All 16 secondary schools in Rotherham participated in the 2014 Lifestyle Survey, with 4,123 pupils completing the survey out of a possible 6,527 year 7 and year 10 pupils in Rotherham (63% participation rate). This is again the best response rate since the Lifestyle Survey began and an increase of 649 pupils from the 2013 survey which had 3,474 responses.

This is the first year the survey has also been made available to young people who attend other educational establishments. These are Swinton Lock, St Mary's and the Rowan Centre. The table below shows the schools that participated in the survey and the numbers of pupils that took part from each school.

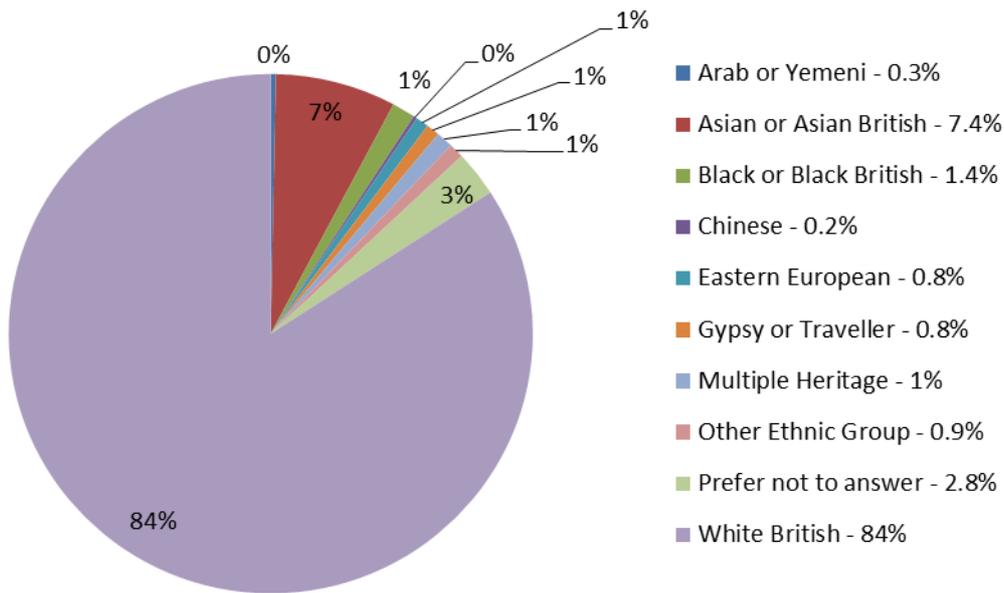
School	Total No. of Pupils Y7	Total No. of Pupils Y10	Overall Total	Total Participation Number	Overall Response Rate %
Aston	305	275	580	344	59
Brinsworth	206	240	446	257	58
Clifton	176	213	389	183	47
Dinnington	192	199	391	183	47
Maltby	179	196	375	262	70
Oakwood	211	211	422	237	56
Rawmarsh	158	166	324	281	87
Saint Bernards	140	137	277	15	5
Saint Pius	129	130	259	171	66
Swinton	127	151	278	229	82
Thrybergh	107	107	214	88	41
Wales	247	257	504	401	80
Wath	302	309	611	463	76
Wickersley	304	309	613	510	83
Wingfield	153	171	324	192	59
Winterhill	265	231	496	283	57
Rowan Centre	0	7	7	7	100
St Mary's	1	6	7	7	100
Swinton Lock	2	8	10	10	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3204</b>	<b>3323</b>	<b>6527</b>	<b>4123</b>	<b>63%</b>

As with last year's survey, separate questions were produced for both year 7 and year 10 pupils. This allows us to tailor the survey to the two year groups and ask some additional age-appropriate questions to year 10 pupils.

Of the pupils that completed the 2014 survey, 52% were female and 48% were male. 2,172 (53%) are currently in year 7 and 1,951 (47%) are in year 10.

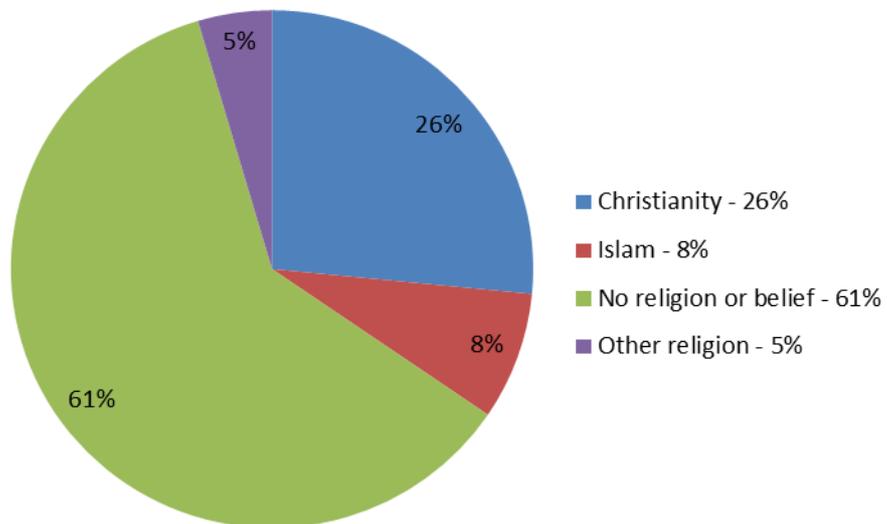
When asked about their ethnicity, 3,470 pupils described themselves as White British (84%, slightly up from 83% in last year's survey), 536 were classed as Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) (13%, down from 14% last year) and 91 preferred not to say (3%). The pie chart below shows the breakdown of pupil ethnicity.

### Pupil Ethnicity Breakdown



9% of pupils said they had a long term illness, health problem or disability (same as last year). When asked about their religion, more than half of pupils said that they had no religion or beliefs (61%, up from 56% last year). The main choices are shown in the chart below.

### Religion



The number of pupils saying they practiced Christianity has gone down from 32% last year to 26%. Less than 1% of pupils said that they practiced one of the following religions: Buddhism, Judaism, Humanism, Sikhism or Hinduism which is similar to last year’s survey.

When asked about their sexual orientation, 90% of year 10 pupils said that they were heterosexual, up from 88% in last year’s survey. 3% said that they were bisexual (same as last year) and 2% said that they were lesbian or gay (up from 1% last year). 1% identified themselves as ‘other’ and 3% preferred not to say.

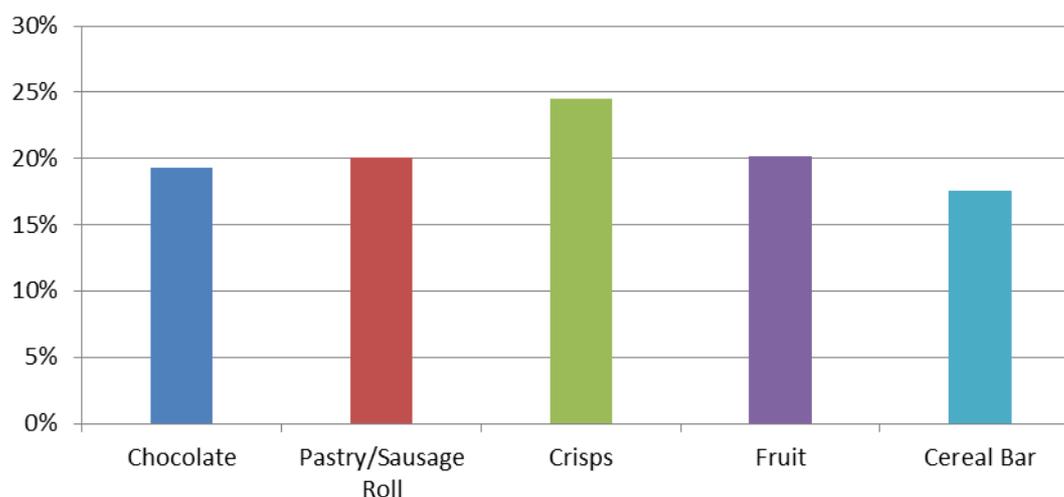
## **Food and Drink**

40% of pupils said that they ate five portions of fruit and vegetables per day (3% lower than 2013). Looking at the age groups separately, 44% of year 7 pupils eat five portions of fruit and vegetables per day compared to only 29% 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 about how many glasses of water they drank a day, 73% of young people questioned said that they drank 1 to 5 glasses of water (up 6% since last year), 18% said they had 6-10 glasses and 9% said that they drank no water at all (same as last year). More year 7 pupils said that they drank 6-10 glasses than year 10 (21% compared to 16%) and more year 10 pupils said that they drank no water (12% compared to 7% of year 7 pupils).

80% of all pupils said that they ate breakfast (up from 71% in 2013). Year 7 pupils are more likely to have breakfast (86% compared to 73% of year 10). Of the pupils that said they have breakfast, 72% had breakfast at home (lower than last year's figure of 79%). 4% said that they had breakfast on the way to school and a further 3% said that they ate it at school.

70% of pupils have a snack at break time (up from 63% in 2013). This year, crisps are the most popular choice compared with fruit last year. The different types of snacks are shown in the chart below:



52% of pupils that had snacks brought them from home (slightly down from 53% in 2013), 20% bought them from the school snack bar (same as last year) and 18% bought them from a shop on the way to school (down from 21% last year).

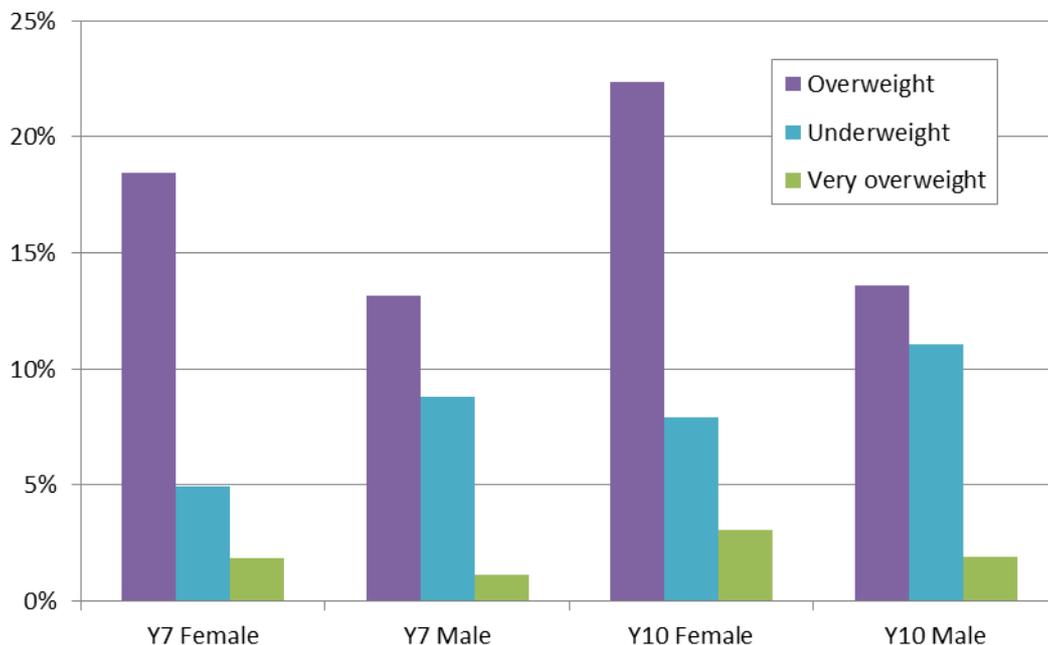
When asked where they mainly have lunch, 44% said that they have school dinners (up from 28% last year although it is difficult to compare as the wording has changed from last year's question). Year 7 pupils are more likely to have school meals than year 10 pupils (55% of year 7 pupils said they have them compared to 32% of year 10).

When the pupils didn't have school meals, 41% said they had brought a packed lunch from home (down from 63% in 2013 but again, difficult to compare to last year's question), 8% bought lunch from the local shop (down from 17% in 2013) and 6% said that they didn't have lunch (slightly down from 7% last year). Only 2% said that they go home for lunch (new option for this year's survey).

## **Sport and Exercise**

77% of pupils said that they regularly take part in sport or exercise (down from 81% in 2013). Year 7 pupils are more likely to exercise regularly (81%) compared to year 10 pupils (72%). Around half of all pupils questioned exercised 1 to 3 times a week (52%) a quarter of pupils exercised 4 to 5 times a week, 12% did 6 to 7 times a week and 11% exercised 7 or more times a week. The figures were almost identical when comparing year 7 and 10 pupils.

When asked about their weight, 73% felt that they were a healthy weight for their age (slightly down from 74% last year). 17% felt that they were overweight (slightly up from 16% last year), 2% felt that they were very overweight and 8% felt that they were underweight (both the same as last year). More year 7 pupils thought they were a healthy weight than year 10 pupils (76% compared to 70% of year 10). More males than females would class themselves as being a healthy weight, this was more pronounced in year 10 (73% of males compared to 67% of females). The rest of the options split by year and by gender are shown below:

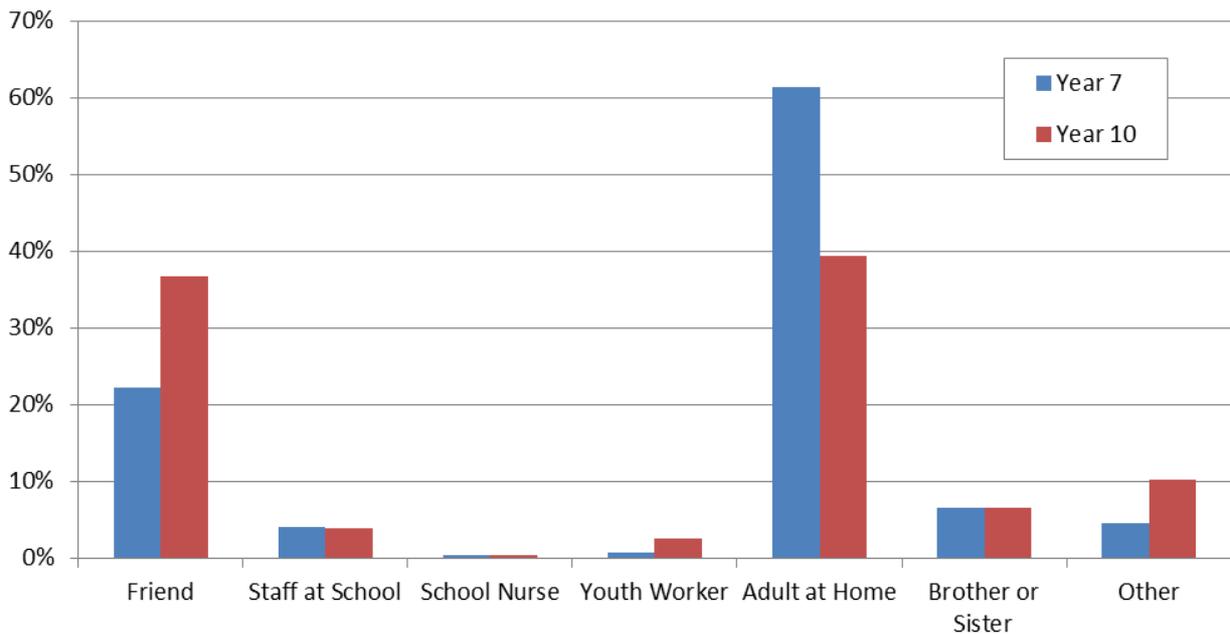


This shows that more females class themselves as being overweight (particularly in year 10) and more males class themselves as being underweight. 28% of pupils were worried about their weight (compared to 29% last year) and 48% of pupils knew where to go for support or advice if they were concerned about their weight (54% last year).

## **How Pupils Think and Feel**

When asked about how they feel about their home and social life, 56% felt good about their family and home life (lower than 62% in 2013) and 64% felt good about their friendships (down from 74% last year). When asked about how they feel about themselves, 34% felt good about the way they looked (down from 37% in 2013). When asked about how they felt about their schoolwork, 41% felt good about it (down from 44% last year). A new question for this year's survey was if pupils felt good about their relationships, 29% said that they did. The responses from both year 7 and year 10 pupils for the above questions were very similar (slightly lower for year 10).

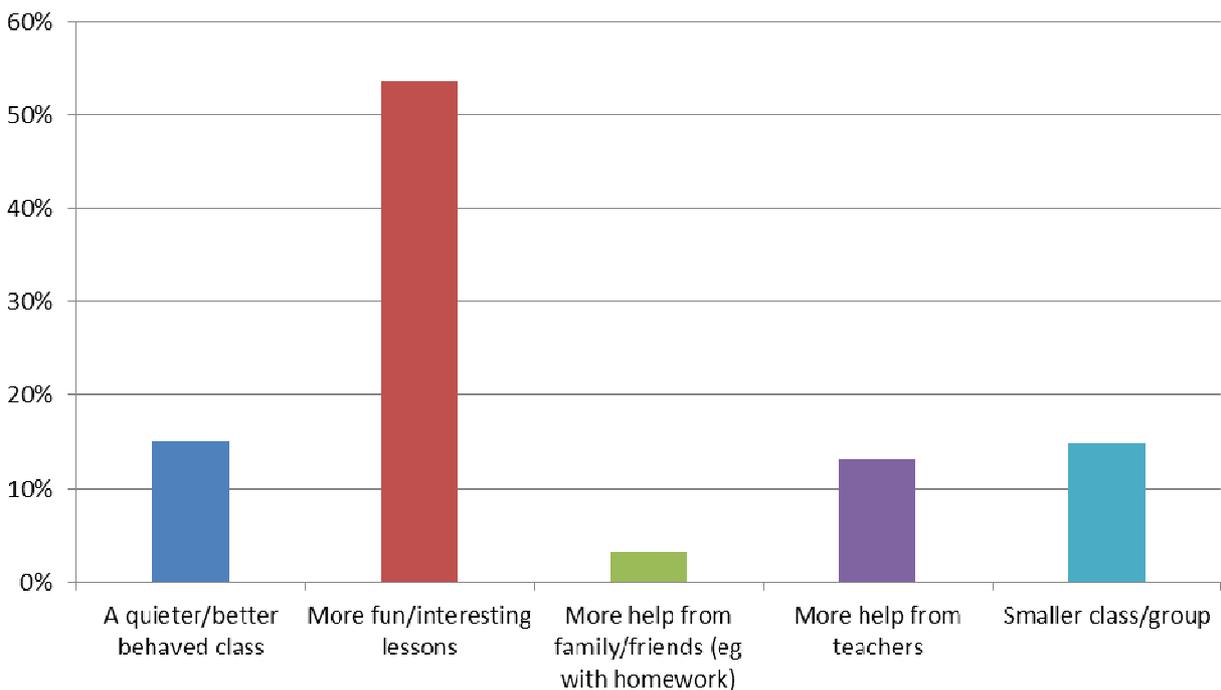
The pupils were then asked about whom they felt they would mainly discuss their problems with. The results are shown in the chart below:



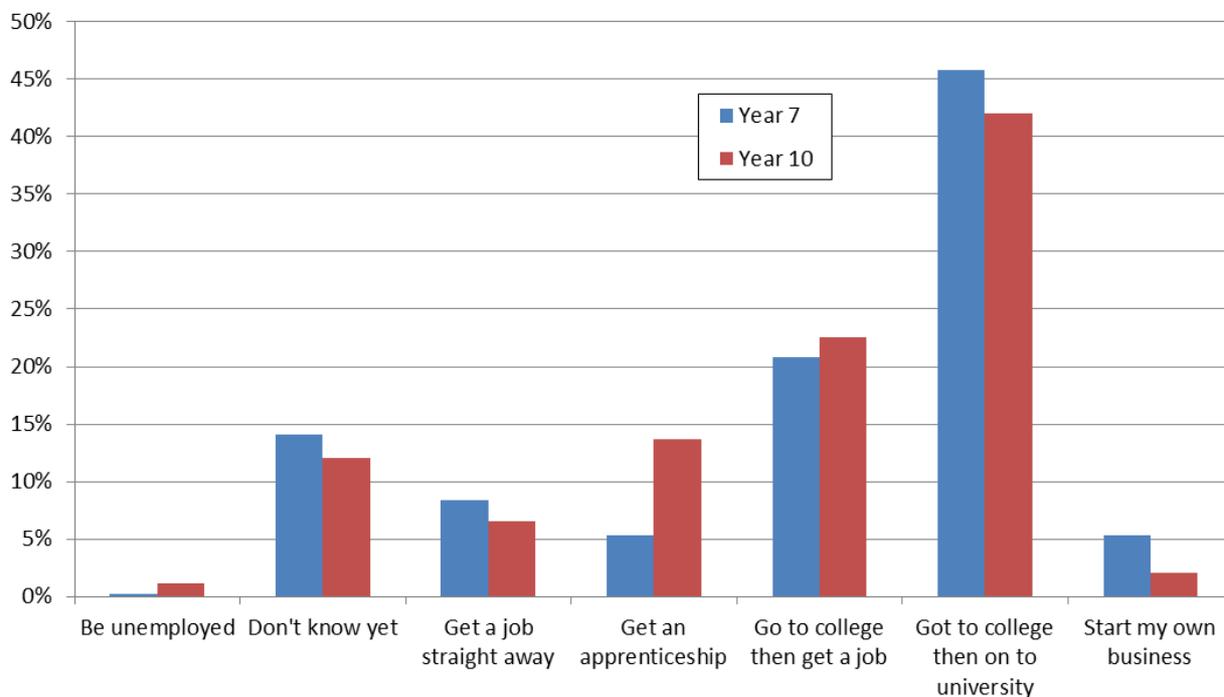
As in previous surveys, the majority of year 7 and year 10 pupils would speak to either an adult at home (61% year 7 and 40% year 10) or a friend (22% and 37% respectively). 7% of both year 7 and year 10 pupils would talk to their brother or sister about their problems. Only 4% of both year groups would mainly talk to a member of staff at school and only 2% of pupils would approach a youth worker about their problems. Females in both year groups are more likely to mainly speak to a friend about their problems and males 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. 8% of year 7 and 7% of year 10 pupils said they want to leave school and get a job straight away (compared to 11% and 5% respectively in last year's survey). The percentage of year 10 pupils that would like to get an apprenticeship has increased from 12% last year to 14% this year, whereas for year 7 pupils there has been a slight decrease from 7% to 5%.



Around 22% of both year 7 and year 10 pupils would like to study and then get a job at 18 (similar to last year's survey). 46% of year 7 pupils would like to study and go on to university (same as last year) compared to 42% of year 10 pupils (down 4% from last year's survey). 5% of year 7 and 2% of year 10 pupils wanted to start their own business (a new option for this year's survey).

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 13% of pupils said they didn't know what they wanted to do yet, which is a slight increase from last year's figure of 11%.

When asked if they felt their School Council made a difference, only 18% of pupils said yes (down from 34% last year). 30% said that they didn't know and 17% said that they didn't realise they had a School Council.

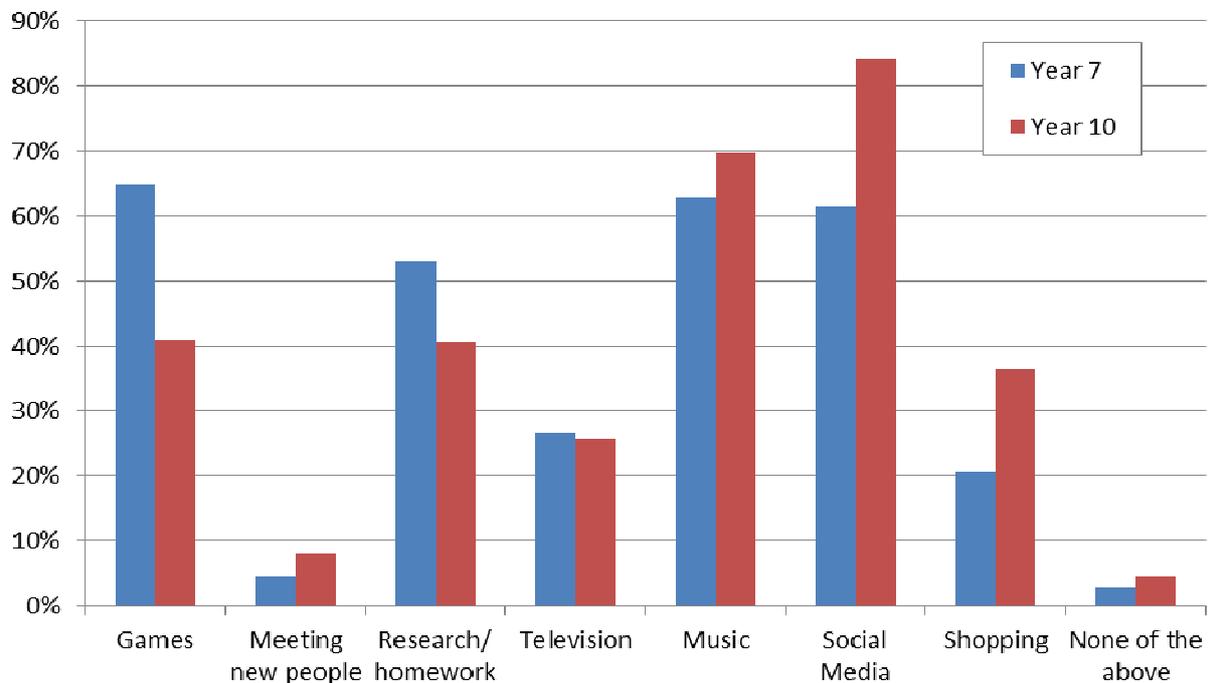
### **Out of School**

Pupils were asked what activities they did outside of school. 20% of pupils were involved with volunteering or a community group (a slight increase from 19% in 2013).

The pupils were then asked some new questions on internet usage and safety. The first of these was on where they mainly access the internet. Pupils mainly either access the internet from their home computer (66%) or from their mobile phones (28%). Year 7 pupils were more likely to use their home computers than year 10 (70% compared to 61%), whereas year 10 pupils were more likely to mainly access the internet on their mobile phones (35% compared to 22% of year 7). This may be because more year 10 pupils own mobile phones than year 7

pupils. Only 6% said that they mainly access the internet at school, someone else's house or in a library. Less than 1% of pupils said that they didn't use the internet.

The next new question was about what they did on the internet, where pupils could choose up to 3 responses. The results are shown below:



The majority of pupils in both year 7 and 10 use the internet for social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and downloading music. A high percentage of year 7 pupils (65%) also do online gaming. 21% of year 7 pupils and 36% of year 10 use the internet for shopping. This is quite a high number for both age groups as they don't have their own bank cards. This means they are using their parent's cards to either buy things for themselves or are doing online shopping on behalf of their parents.

The pupils were then asked what they thought the main risk was when using the internet. The main risk was felt to be cyber bullying, particularly for year 7 pupils (38%, compared to 23% for year 10). The second highest risk chosen was someone hacking your information, which was around 22% for both year groups. Security risks such as viruses were felt to be more of an issue for year 10 pupils than year 7 (23% compared to just 9%). 12% of both year 7 and year 10 pupils were concerned about people lying about who they are on the internet. Around 6% of all pupils chose 'seeing images that make you feel uncomfortable' and 'messages from people you don't know' as the main risk, whilst a further 6% did not feel that there were any risks when using the internet.

The final new question around internet usage was about where they first learned about internet safety. 68% of pupils learned about it at school, 26% at home, 2% online, 2% through friends and 2% said they had not learned about internet safety.

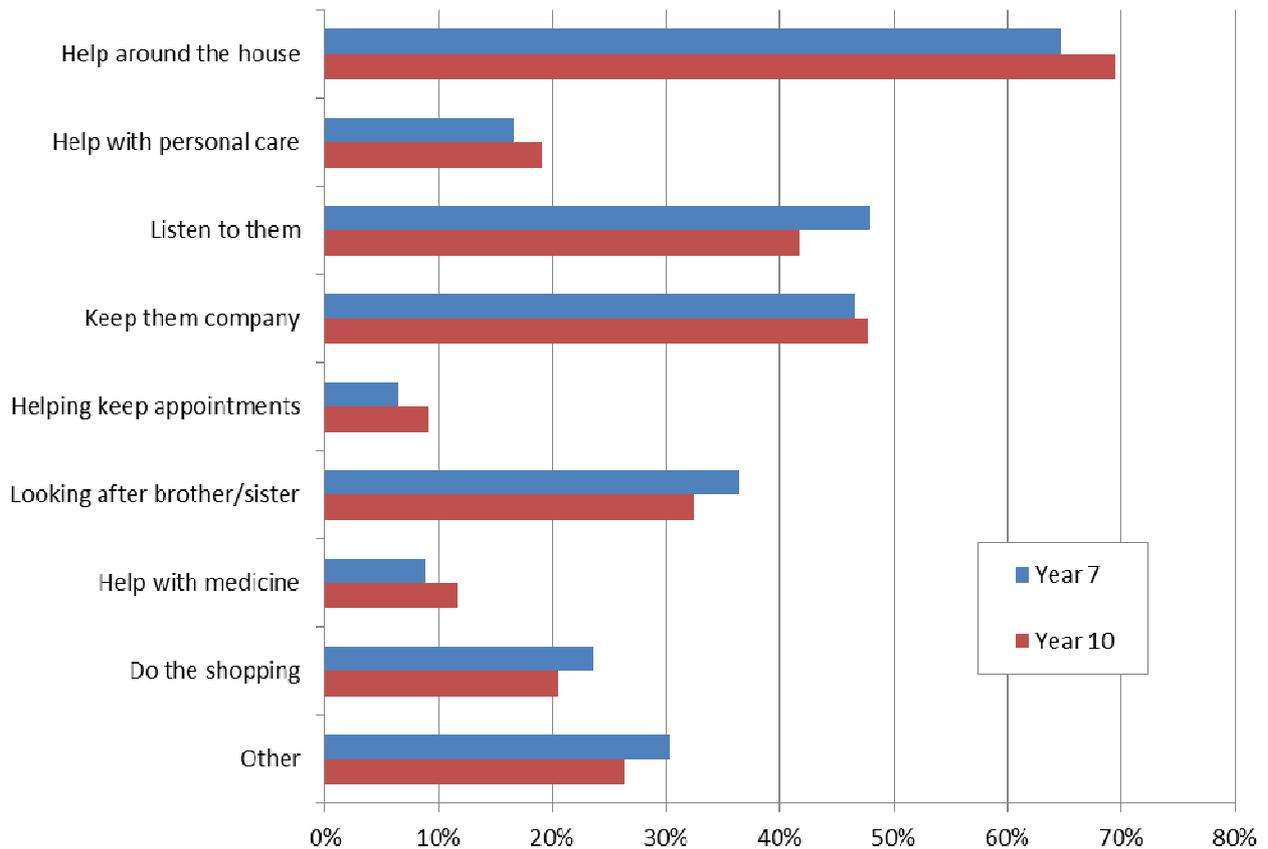
### **Young Carers**

29% of pupils consider themselves to be young carers; this is again a slight increase from the previous year's survey (27% in 2013). This figure has been gradually increasing year-on-year from 14% in 2011 which would imply that the percentage of young carers has almost doubled in this time. This does not align with the trend between the Census', as the 2011 Census figure of

12% for carers of all age groups has not increased since the 2001 Census. This could imply that either there is a higher percentage of younger carers, a greater awareness amongst young people or that there is some misunderstanding around the question of what a young carer is.

As with last year's survey, a higher number of year 7 pupils said that they were young carers than year 10 pupils (36% compared to 22%). Of the pupils that said they were young carers, 49% are caring for their parents, 45% for their brother or sister, 53% for another family member and 13% are caring for a friend of the family.

When asked about what are the 3 main things they do to help, the results are very similar for both year 7 and 10 and are shown in the chart below:



The 3 main things that young carers do are helping around the house (66%), keeping them company (47%) and listening to them (46%). However, these are all things that could be done without being a young carer, unlike helping with personal care (18%) and helping with medicine (10%) which are both much lower.

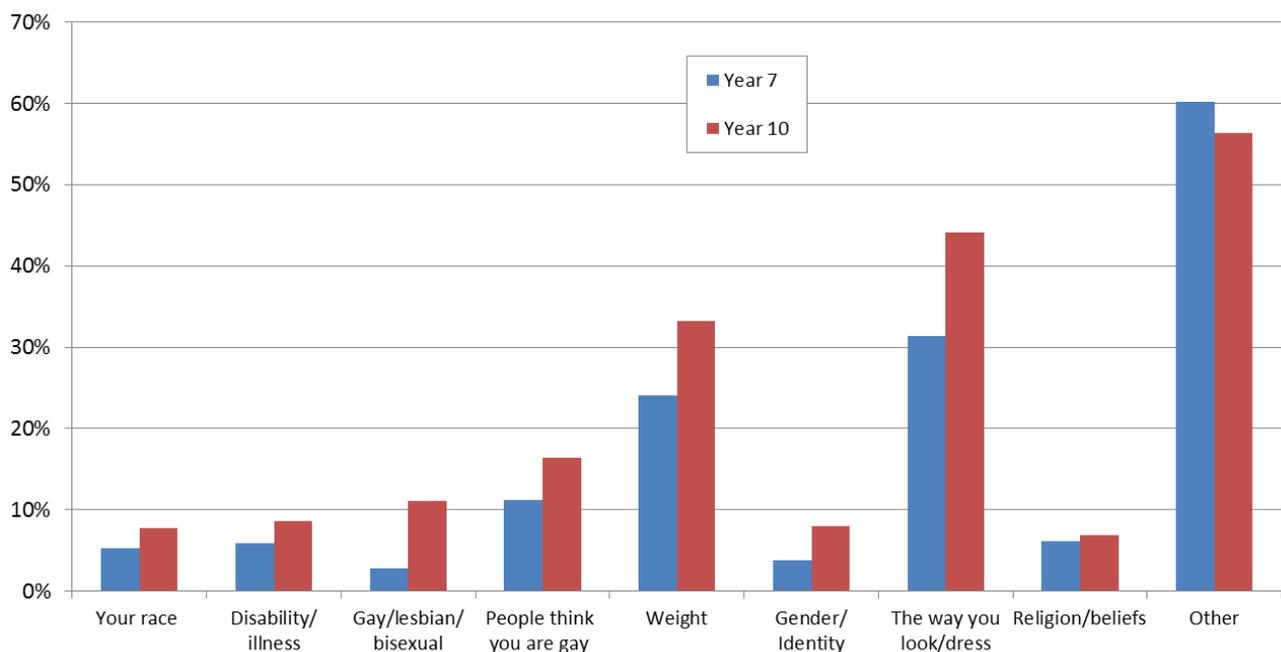
79% of young people cared for someone for 1 to 3 hours a day, 15% looked after someone for 4 to 7 hours a day and 11% looked after someone for 8 hours or more. It is difficult to compare to last year's survey as the question then was around how many hours a week they cared for someone instead of how many hours a day.

The majority of pupils (70%) would prefer to speak to either a parent or family member about being a young carer; this is the same as last year. 26% of pupils had heard about the Young Carer's Service, this is an increase from 20% in 2013.

## **Bullying**

From the 4,123 pupils questioned, 1,167 (28%) had been bullied. This is considerably lower than the percentage that said that they had been bullied in the 2013 survey (38%). A higher percentage of year 7 pupils said that they were bullied (33%) than year 10 pupils (23%).

The most frequent form of bullying is verbal (84%), followed by being ignored (33%), physical bullying (30%) and cyber bullying (26%). 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 (38% compared to 19% of year 7). The main reasons for pupils being bullied are shown in the graph below:



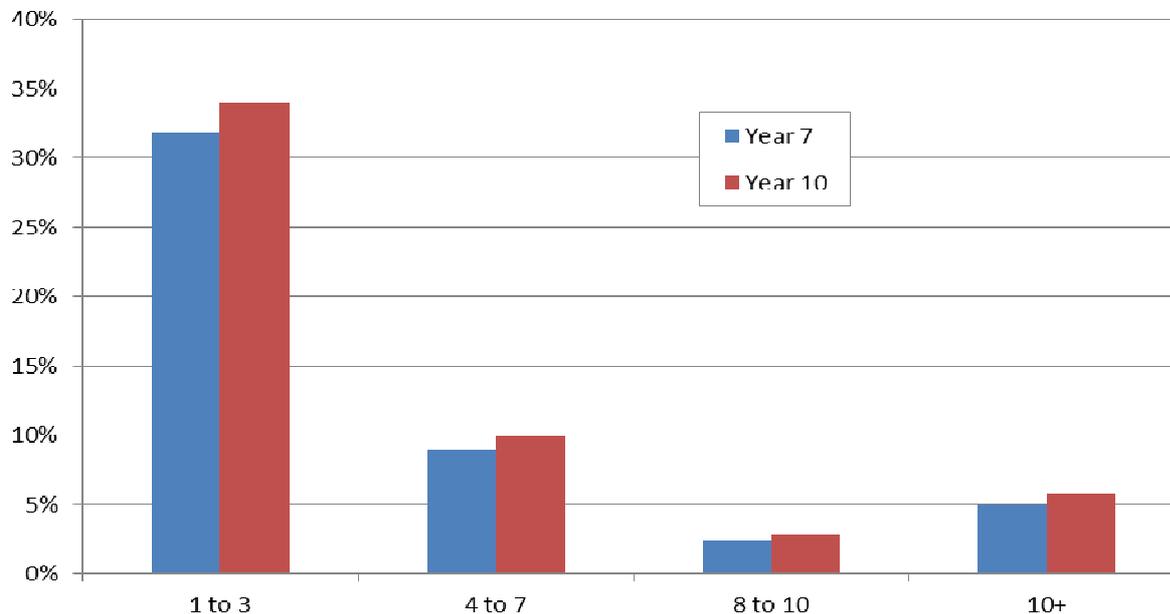
The results show that the main things that people bully others about is their weight and the way they look (same as the 2013 survey). A higher percentage of both year 7 and year 10 pupils also said that they were bullied for another reason, which needs to be explored further.

A new question was asked this year about when the bullying occurred. 49% said that they were bullied during school time, 11% said that they were bullied out of school time and 40% said that they were bullied during both of these.

When reporting the bullying, 36% told a parent or family member about it, 27% told a member of staff at school, 8% told a friend and only 1% told a youth worker. 23% of pupils that were bullied did not report it and 3% said that they did not know who to report the bullying to. 64% of pupils said that they received help when they reported the bullying; this is up from 26% in last year's survey. However, the routing of the question has changed in this year's survey so the only responses to the question were from pupils that said that they had been bullied rather than all pupils, which may have altered the results compared to last year.

## Smoking, Drinking and Drugs

Pupils were asked about their consumption of high energy caffeinated drinks such as Red Bull and Monster. 50% of pupils said they regularly drank high energy drinks, down from 59% last year. 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.

### Healthy Schools Rotherham Wickersley SCS - Good Practice Plus Case Study

#### The plan

- Target the consumption of caffeine drinks, given the negative impact on young people's health and wellbeing.

#### Actions

- Hold a focus week. Deliver assemblies to all year groups with a message about the negative impact of caffeinated drinks. Text parents with basic information relating to caffeinated drinks. Deliver staff training
- Deliver assemblies to all year groups with a message about the negative impact of caffeine drinks. Hold a focus week. Deliver staff training

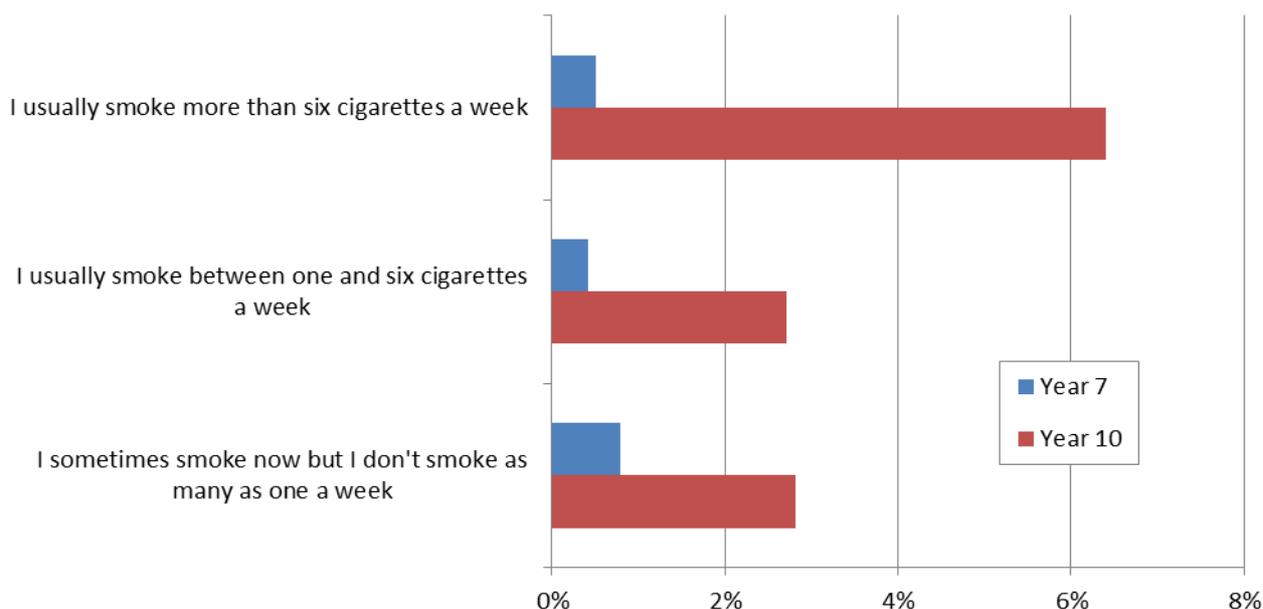
#### Outcomes

- Wickersley school achieved a reduction in the numbers of their pupils consuming caffeine drinks
- Overall the borough wide figures have shown a reduction in the consumption of caffeine drinks
- Rotherham Health Schools Good Practice Plus award achieved by Wickersley school for this initiative
- Information around this initiative shared with all schools

## Smoking

When asked about smoking, 66% of pupils said that their home was smoke-free (the same as last year's survey). A new question this year was if pupils thought it was ok for young people their age to smoke. Only 3% of year 7 pupils thought it was ok for people their age to smoke compared to 25% of year 10. Slightly more females than males thought it was for young people to smoke in both age groups.

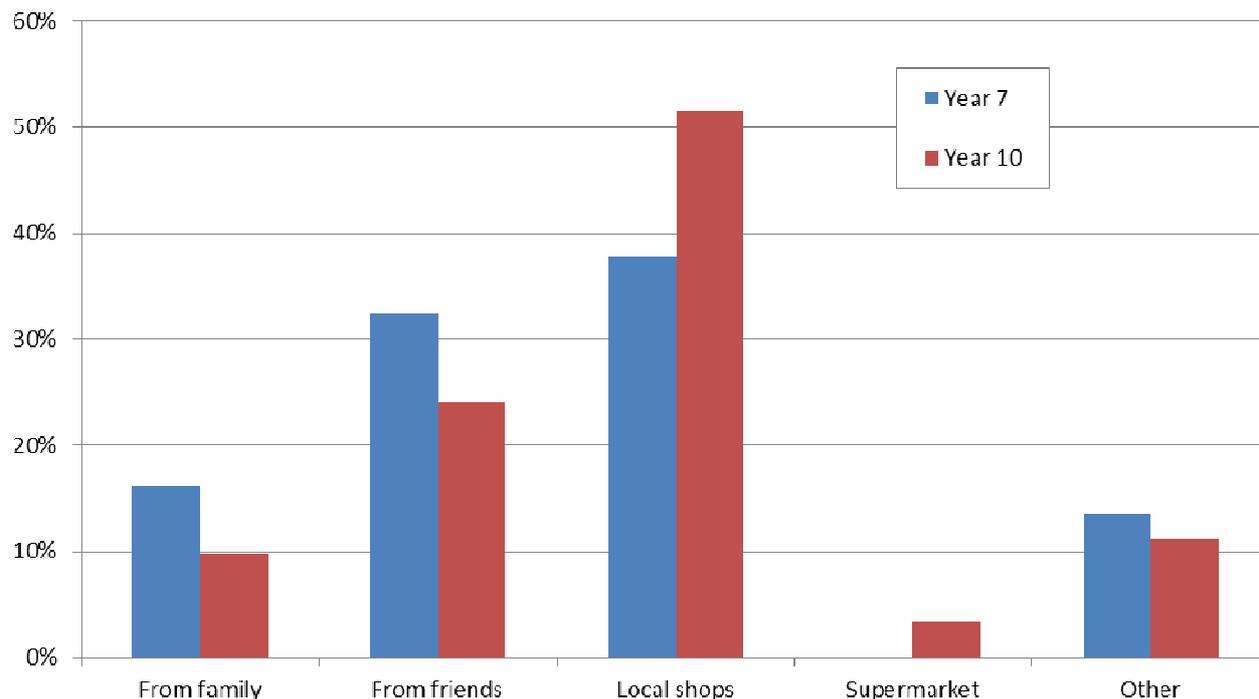
When asked if they smoked cigarettes, only 2% of year 7 pupils smoke compared with 12% of year 10 (these figures have increased slightly for both year groups since last year's survey, 1% and 9% respectively, although the wording has changed slightly this year). The wording of the question around how many cigarettes the young people smoke has also been changed to coincide with a national survey. The results are shown below:



The majority of year 7 pupils that smoke (1%) only smoke sometimes (less than one cigarette a week) compared to 3% of year 10. 0.4% of year 7 smoke between 1 and 6 a week (for year 10 the figure is 3%) and 0.5% smoke more than 6 cigarettes a week (compared to 6% of year 10). A slightly higher percentage of year 10 females said that they smoked (15% compared to 9% of Y10 males). For year 7 pupils an equal number of males and females said that they smoked.

If pupils said that they didn't smoke, they were then asked which statement best described them. 93% of year 7 and 70% of year 10 said that they have never smoked (compared to 94% and 64% respectively in 2013 which shows a higher percentage of Y10 pupils have never tried cigarettes in this year's survey). 5% of Year 7 pupils had tried smoking once compared with 20% of Year 10 pupils (similar to last year's 4% and 18%). A new option for this year's survey was 'I used to smoke sometimes but I never smoke now'. 2% of Y7 and 10% of Y10 pupils chose this option.

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

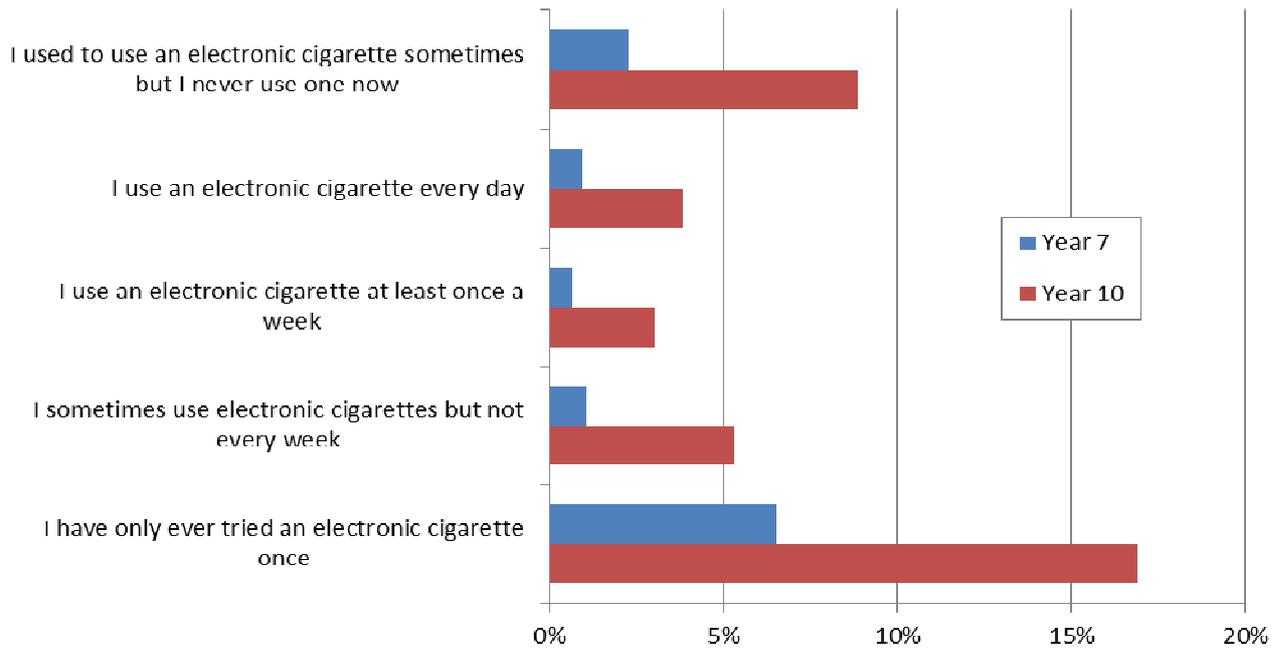


Year 7 and year 10 pupils that smoke are most likely to get their cigarettes from local shops which raises issues around the selling of cigarettes to underage young people. This seems to be less of an issue now with supermarkets, as the percentage has fallen year on year. It is interesting to note that 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, only 23% would like help to stop smoking. This is significantly lower than last year's figure of 75%, which again may be attributed to the routing of the question (only pupils that said they smoke regularly were able to answer this question instead of all pupils).

This year's survey also had a new question around the use of electronic cigarettes. 89% of year 7 pupils have never used an electronic cigarette compared to 62% of year 10 pupils. Of those that said they have used electronic cigarettes, they were then asked which statement best described their usage. The results are shown below:

**National Information  
Public Health England**

**Nationally overall rates of smoking – 22% of secondary school pupils had tried smoking at least once – this is confirmed as a reduction on previous years.  
(Health & Social Care Information Centre)  
By comparison nationally in 1996 nearly half the age group had tried smoking at least once**



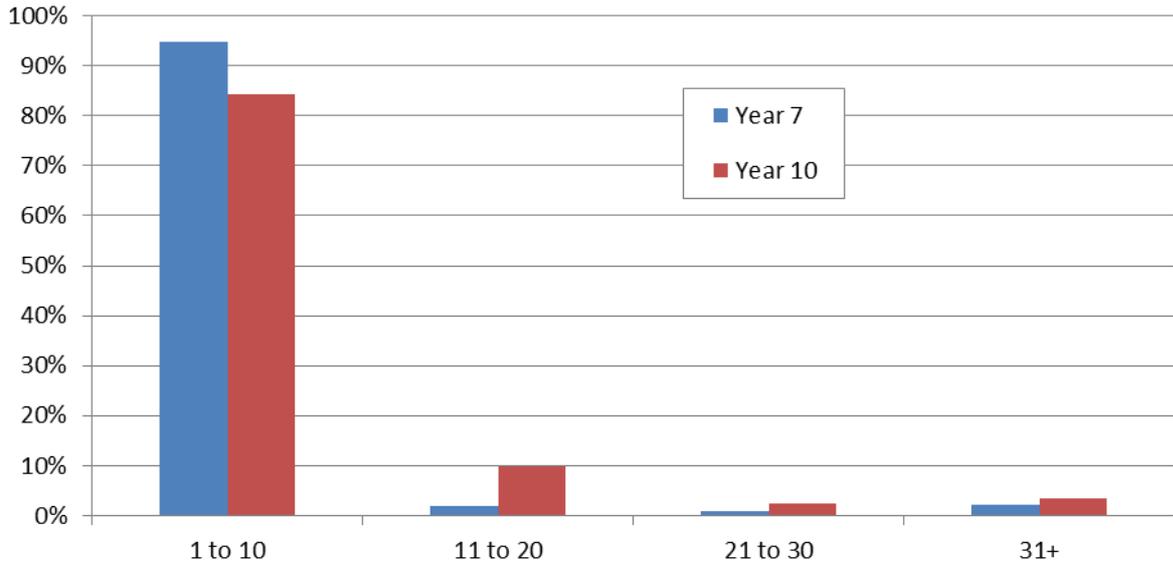
1% of year 7 and 4% of year 10 pupils use an electronic cigarette every day. 7% of year 7 pupils have tried one once compared to 17% of year 10. The rest of the responses show occasional use, either once a week or less. 2% of year 7 and 9% of year 10 used to use electronic cigarettes but never use one now. Of the pupils that use electronic cigarettes, 1% of year 7 and 6% of year 10 use them and smoke normal cigarettes too. 10% of year 7 and 17% of year 10 use electronic cigarettes and don't smoke normal cigarettes and 6% of both Y7 and Y10 pupils said they use electronic cigarettes to help them stop smoking.

### Alcohol

A new question this year was if pupils thought it was ok for young people their age to drink alcohol and get drunk. Only 7% of year 7 pupils thought it was ok for people their age to get drunk compared to 49% of year 10. For year 7 pupils, slightly more males thought it was ok to get drunk than females, for year 10 the reverse is true.

The pupils were asked if they have ever drunk alcohol and if so, how often. 63% of year 7 pupils had never tried alcohol (59% in 2013) compared with 24% of year 10 (23% in 2013). 26% of year 7 and 14% of year 10 pupils had tried it once (both slightly lower than last year).

2% of year 7 pupils drink alcohol regularly compared with 10% of year 10 pupils (again, slightly lower than last year). 10% of year 7 and 52% of year 10 pupils classed their drinking as 'social/infrequent' compared to 6% and 50% respectively last year. The same percentage of males and females said that they drank regularly for both age groups. Slightly more year 10 females said they drink socially/infrequently compared to year 10 males (54% compared to 49%). Of the pupils that drink alcohol on a regular basis, the following chart shows the number of units they usually drink per week:

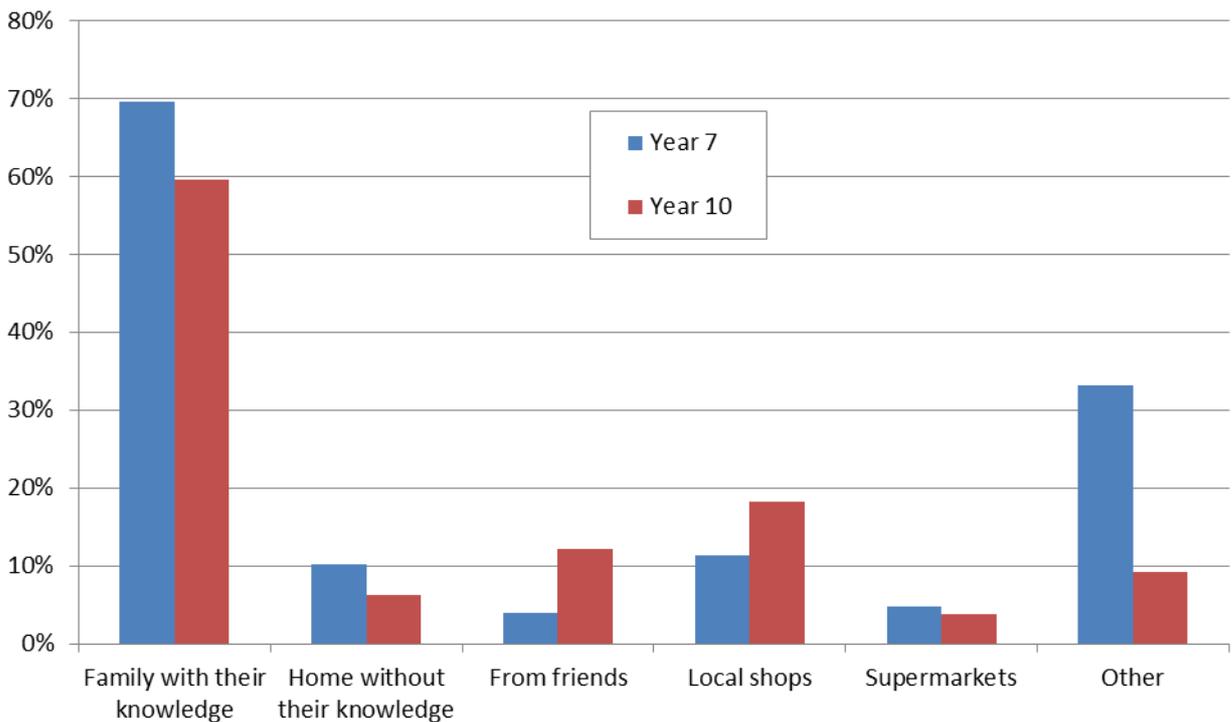


This shows that the majority of pupils from both year groups drink between 1 and 10 units a week (similar to last year) and 10% of year 10 drink slightly more (between 11 and 20 units a week). The number of pupils drinking over 31 units a week is slightly higher than those drinking between 21 and 30 units and may be slightly exaggerated by some pupils.

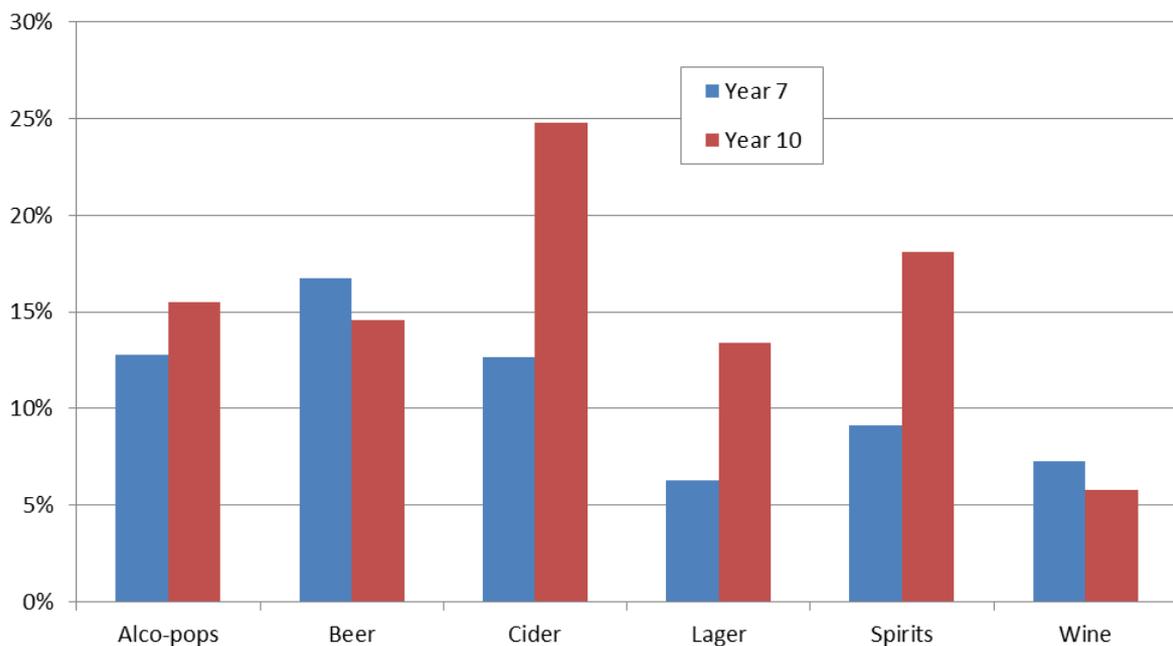
**National Information  
Public Health England**

**Nationally overall rates of on the average alcohol consumption  
The 2013 data suggested the average was 8.2 units, which for the  
first time in 5 years has fallen**

The pupils were then asked where they got their alcohol from. The results are as follows:



As in 2013, 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). A new option was added this year, so that alcohol from family members was split into getting the alcohol with or without the family’s knowledge. A slightly higher percentage of year 7 pupils got their alcohol from home without the knowledge of their family (10% compared to 6% of Y10). There is a higher number of year 7 pupils that chose ‘other’ (double the number that chose this option last year, which may warrant further investigation as to what this is). 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:

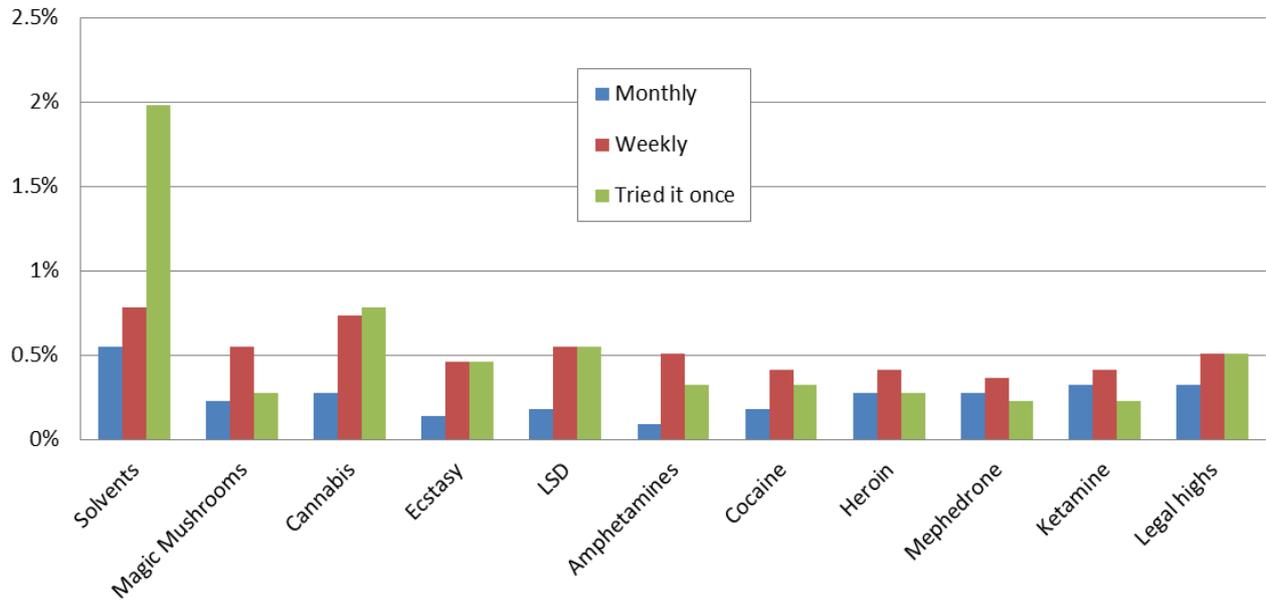


The three most popular drinks for year 7 pupils are Alco Pops, Beer and Cider (same as the previous three years). For year 10 the most popular are Cider, Spirits and Alco Pops (also the same as 2011-2013). Of the pupils that drink regularly, 18% of year 7 and 4% of year 10 pupils would like help to stop drinking (similar to last year).

**Drugs**

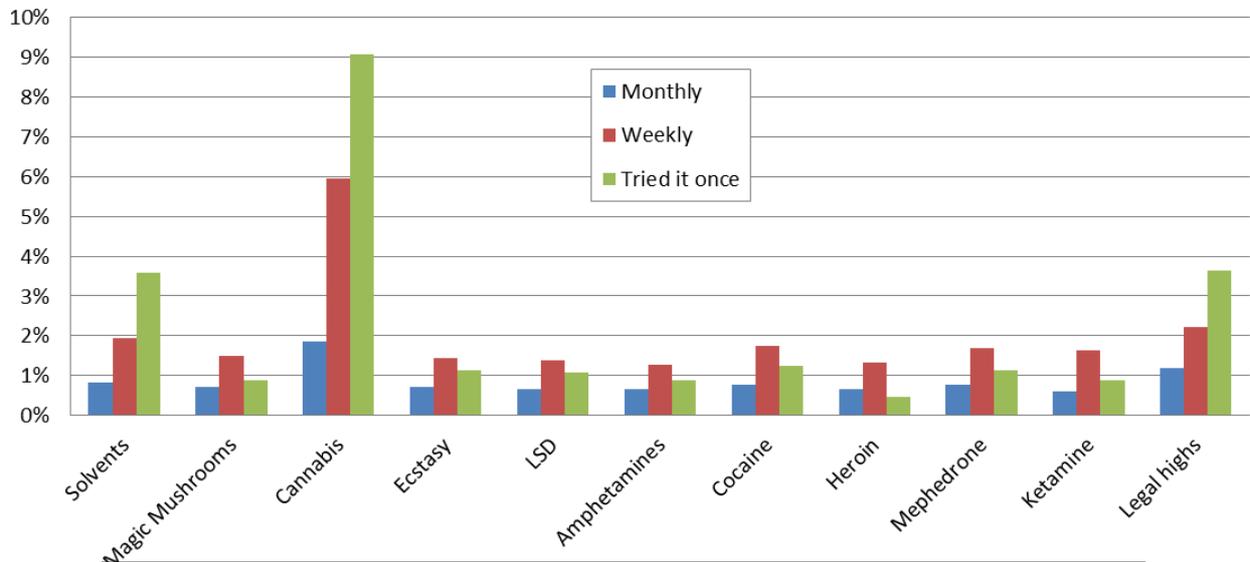
The pupils were asked if and how often they had taken various types of drugs. The results are shown below and are split into separate graphs for year 7 and year 10 responses:

**Year 7**



According to the year 7 responses, solvents are the most popular drug (same as the last 5 years). However, the number of Y7 pupils that said they use solvents every week has more than halved since last year's survey (down from 4% to 1%). 2% of pupils said they have tried solvents once (same as the 2013 survey). A new type of drug was added to this year's survey, legal highs (novel psychoactive substances). 0.5% of Y7 pupils said that they use legal highs weekly or have tried them once.

**Year 10**



**National Information  
Public Health England**  
Continuing falls in illegal drug use, which in 2013 was at its lowest level since 2001. 16% of secondary school pupils saying they have taken drugs, with 11% saying they had taken them in last 12 months

From the year 10 responses, cannabis is the most popular drug (as in previous years), with 9% of pupils saying that they have tried it once (10% of pupils in 2013) and 6% of pupils saying that they use it every week (5% pupils in 2012). This shows that the figures are similar to last year's responses. Again, legal highs are a new option for this year's survey. The percentage of Y10 pupils taking them is similar to those using solvents (over 3% tried them once, 2% take them weekly and 1% use them monthly). 23 pupils (1%) said that they take all the drugs every week which are most likely questionable responses.

12% of year 7 pupils said that they would like help to stop taking drugs whereas only 7% of year 10 pupils said that they would like help to stop (both figures are higher than the 2013 survey, 8% and 4% respectively). However, a higher number of year 7 pupils said they wanted help to stop taking drugs than the number that said they use drugs regularly.

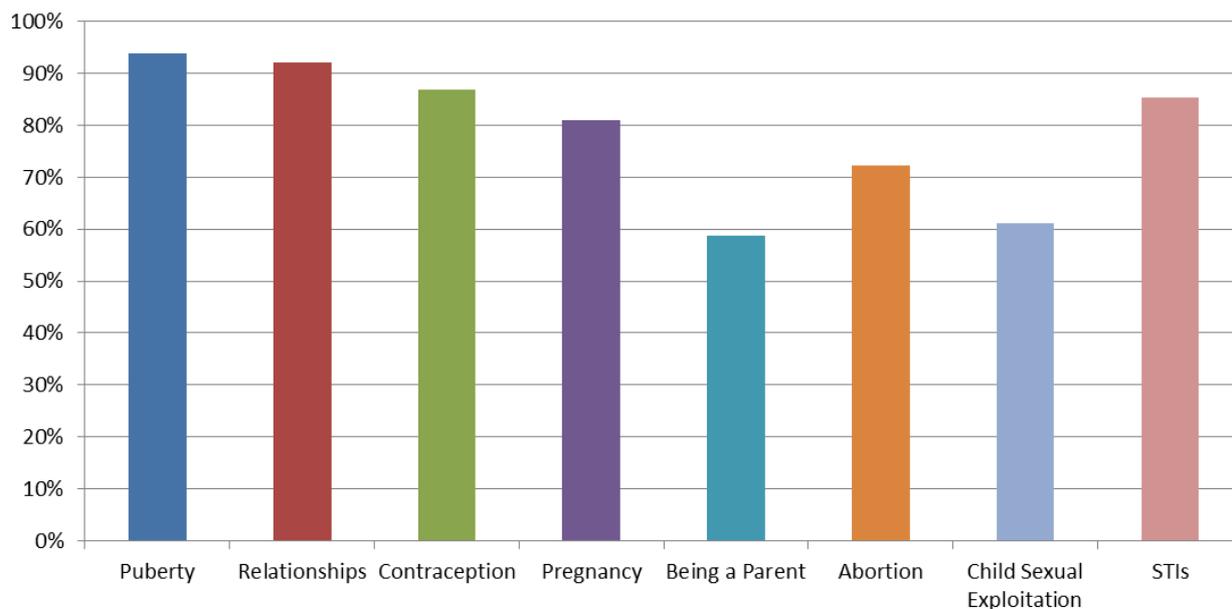
A new question was added to this year's survey asking if pupils thought it was ok for young people their age to take drugs. Only 3% of year 7 pupils thought it was ok compared to 12% of year 10. Slightly more males in both age groups thought it was ok compared to females.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RMBC Public Health Eastwood Drug Community &amp; Partnership Working The plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support this community with prevention and education around drug use</li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop a translated directory of services for this area</li><li>• Develop newsletter for community</li><li>• Partnership project with diversionary activities</li><li>• Peer mentoring from Roma community</li><li>• Full-time worker GP surgery to enable easy access and fast response to treatment services</li><li>• Work with Know The Score to develop drop in sessions for this community</li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• These will be monitored regularly through the Eastwood Drug Action Plan</li></ul>
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### **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 about them or not. For year 7 pupils, the majority said that they had been taught about puberty (91%) and relationships (78%).

The year 10 questions went into more detail and are shown below:



Around 93% of year 10 pupils said that they had been taught about puberty and relationships; 86% said they were taught about contraception and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), 81% about pregnancy, 72% about abortion and around 60% said that they had been taught about being a parent and about child sexual exploitation.

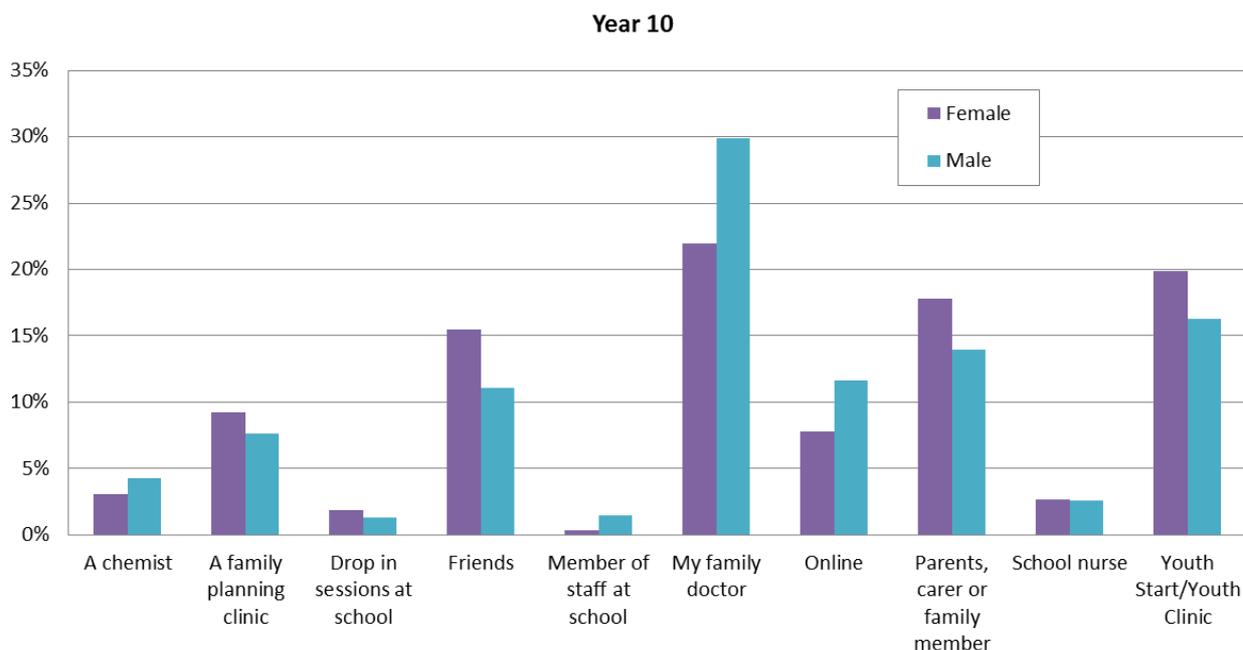
A set of new questions were asked of year 10 in this year's survey around sexual intercourse. 25% of year 10 pupils said that they have had sex, of these 46% (11% of all Y10 pupils) said that they have had sex after drinking alcohol. When asked about the types of contraception they used, 55% used a condom, 15% used a contraceptive pill, 6% used an implant, 2% had an injection and 22% of those having sexual intercourse did not use any method of contraception (5% of all year 10 pupils).

Year 10 pupils were then all asked where they would go for sexual health advice, information and services (split into male and female responses).

**National Information**

**National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles 2010-2012**

- 31% males reported having had sex under the age of 16
- 29% females reported having had sex under the age of 16
- On average Rotherham statistics are 5% lower than the national figure



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 or speaking to family. 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 (same as last year). Both males and females were least likely to attend drop in sessions at school or speak to a member of staff at school.

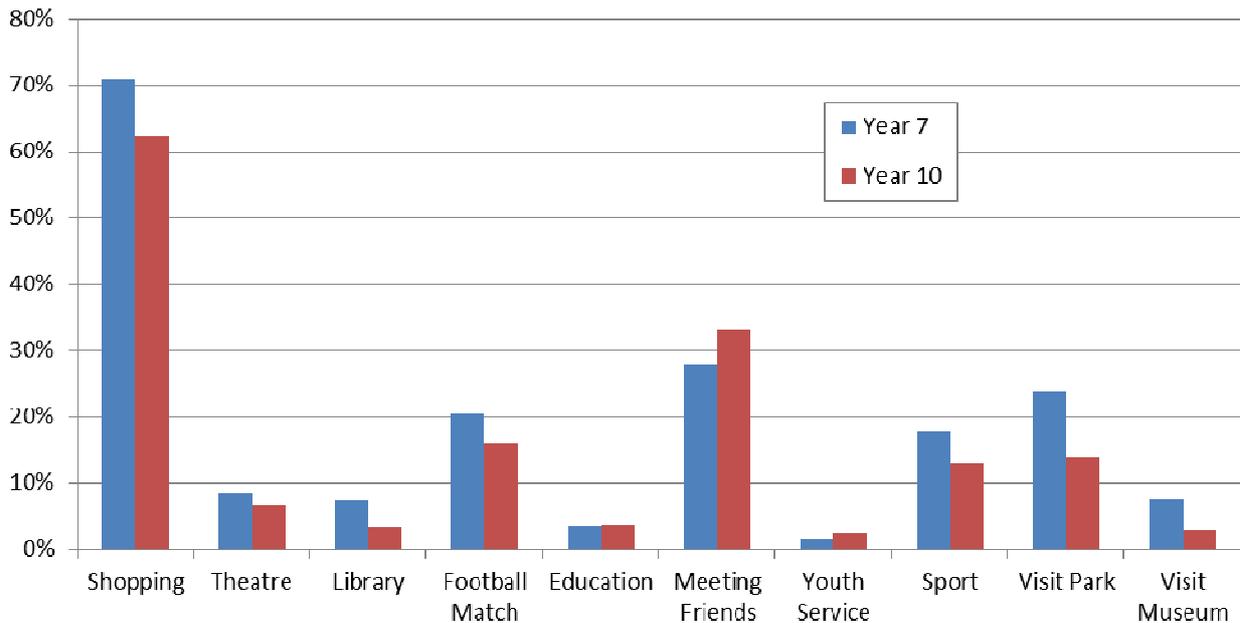
Year 10 pupils were then asked if they had heard of the following methods of contraception (the percentage of students that said yes are included). The figures for all methods are all similar to the 2013 survey, except for IUD/IUS Coil which was a new option for this year's survey:

- Implant - 81%
- Pill - 91%
- Condom - 93%
- Injection - 72%
- IUD/IUS Coil - 51%
- None of these – 7%

When asked if they knew who their school nurse was, 40% said yes (slightly higher than last year's figure of 38%). More year 10 pupils knew who their school nurse was than year 7 pupils (43% compared to 37% respectively). 13% of pupils said that they had visited a Youth Start/Youth Clinic (down from 19% in 2013).

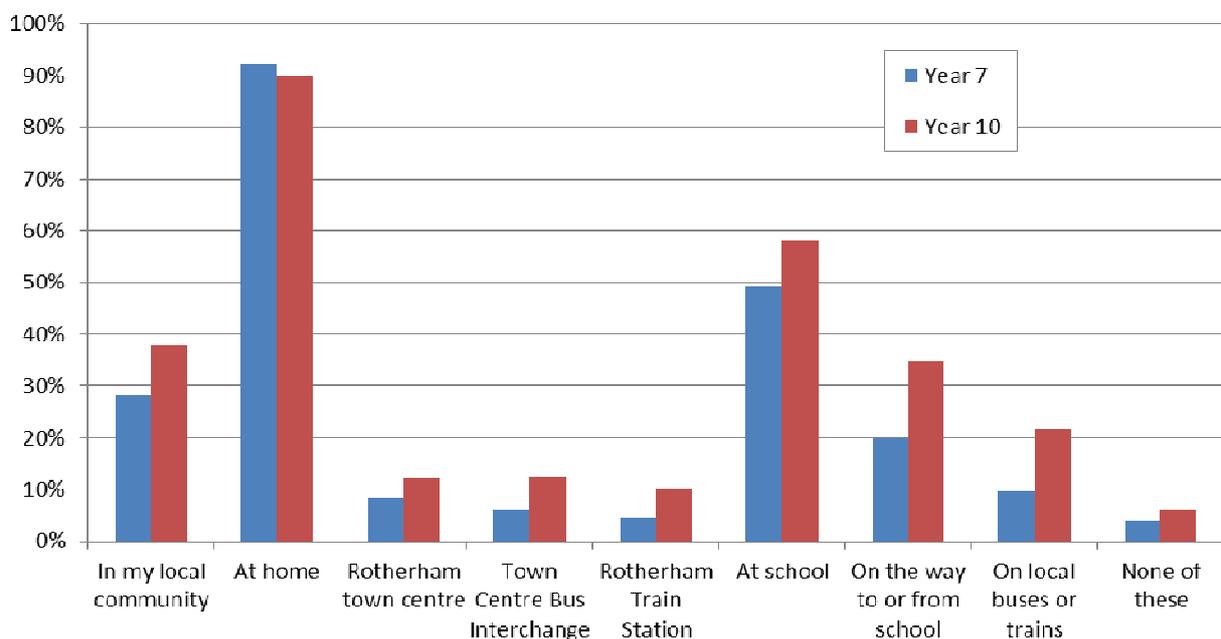
### **Your Local Town and Neighbourhood**

Pupils were asked if they regularly go into Rotherham town centre (at least once a week). 40% of pupils said yes, this is up from 34% last year. A new question this year was about the 3 main reasons pupils went to the town centre. The results are shown below:



Overwhelmingly the main reason that young people go into the town centre is for shopping (71% of year 7 pupils and 62% of year 10). The second most popular reason is meeting friends (around 30%). Going to the park, doing sport and watching football were also popular answers.

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

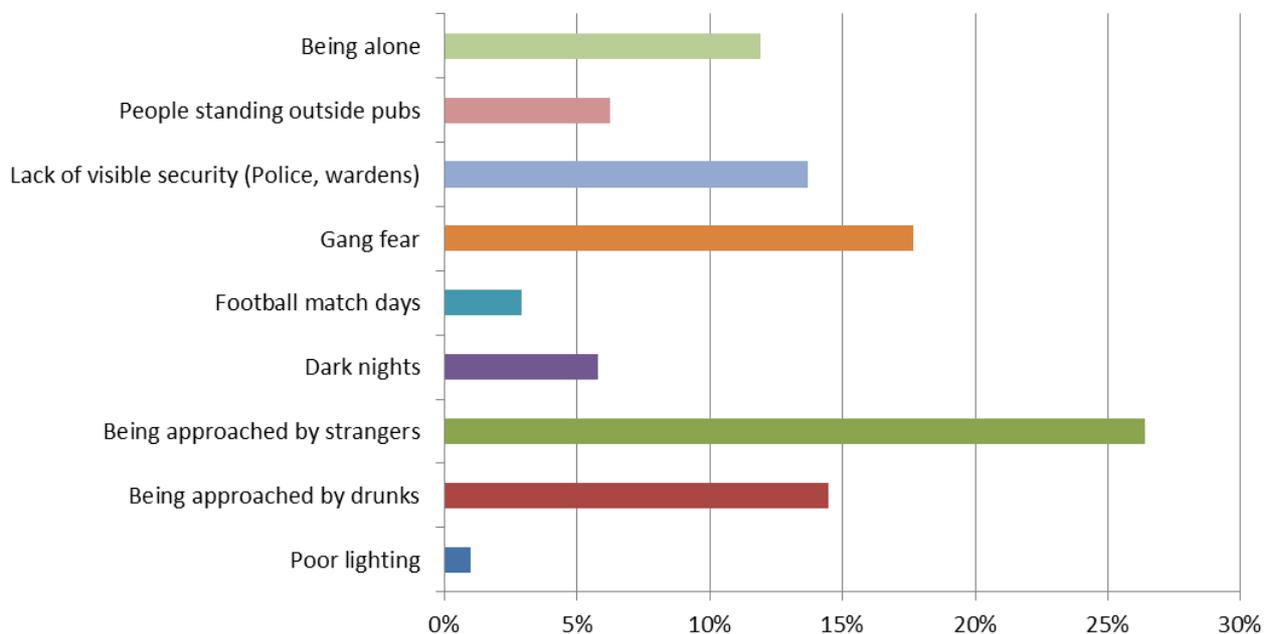


The majority of pupils (91%) always felt safe at home (a slight increase from 90% in 2013). There was also a slight increase in pupils feeling safe at school (54% compared to 51% in 2013) and in their local community (33% compared to 27%).

There was a slight decrease in this year's survey in the percentage of pupils feeling safe in the following areas: going to and from school (27% compared to 28%) and on local buses or trains (15% compared to 18%).

For the first time this year pupils were asked separately about feeling safe at the town centre bus interchange and at the town centre train station. 9% said they feel safe at the bus station and 7% at the train station. The low figure for pupils that feel safe at the train station may be due to fewer pupils travelling by train than by bus. Last year this option was phrased as ‘waiting for local transport’ where 14% said that they feel safe. 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 because of their younger age.

Only 10% of pupils said they usually feel safe in Rotherham town centre (which is slightly lower than last year’s figure of 12%). Of the 40% of pupils that said they regularly go into the town centre, 15% said they felt safe there compared to 7% of the 60% who are not regular visitors. The same pattern is also true for pupils feeling safe in the bus interchange (13% compared to 7%) and Rotherham Central train station (9% compared to 6%). Another additional question was asked in this year’s survey, if pupils didn’t feel safe what the 3 main reasons were for this. The results are as follows:



The 3 main reasons why pupils didn’t feel safe in the town centre, bus interchange or train station are being approached by strangers (26%), gang fear (18%) and being approached by drunks (15%). 14% of pupils also said that there was a lack of visible security such as a police officer or a warden.

**Rotherham Safer Neighbourhood & SYPTE Joint Working**

**The plan**

- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour at the Interchange
- Protect vulnerable people
- Improve visible policing within the interchange

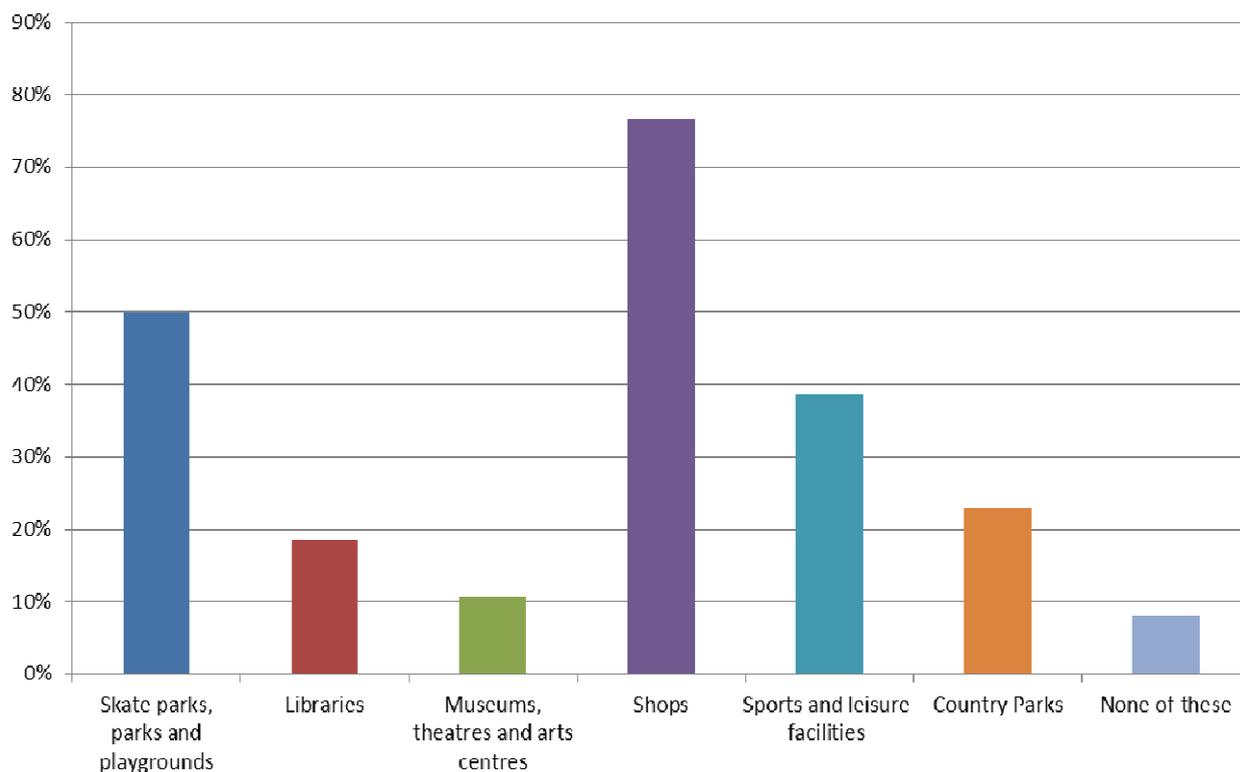
**Actions**

- Effective sharing of information
- Improve patrols at time times of high footfall
- Improve signage, cameras and lighting at Interchange
- Identify any training needs/knowledge gaps

**Outcomes**

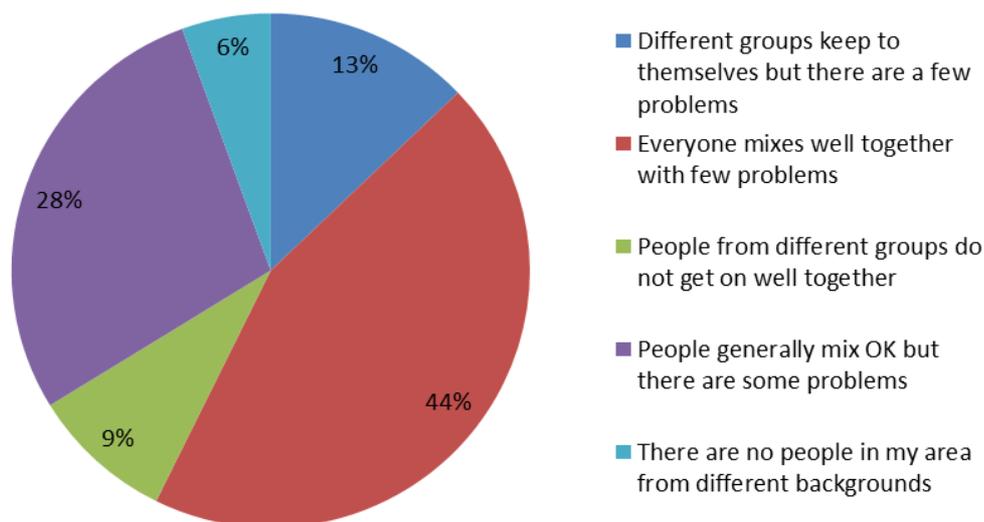
- These will be monitored quarterly through the Rotherham Safer Neighbourhood & SYPTE Joint Action Plan 2014

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 (same as last two years). The least used facilities are theatres, museums and arts centres (around 11%). 8% of pupils said that they didn't use any of these.

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 (44% compared to 42% last year). The number saying that people from different groups do not get on well together has gone down from 11% last year to 9% this year.

## Lifestyle Survey Results Action Plan 2014 ( Up-dated 19.12.2014)

Topic	Actions	Stakeholders	Progress
<p><b>Food &amp; Drink</b> Increase in the number of pupils who said they ate Crisps/Chocolate/ Sweets every day</p> <p>Increase in the number of pupils drinking high energy drinks regularly</p> <p><b>2014</b> <b>Crisps the most popular snack</b></p>	<p>Highlight data with Public Health to address in joint health and well-being strategy meetings</p> <p>Highlight data with Healthy Schools consultant</p> <p>Provide schools with details of weight management services</p> <p>Information could be provided to school with their own NCMP data compared to R &amp; E averages</p> <p>Ensure all children identified as overweight or obese are signposted to weight management services following National Child Measurement Programme</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Healthy Schools</p> <p>School Nursing</p>	<p>Obesity Strategy Group to note these results. Key priority within H&amp;WS and continued monitoring of action plan by H&amp;WB</p> <p>Strategy group to provide regular up-dates on actions to support young people with healthy eating and exercise</p> <p>Since 2009, 1,944 children have accessed the tiered weight management services provided by DC Leisure (MoreLife Clubs), Rotherham Institute for Obesity and MoreLife residential camps with success rates of 97%, 90% and 95% respectively. Food and drink choices are an integral part of the programmes offered.</p> <p>Increase in the number of pupils who felt they are a healthy weight for their age up to 74% in 2013 from 70% in 2012. <b>2014 this reduced to 73% - This is a perception and not actual</b></p> <p>Increase in the number of pupils who take regular exercise up to 81% in 2013 from 79% in 2012. <b>2014 this reduced to 77%</b></p> <p>Wickersley SSC achieved Good Practice Plus for their work on reducing the number of high energy drinks consumed. Other schools also worked with young people to encourage the reduction of the consumption of high energy drinks. 2014 this reduced to 50% from 59% in 2013</p> <p>Oral Health being promoted in HS Learning Community meeting and HS termly newsletter. The oral health team attend KS1 &amp; 2 meetings to promote the new oral health resources</p>
<p><b>Pupils Feelings</b> Reduction is the % of pupils who feel good about, family and</p>	<p>Highlight data with Public Health and Healthy Schools Coordinator</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Healthy Schools</p>	<p>Awareness of this raised with Healthy Schools Coordinators relating to school work summer term Learning Community meetings 2013.</p>

<p>home-life, friendships, themselves and schoolwork  <b>2014</b>  <b>A further reduction with young people feeling good and being critical of the way they look.</b></p>			<p>The Emotional Health and Well-being in Schools Group to note actions.</p> <p>Targeted Mental Health in Schools Conference held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2013 which looked at issues impacting on young people &amp; families; welfare reform, domestic abuse, suicide, self-harm and the schools response to these issues and available support.</p> <p>Self-harm pathway being developed for frontline workers who have contact with young people (9-25)</p> <p>Bereavement pathway in development which will ensure support for children and young people who are bereaved/affected by suicide.</p> <p>Letter sent out via schools in June 2013 to all parents highlighting support for young people who may be in emotional distress.</p> <p>Support services for young people who may be in emotional distress advertised on Public Health Channel summer/autumn months 2013.</p> <p>Youth Cabinet – gave a presentation to members of scrutiny panel for improving lives on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014, sharing their work around self-harm. This is a priority for Youth Cabinet this year, updates to be provided on actions taking forward by health partners</p> <p>Mental Well Being – Seminar on loss planned for 14<sup>th</sup> November – work by Healthy Schools Consultant covering areas of loss due to imprisonment, fostering/adoption. Illness/sudden death</p>
<p><b>Young Carers</b>  <b>27% of pupils identified themselves as young carers.</b></p> <p><b>20% of young people identifying themselves as young carers had knowledge of Young Carers Service</b></p> <p><b>2014 – 29% of young people</b></p>	<p>Highlight the findings with commissioned provider to support young carers</p> <p>Highlight findings with Integrated Youth Service</p> <p>Report finding to Carers Strategy Group</p> <p>Provide schools with details of</p>	<p>Barnardos</p> <p>Integrated Youth Service</p> <p>Neighbourhoods &amp; Adult Services Carers Strategy Action Group</p>	<p>Barnardos working in partnership with statutory partners to promote – Working Together to Support Young Carers</p> <p>Carers Charter has specific actions for Young Carers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the offer of information and support to young carers</li> <li>• Raise awareness in schools and in other young people settings of support for young carers and the young carers services</li> <li>• Support the Rotherham UK Youth Parliament members in developing a Young Carers card</li> </ul>

<p><b>consider themselves as carers</b></p> <p><b>26% of young people identifying themselves as young carers had knowledge of the young carers service – increase from 20% in 2013</b></p>	<p>Young Carers service and other areas where young carers can access support</p>		<p>Young Carers card in development stage – target date for launch in schools March 2014.</p> <p>Meeting with Health, Integrated Youth Service, Service Quality, Barnardos, Commissioning, to discuss development of a process for the card and development of a register of all young carers.</p> <p>Young Carers card is being promoted and piloted in 5 – Wales, Clifton, Wingfield, Swinton &amp; Wickersley secondary Schools.</p> <p>The aim of this card is to ensure young people caring, get the most appropriate support at an early stage. Making schools aware of a young person's circumstances and offer them the right support at the right time.</p>
<p><b>Bullying</b></p> <p>38% of pupils answered that they had been bullied (same % as 2012)</p> <p>Pupils who said they have reported the bullying reduced from 2012</p> <p>Pupils who said they had received help and support after reporting bullying reduced from 2012</p>	<p>Highlight findings with School Anti-Bullying Officer</p> <p>Highlight findings to all schools</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Officer</p> <p>Schools</p>	<p>Schools appointing Anti-Bullying ambassadors</p> <p>14 secondary schools have signed up signed up to the National Bullying Charter and have all schools have an anti-bullying strategy and toolkit.</p> <p>Schools can achieve a grading within the charter from Bronze to Gold</p> <p>New questions added to the 2014 survey to identify where the bullying is occurring at school, out of school or both</p> <p>Questions added to the 2014 survey to identify the level of cyber bullying</p> <p>Results from these new questions will be available from September 2014</p> <p>Significant improvement with bullying rates 2014</p> <p>28% of young people answered that they had been bullied down from 38% in 2013</p> <p>58% of young people said they had received help up from 26% in 2013</p>
<p><b>Safety</b></p> <p>Pupils feeling safe travelling on public transport or waiting for public transport produced similar results as in 2012</p>	<p>Report findings to key stakeholders who have ongoing activities to address these issues</p>	<p>Deprived Neighbourhood Co-ordinator for Town Centre</p>	<p>Youth Cabinet led the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Management Board Meeting and requested that all key partners meet to address these issues</p> <p>This meeting was attended by South Yorkshire Passenger Transport, First Group, SY Police, Scrutiny Members, Cabinet Members, Directors at RMBC and CYPs Officers</p>

<p>Pupils feeling safe in Town Centre also produced similar results to 2012</p> <p>2014 Town centre feeling safe 10%</p> <p>Town centre bus station feeling safe 9%</p> <p>Town centre train station feeling safe 7%</p> <p>40% of young people said they regularly visit Town Centre</p> <p>More young people who said they do visit the town centre regularly (40%) said they felt safe in and around the town centre rather than those who responded that they do not visit town centre (60%) - This is further evidence that there is work to be done with young people on the perception of safety in and around town centre</p>		<p>Safer Neighbourhood Team</p> <p>RIDO</p> <p>SY Passenger Transport</p> <p>Police</p> <p>EDS</p> <p>Integrated Youth Service</p> <p>Voice &amp; Influence Sarah Bellamy</p>	<p>Actions agreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve communication borough wide, to ensure young people are aware of public transport services, where and how to report concerns and raise comments about service standards</li> <li>• Encourage young people to become involved in making decisions e.g. become a member of user group mystery shopping</li> <li>• Improve public safety at bus and train interchange especially late evenings</li> </ul> <p>Annual review of these actions to take place in 2014 Youth Cabinet Youth Cabinet holding a Children's Commissioners Day on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014 including a progress review on these issues Progress to date (Dec 2013)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SYPTE have upgraded their website for young people.</li> <li>• Young people are attending Rotherham Transport user group</li> <li>• Young people have met with Rotherham Interchange management to discuss their views around safety</li> <li>• There is now a Rotherham Town Centre Voice &amp; Influence Group for young people age 13 to 19 to give their voice to what they would like to see happening in Rotherham Town Centre. This new group are holding their first meeting Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January at Myplace in Rotherham</li> </ul> <p>SYPTE have on-line report incident form and also Facebook page Behaviour Guide for Young People Lifewise teaching – out to schools 13,000 young people have received this training in PSHE Lessons On-line complaints process</p> <p>Pupils who responded that they visited Town Centre, there was a higher % of these pupils saying that they felt safe in Rotherham Town Centre, than those who said they did not visit. Activities to be agreed to work on perceptions of visiting Town Centre. Crime statistics support this, crime rates from Town Centre for overall crime are on decline</p>
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			<p>Crime statistics for public transport are also relatively low but 54% of crimes that have been committed involving public transport have occurred in Rotherham Bus Interchange. SYPT have recognised that this is a hot spot.</p> <p>Request for PYPPO's to visit secondary schools to present to pupils safety information</p> <p>Youth cabinet presented at Youth Cabinet to members, police, transport executive at scrutiny panel for improving lives on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014, sharing their work looking at safety issues. Youth Cabinet reported that they had seen some improvement during daylight hours, but there were some issues still need addressing. Police, Youth Cabinet and Transport Executive are going to continue working together to look for resolutions to some of these problems.</p> <p>New questions have been added to the survey to identify what are the key issues for young people around safety; the results from these new questions will be available September 2014.</p> <p><b>Safety Issues being monitored in Rotherham Safer Neighbourhood Team &amp; SYPTE Joint Action Plan 2014 Developed September 2014</b></p>
<p><b>Smoking</b> Improvement in the number of pupils smoking, pupils from smoke free homes</p> <p>Young people (Y10) in particular purchasing cigarettes from local shops. Supermarkets relatively low %</p>	<p>Report findings to Tobacco Control Strategy Group</p> <p>Report findings to Trading Standards Team (Environmental Health)</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>School Nursing</p> <p>Healthy Schools</p> <p>Tobacco Control Strategy Group</p> <p>Health &amp; Well-Being Board</p> <p>Trading Standards</p>	<p>Smoke-free class resources provided to all primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>Benefits of non-smoking promoted to all secondary schools. Confidence building with young people not to give into peer pressure Work underway to ensure all schools have a Smoke-free policy</p> <p>Smoke-free resource launched to address issue of smoking on school premises)</p> <p>Briefing sent to Trading Standards Team NAS – await up-date on ongoing actions to address issues of local shops selling cigarettes and alcohol to under age children</p> <p>Public Health is carrying out a detailed survey of smoking behaviour and</p>

			<p>beliefs with young people accessing Youth Start.</p> <p>*A promotion that the social norm, most young people don't smoke, promoting youth-based anti-smoking activities such as the Cut Films competition.</p> <p>Promotion of national events such as No Smoking Day and developing some youth advocacy activities</p> <p>*To support young people against the peer pressure of smoking – a question has been added to the survey – do you think it is OK for young people to smoke The results for this show 96.7% of Y7 said No and 75.4% of Y10 said No.</p>
<p><b>Alcohol &amp; Drugs</b></p> <p>Alcohol consumption responses are similar to 2012 survey, although less % of Y7 pupils said they have never tried alcohol 59% in 2013 compared to 63% in 2012</p> <p>From family was far the highest response to where they get the alcohol from. As with cigarettes Y10 are purchasing alcohol from local shops and supermarkets relatively low %</p>	<p>Report findings to Alcohol &amp; Drug Strategy Group</p> <p>Report findings to Enforcement Team (Environmental Health</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>School Nursing</p> <p>Healthy Schools</p> <p>Health &amp; Well-Being Board</p> <p>Know the Score</p> <p>Enforcement Team</p>	<p>Know the Score is a commissioned services to support young people with alcohol and drug issues</p> <p>A single message for both drug and alcohol has been developed and all partners/agencies delivering support around these two issues have received this message.</p> <p>Community Alcohol Partnerships have been developed in 2 project areas – Dinnington and East Herringthorpe/Dalton/Thrybergh. Early stages of development.</p> <p>E-Learning package accessible in all educational settings. This is being promoted by Health &amp; Well-Being Board and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>Promote to parents the health risks giving their children cigarettes and alcohol when they are under age</p> <p>**Public Health and Healthy Schools are wanting to promote that it is not social norm for young people to drink excessively, new questions added to survey to support this</p> <p>**To support young people against the peer pressure of drinking – a question has been added to the survey – do you think it is OK for young people to drink alcohol The results for this show 93.4% of Y7 said No and 51.1% of Y10 said No.</p>

			<p>Responses to the question do you think it is OK for young people to take drugs The results for this show 96.8% of Y7 said No and 88.3% of Y10 said No.</p> <p>RMBC Public Health have developed an action plan to work over a 6 month period in Eastwood, through community and partnership meetings this area has been identified has a major community concern.</p>
<p><b>Sexual Health</b></p> <p>Key findings from 2014 survey 25% of Y10 young people said that they have had sex 46% said they have had sex after drinking alcohol 22% said they did not use any method of contraception</p>	<p>2014 add specific questions to 2010 survey around sexual health in line with national information</p> <p>Results to be highlighted with school staff at PSHE Leads meetings and HS coordinators meetings; secondary colleagues encouraged to link to alcohol education when teaching SRE and to use the data to explore attitudes to unprotected sex and risk.</p>	<p>Public Health Healthy Schools Consultant</p>	<p>National comparative data: 31% males and 29% females (aged 16-24) reported having had sex under the age of 16 – (National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles 2010-2012)</p> <p>Share Rotherham Lifestyle Survey findings with Sexual Health Strategy Group to help inform the delivery framework and with service providers to help inform appropriate targeting of services</p> <p>Sexual Health strategy group has already identified work with young people as a priority for the delivery framework</p> <p>Consultation with the Youth Cabinet has endorsed the approach that the strategy takes in relation to young people</p>
<p><b>Information from schools</b></p> <p>Feedback from schools on the use of the survey</p> <p>Identify how schools use the information, in the survey</p>	<p>Share the results information with PSHE Teachers, HS Coordinator and Pastoral Team. Dedicated assemblies Staff Meetings Dedicated PSHE Lessons Share with School Council Student Voice Lessons</p>	<p>Schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added Breakfast provision in school canteen (reported from one school)</li> <li>• Promoted to young people where students can locate and access confidential health advice</li> <li>• Changed content delivered around certain topics in lessons</li> <li>• Moved around units of work between year groups to where it is most appropriate, following results from 2013 survey</li> <li>• Change to PSHE Lesson using data from 2013 around alcohol – to raise the issues of drinking alcohol with young people</li> </ul>

	One to One discussions with young people offered Lead young volunteers discuss results with management team and committee Feedback in PSHE Lessons		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaign to raise the profile of the school council</li> <li>• Review dinner menu options</li> </ul>
<b>Amendments to 2014 Survey</b>	Consultation has taken place with all key stakeholders to review some of the questions in the survey	Schools Youth Cabinet Police Social Care Public Health Health Schools Voluntary Sector Sheffield Local Authority Barnsley Local Authority	<p>New questions have been added to reflect some of the questions that are being asked in national surveys and in lifestyle surveys of neighbouring local authorities These are around Internet Safety Electronic Cigarettes Feeling Safe Relationships &amp; Sexual Health</p> <p>The information around these questions have been highlighted to all schools, letter to parents/carers DLT and SLT Communication Team Stakeholder that we consulted with approved these questions Results of these questions are available in the borough wide report</p> <p>The borough wide report has been redesigned and will be available when the report goes live on the Website and distributed to schools (14<sup>th</sup> January 2015)</p>
<b>Proposal for 2015 Survey</b>	Reviewing of the questions	Police Safe Neighbourhood Team Health Schools Healthy Schools Consultant Youth Cabinet	<p>Hold a further review of the questions within the survey Identify the purpose of asking each question within the survey Identify the key stakeholder who would be responsible for auctioning any issues from survey results, so they own that particular action and can put forward activities for improvements</p>

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> January 2015</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Response to the Scrutiny Review on Supporting the Local Economy</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Environment and Development Services</b>

**5. Summary**

This report provides an officer response to the 13 recommendations of the Scrutiny review into supporting the local economy

**6. Recommendations**

**That Cabinet approve the response to the recommendations of the Supporting the Local Economy review**

## 7. Background

The review was conducted by a group from the Improving Places Select Commission, chaired by Cllr Emma Wallis. It took place between November 2013 and May 2014.

The Objectives of the review were:-

- To analyse the impact of changes to local government finance – particularly business rates.
- To analyse how the Council can create the right conditions for growth in the private sector
- To influence the development of the Growth Plan for Rotherham, which in turn feeds into the City Region Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)
- To develop a whole Council approach to increase business rates in Rotherham

The scope of the review was kept narrow as it was anticipated that the review could expand to cover a wide range of issues thus diluting the impact of its recommendations and extending the time it would take to complete. Members therefore agreed to focus on the following lines of enquiry during the review:

- What is the impact of an increase/decrease in business rates on the Council finances?
- What is the impact of this on the local economy?
- How can the Council support economic development and what should be in the growth plan? What different models can be adopted?
- How are supply chains supported?
- What incentives can be offered to local businesses?
- How do we evaluate success? How have others achieved it?
- Impact of funding
- What are Rotherham's growth areas?
- What specifically is the approach to Tourism?
- How can the following services be used to generate business investment?
  - Asset Management
  - Transport
  - Planning
  - Housing
- How do we impact on the most deprived areas of Rotherham?

The group interviewed a wide range of witnesses during the course of their work; including Council Officers, the Chamber of Commerce and from the private sector.

The Group produced 13 recommendations, covering a range of issues relating to the Rotherham economy.

Officers have reviewed these recommendations and their responses are set out on the attachment to this report.

Officers agree, in whole or part, with all the recommendations and in a number of cases they have already been implemented. However, some of them will require further consideration and require either policy considerations and/or financial considerations. It is proposed to defer these and bring them back to Cabinet when further work has been carried out.

## **8. Finance**

There will be costs to delivering the recommendations, although it is difficult to put a precise figure to these at the current time.

For example, there is insufficient capacity in the RiDO and Economic Development teams at the current time to deliver the recommendation to prioritise all town centres. To do so would require additional staffing, with associated costs.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

**The main risk is the potential impact of the national and international economy on Rotherham, which the Council will not have much influence on being able to mitigate**

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

Supporting the economy is a key corporate priority for the Council and a key element of the Sheffield City region agenda.

The Rotherham Growth Plan will help deliver:-

- 10,000 net new private sector jobs over the next 10 years
- Create 750 additional new businesses over the next 5 years
- Increase gross value added (GVA) for the Rotherham economy

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

RMBC Finance were consulted on the report.

Officers from Human Resources, Asset Management, RiDO, Planning, Scrutiny and Economic Development were consulted on, and contributed to, the response, a copy of which is attached.

### **Contact Name:**

Simeon Leach, Economic Development Manager, Ext 23828  
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***Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review on Supporting the Local Economy***

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Cabinet Decision</b> <i>(Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)</i>	<b>Cabinet Response</b> <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>	<b>Action by (Date)</b>
1	The Economic Development Team within the Council should ensure that the emerging Growth Plan is focused around two key objectives – income generation and employment creation, with very clear actions for achieving this	Accepted	<p>The Growth Plan focuses on delivering more jobs (10,000 net new private sector jobs over next 10 years); with support to ensure they are accessed by local residents wherever possible.</p> <p>It will also drive businesses starts (750 new businesses over 5 years) and increased inward investment; both of which will increase the business rates receipts for the Council.</p> <p>Detailed actions to deliver these outcomes will be the next step once the Growth Plan has been approved by the end of March 2015</p>	Simeon Leach	April 2015
2	Targets and outcomes should be developed for this plan that are smart – suggestions include number of businesses accessing services, the number of young people accessing apprenticeships, the number of new entrants to post compulsory education and the number of over 16s gaining accredited qualifications.	Accepted	<p>Targets within the Plan are still under development/ consultation, but it is intended they will be smart, and focussed on a relatively low number of high priority outcomes for the borough.</p> <p>Some or all of the proposed outcomes will be in the final Plan, although this will be dependent on the outcomes of the current consultation process.</p>	Simeon Leach	April 2015

3	The Economic Development Team should ensure that the growth plan is jointly owned by local partners and that it is strongly linked to the Local Plan.	Accepted	<p>The draft Growth Plan has been widely consulted on during its development, both within the Council and with external partners. Official consultation on the draft Plan is taking place during December/January, with all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Once approved and “live” the Plan will be monitored through the Economy Board of the LSP, comprising public, private and community/voluntary sector representatives</p> <p>The plan has strong links to the Local Plan – the policies in both plans have been developed to encourage growth and regeneration and the employment target figures are reflected in the number and type of sites allocated for future employment development in the emerging sites and policies document.</p>	Simeon Leach	April 2015
4	They should also ensure that it is communicated effectively to partners and stakeholders, as part of an ongoing campaign to “talk up” Rotherham and its achievements. These stakeholders should include the Sheffield City Region structures and the private sector.	Accepted	<p>RiDO are currently looking at ways to build on the good press that their support of local business already receives</p> <p>RiDO will work closely with the Comms Team to ensure that Rotherham’s achievements are promoted across both Rotherham and the wider City Region</p>	RiDO & Comms Team	Ongoing
5	The Planning Board should identify, in the first instance, its top ten development sites and focus on these in its policies and plans. Within this the identification and delivery of a strategically important site should be the number 1 priority for Rotherham to remain competitive.	Partially accepted	The sites required to achieve the aspirations of the growth plan in relation to employment generation, including a strategically important site, have been included within the local plan. These sites will be available for development once the Sites and Policies document has been adopted (2016) – some of the sites are currently within the Greenbelt.	Bronwen Knight	Ongoing

			<p>As all the sites have been assessed for deliverability through the local plan process they should all be attractive to the market.</p> <p>While it is essential that we bring forward our “most deliverable” employment sites, as identified in the Local Plan, it is difficult to prioritise them into a top ten.</p> <p>The Economic Plan identifies both major employment and housing sites, as taken from the Local Plan. The next piece of work is what we as a Council can do to assist in bringing these forward</p>		
6	The Council should consider prioritising all town centres and giving a policy mandate for this to happen.	Accepted	<p>National Planning policies direct all town centre uses to existing town centres in the first instance using a sequential approach and we strongly implement these policies when dealing with planning applications. The Local plan also provides an overall strategy for prioritising our town centres and draft policies in the Sites and Policies DPD provide detail of how this should be carried out</p> <p>Raising the profile of the planning issues around promoting town centre development is welcomed and should be promoted throughout the Council.</p> <p>There is currently insufficient resource within the RiDO and Economic Development teams to replicate the level of support they provide to Rotherham town centre.</p>	Paul Woodcock	Ongoing

7	The Council should consider how Elected Members could input to the development of Council Policy, particularly with regard to economic growth, by utilising the wide range of talent and expertise that exists within this pool. Elected members can further assist with the promotion of Rotherham.	Agreed	<p>It is essential to the success of the Rotherham economy that policy has input from all relevant stakeholders, including Members.</p> <p>Further work is required to identify the best way that this can be achieved</p> <p>Activity will link with the proposals through the Corporate Improvement Board and the Transformational plan.</p>	Carole Haywood	TBA
8	RIDO should work with partners to ensure that access to Regional Growth Fund is maximised	Agreed	<p>RiDO has assisted clients to secure over £4.5m of Sheffield City Region Regional Growth Fund financing. This is over 60 per cent of the £7.2m awarded to Rotherham companies in total. This funding is set to leverage a total investment of around £46m creating over 500 jobs.</p> <p>This support can be replicated for any future rounds of RGF or other funding sources</p>	Tim O'Connell	Completed
9	The Council should aim to establish a multi-disciplinary "Task Force" with the key purpose of providing a co-ordinated holistic approach to generating investment and economic growth in Rotherham, for the benefit of its local businesses, communities and residents. The focus should be on working both internally, and in partnership with the private sector in Rotherham, to include a range of projects in terms of size and value. The external business support process should be led by RIDO as a recognised brand within Rotherham.	Agreed	<p>There are a number of existing groups which already, fully or partly, cover this remit</p> <p>The "Major Projects Group" leads on developing and delivering those projects with a potential major economic/regeneration impact (Cabinet Member attends this group where possible)</p> <p>The Economy Board of the LSP, which has both a private sector chair and majority of members, has responsibility for the strategic development of the Rotherham economy and delivery of the Growth Plan.</p> <p>The Business support process is already led</p>	Karl Battersby	Ongoing

			by RiDO, which is a well thought of and recognised brand. In future the majority of business support funding will be at City Region level and RMBC need to ensure that they maximise the impact this has at a local level.		
10	The Task Force should include Planning, Asset Management, Housing, Transport, Education and potentially Health partners. These functions will be included on the basis of a unique drivers approach for each project. In line with recommendation 7 above specific councillors (with specific expertise) and ward members should be included in this approach. This model could be adapted for individual projects, with bespoke task groups set up for larger projects including provision for specific expertise to be co-opted.	Agreed	Covered in response to recommendation 9	Karl Battersby	Ongoing
11	This Task Force should be responsible for ensuring that the strategy should identify land supply, link into work on the Local Plan and also the following issues, with the aim of maximising long term value for the Council's assets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Use of capital and borrowing to develop sites and premises</li> <li>b) The approach to the development of this land – some sites for area based regeneration initiatives</li> <li>c) The development of existing smaller sites and premises for developing local businesses</li> </ul>	Agreed	Covered in response to recommendation 9	Karl Battersby	Ongoing

12	<p>The Council should consider how to develop a business friendly culture amongst all its staff – skills development and training issues and also the possibility of setting growth targets for employees where appropriate. A key element of this would be to raise awareness within the Council of the changes to business rates and the importance of them in terms of generating income for the Council.</p>	Partially agreed	<p>Any training would need to be targeted on those who are most likely to be able to influence business growth/development. For some it will just be raising awareness about the importance of encouraging business start-ups, inward investment etc. and also informing colleagues of how successful (or not) we are in this area. Growth targets could only be applied where this is part of the person's core function.</p> <p>The issue of how all Council can/should contribute to economic growth in the borough has been raised previously and was an item at an M3 briefing session during 2014</p>	Phil Howe	TBA
13	<p>The Scrutiny function in the Council should consider looking further at the following issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The development of aspirational housing and associated services/communities in Rotherham</li> <li>b) Work with schools and training providers/colleges around the 16+ skills agenda to establish stronger links with employers and to engender an enterprising and aspirational culture.</li> <li>c) Potential for developing employment initiatives based on the experience of Manchester and elsewhere</li> </ul>	Deferred	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the Scrutiny Select Commissions will determine the future work plan to be prioritised and undertaken.</p>	Deborah Fellowes	TBA

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – CABINET

1.	Meeting	Cabinet
2.	Date	14/01/2015
3.	Title	Urinary incontinence scrutiny review response
4.	Directorate	Public Health

## 5. Summary

Rotherham's Health Select Committee completed a scrutiny review of urinary incontinence services in May – June 2014. This review identified a series of recommendations which cut across the Council's directorates. This report provides Cabinet with a summary of the recommendations and responses from Council Officers, coordinated by Public Health.

## 6. Recommendations

Cabinet are asked to consider;

- The recommendations and responses to the urinary incontinence review
- The proposed next steps

## 7. Proposals and details

Dr John Radford, Director of Public Health was tasked with collating a multi directorate response to the recommendations within the urinary incontinence scrutiny review reported in October 2014.

### Background to the review

There were three main aims of the review which were:

- To ascertain the prevalence of urinary incontinence in the borough and the impact it has on people's independence and quality of life.
- To establish an overview of current continence services and costs, and plans for future service development.
- To identify any areas for improvement in promoting preventive measures and encouraging people to have healthy lifestyles.

### Summary of findings and recommendations in the report

The review focused primarily on prevention rather than the costs of current service provision, but recognised that preventative work contributes towards achieving savings for services, for example by reducing admissions to hospital or residential care. Centralisation of continence prescribing has improved outcomes for service users and future service development with greater emphasis on prevention should also produce both further savings and better outcomes. Awareness raising of the importance of good bladder and bowel health and being physically active, plus doing pelvic floor exercises as a preventive measure, could lead to fewer people having their quality of life diminished through urinary incontinence and result in lower future demand for services.

The review conducted was a spotlight review and formulated six recommendations as follows:

- 1 RMBC Streetpride and partner agencies such as SYPTE should ensure all public toilets in the borough are clean and well equipped to meet the needs of people who have urinary incontinence, including suitable bins for the disposal of equipment and disposable products.

**Response** - SYPTE have confirmed that the toilet facilities provided by SYPTE at its Interchanges meet the requirements recommended in Urinary Incontinence Scrutiny review. All SYPTEs toilet facilities are appropriately maintained, regularly cleaned and re provisioned with consumable products throughout the day including weekends to ensure a pleasant customer experience.

**Response** – RMBC Facilities Management have confirmed that toilet facilities in Rotherham have suitable waste disposal systems are cleaned regularly to meet the needs of people with urinary incontinence.

- 2 RMBC Sport and Leisure team should establish greater links with the Community Continence Service in order to support people to participate in appropriate sport and physical activity.

**Response** – *Active Rotherham agree to work more closely with the Community Continence Service and take further guidance on how to improve the pathways to physical activity from the service. Suggestions include literature for patients and information on suitable exercises for pelvic floor to be added the new Get Active Rotherham website which is currently under development.*

- 3 RMBC Sport and Leisure team should liaise with other sport and leisure activity providers to consider building more pelvic floor exercises into the Active Always programme and wider leisure classes

**Response** – *Active Rotherham will include pelvic floor exercises into their existing “active always” provision. Public Health will also raise the importance of pelvic floor exercises at the next Rotherham Active Partnership meeting and long term conditions subgroup which covers most activity providers across the Borough. If there are any training requirements identified, these will be considered and delivered to the Rotherham Active Partnership members to ensure the exercises are embedded in all services.*

- 4 There should be greater publicity by partner agencies, coordinated through the Health and Wellbeing Board, to reduce stigma associated with incontinence and to raise public and provider awareness of:

a) the importance of maintaining good bladder and bowel health and habits at all life stages (through media such as screens in leisure centres and GP surgeries, further website development, VAR ebulletin and a campaign during World Continence Week from 22-28 June 2015)

b) healthy lifestyle choices having a positive impact on general health but also helping to prevent incontinence, such as diet, fluid intake and being active

c) the positive benefits of pelvic floor exercises as a preventive measure for urinary incontinence, including the use of phone apps for support

d) the need to include the impact of incontinence due to medication, such as diuretics, within a patient’s care

**Responses –**

*SYLTE offered the opportunity to use Rotherham Interchange to promote health issues in either road show or poster display format.*

*Public Health offer the opportunity for key messages to be included on our Public Health TV screens as well as encouraging Pharmacies to consider prioritising incontinence as one of their Public Health Campaigns for 2015. Information will also be included on the Get Active Rotherham website to raise awareness and confidence of patients with urinary incontinence.*

*It is recognised that the wide distribution of this review should also result in an increase in awareness of the needs of those experiencing urinary incontinence.*

- 5 RMBC Neighbourhoods and Adult Services should work with care homes to encourage more staff to participate in the training offered by the Community Continence Service and to increase staff understanding of the impact of mobility, diet and fluid intake on continence.

**Response – NAS**

*Neighbourhood and Adult services have previously offered incontinence training to care home staff but this was not taken up and as a consequence the training was cancelled. It is unclear if there was a need for training or if this is already being met by the Community Continence service support to Care Homes. Further information is being sought and NAS Learning and Development Team are happy to provide further training if necessary.*

- 6 That the Health Select Commission receives a report from Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group in 2015 on the outcomes of the project considering future service development of the Community Continence Service.

**Response –**

*The CCG have been forwarded the Health Select Commission report and will be invited directly to attend the Commission and report back their findings.*

## **8. Finance**

The responses which require additional resources are either low or no cost. The integration of the recommendations into ongoing activities will ensure that financial commitments are minimal and activities are joined up to maximise impact.

## **9. Risks and uncertainties**

There is currently uncertainty regarding the need for incontinence training within care homes and other community settings. This will need to be further explored before training is offered to reduce risk of wasted resources.

**10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Health and Wellbeing

**11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Scrutiny review: Urinary Incontinence: Review of the Health Select  
Commission *May – July 2014*

*SLT paper – 9.12.14*

**12. Keywords:** Urinary incontinence, healthy lifestyles, care homes

**Officer:** Rebecca Atchinson, Public Health Principal

## Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review Urinary Incontinence

Recommendation	Cabinet Decision (Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)	Cabinet Response (detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)	Officer Responsible	Action by (Date)
<p>1. RMBC Streetpride and partner agencies such as SYPTE should ensure all public toilets in the borough are clean and well equipped to meet the needs of people who have urinary incontinence, including suitable bins for the disposal of equipment and disposable products.</p>		<p>It is highlighted that Streetpride are not responsible for public toilets.</p> <p>Response by SYPTE</p> <p>They have confirmed that the toilet facilities provided by SYPTE at its Interchanges meet the requirements recommended in Urinary Incontinence Scrutiny review. All SYPTEs toilet facilities are appropriately maintained, regularly cleaned and re-provisioned with consumable products throughout the day including weekends to ensure a pleasant customer experience.</p> <p>Response by Asset Management – Facilities Team</p> <p>They have confirmed that toilet facilities in Rotherham have suitable waste disposal systems are cleaned regularly to meet the needs of people with urinary incontinence.</p>	<p>Dave Whittle SYPTE Centre Manager – Interchanges and Retail Tel: 01709 515833</p> <p>Kim Phillips</p>	<p>January 2015</p>
<p>2. RMBC Sport and Leisure team should establish greater links with the Community Continence Service in order to support people to participate in appropriate sport and physical activity.</p>		<p>Response by Active Rotherham</p> <p>They have agree to work more closely with the Community Continence Service and take further guidance on how to improve the pathways to physical activity from the service. Suggestions include literature for patients and information on suitable exercises for pelvic floor to be added the new Get Active Rotherham website which is currently under development.</p>	<p>Steve Hallsworth</p>	<p>January 2015</p>

<p>3. RMBC Sport and Leisure team should liaise with other sport and leisure activity providers to consider building more pelvic floor exercises into the Active Always programme and wider leisure classes</p>		<p>Response from Active Rotherham</p> <p>They will include pelvic floor exercises into their existing “active always” provision. Public Health will also raise the importance of pelvic floor exercises at the next Rotherham Active Partnership meeting and long term conditions subgroup which covers most activity providers across the Borough. If there are any training requirements identified, these will be considered and delivered to the Rotherham Active Partnership members to ensure the exercises are embedded in all services.</p>	<p>Steve Hallsworth</p>	<p>January 2015</p>
<p>4. There should be greater publicity by partner agencies, coordinated through the Health and Wellbeing Board, to reduce stigma associated with incontinence and to raise public and provider awareness of:</p> <p>a) the importance of maintaining good bladder and bowel health and habits at all life stages (through media such as screens in leisure centres and GP surgeries, further website development, VAR ebulletin and a campaign during World Continence Week from 22-28 June 2015)</p> <p>b) healthy lifestyle choices having a positive impact on general health but also helping to prevent incontinence, such as diet, fluid intake and being active</p> <p>c) the positive benefits of pelvic floor exercises as a preventive</p>		<p>Response by SYPTE</p> <p>They have offered the opportunity to use Rotherham Interchange to promote health issues in either road show or poster display format. Information to be shared with the Urinary Incontinence Team.</p> <p>Response by Public Health</p> <p>Public Health offer the opportunity for key messages to be included on our Public Health TV screens as well as encouraging Pharmacies to consider prioritising incontinence as one of their Public Health Campaigns for 2015.</p> <p>Information will also be included on the Get Active Rotherham website to raise awareness and confidence of patients with urinary incontinence.</p> <p>It is recognised that the wide distribution of this review should also result in an increase in awareness of the needs of those experiencing urinary incontinence.</p>	<p>Rebecca Atchinson</p>	<p>January 2015</p>

<p>measure for urinary incontinence, including the use of phone apps for support</p> <p>d) the need to include the impact of incontinence due to medication, such as diuretics, within a patient's care</p>				
<p>5. RMBC Neighbourhoods and Adult Services should work with care homes to encourage more staff to participate in the training offered by the Community Continence Service and to increase staff understanding of the impact of mobility, diet and fluid intake on continence</p>		<p>Response by NAS</p> <p>Neighbourhood and Adult Services have previously offered incontinence training to care home staff but this was not taken up and as a consequence the training was cancelled. It is unclear if there was a need for training or if this is already being met by the Community Continence service support to Care Homes. Further information is being sought and NAS Learning and Development Team are happy to provide further training if necessary.</p>	<p>Rebecca Atchinson / Nigel Mitchell</p>	<p>January 2015</p>
<p>6. That the Health Select Commission receives a report from Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group in 2015 on the outcomes of the project considering future service development of the Community Continence Service.</p>		<p>Response by Public Health</p> <p>The CCG have been forwarded the Health Select Commission report and will have been invited directly to attend the Select Commission and report back their thought and findings.</p>	<p>Rebecca Atchinson</p>	<p>January 2015</p>

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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