

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

- Date and Time :-** Wednesday, 24 April 2019 at 11.00 a.m.
- Venue:-** Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.
- Membership:-** Councillors Brookes, Cowles, Cusworth, Evans, Keenan, Mallinder, Napper, Sansome, Short, Steele (Chair) Walsh and Wyatt.

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view [via the Council's website](#). The items which will be discussed are described on the agenda below and there are reports attached which give more details.

Rotherham Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair or Democratic Services Officer of their intentions prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive the apologies of any Member who is unable to attend the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of items listed on the agenda.

3. Questions from Members of the Public and the Press

To receive questions from members of the public or press who are present at the meeting.

4. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any part of the agenda.

For Discussion/Decision:-

5. Request for Review of Response to Petition - Webcasting at Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (Pages 1 - 6)

To consider a request to review the response of the Assistant Chief Executive to a petition calling for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to be open and transparent by not switching off the webcast when debating their response to the request to review a petition..

**6. Children's Services Financial Monitoring and Review 2018/19
(Pages 7 - 12)**

Cabinet Portfolio: Children's Services and Neighbourhood Working
Strategic Directorate: Children and Young People's Services

**7. Update from Spotlight Review following the Ofsted Inspection of Adult
Community Learning (Pages 13 - 18)**

Cabinet Portfolio: Children's Services and Neighbourhood Working
Strategic Directorate: Children and Young People's Services

For Information/Monitoring:-

8. Youth Cabinet/Young People's Issues

To receive an update on the activities of the Youth Cabinet and other Young People's Issues.

9. Work in Progress - Select Commissions

To receive updates from the Chairs of the Select Commission on work undertaken and planned for the future.

10. Call-in Issues

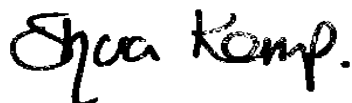
To consider any issues referred for call-in from recent Cabinet meetings.

11. Urgent Business

To determine any item which the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

12. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be held on Wednesday 15 May 2019 commencing at 11.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.



SHARON KEMP,
Chief Executive.

Summary Sheet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 24 April 2019

Report Title

Request for Review of Response to Petition – Webcasting at Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Shokat Lal, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

James McLaughlin, Head of Democratic Services
01709 822477 or james.mclaughlin@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

All

Summary

A request has been received for Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to review the response provided by the Council to a petition calling for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to be open and transparent by not switching off the webcast when debating their response to the request to review a petition.

Under the petition scheme, Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will determine the request for the review and may take various actions depending on the information provided to it. This report is submitted to enable the Board to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with the scheme.

Recommendations

1. That consideration be given to the request to review the Council's response to the petition calling on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to be open and transparent by not switching off the webcast.
2. That the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board write to the lead petitioner to outline the outcome of the board's consideration.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Request for Review by OSMB by the Lead Petitioner

Background Papers

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 January 2019

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Request for Review of Response to Petition – Webcasting at Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council's Petition Scheme was amended in May 2017 to provide the public with a clear route to call for action on particular issues of concern and to register support or opposition in respect of any proposal.
- 1.2 Under the petition scheme, a lead petitioner may request a review of the Council's response by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. In doing so, the lead petitioner must set out in writing why the Council's response is considered to be inadequate.
- 1.3 On 23 January 2019, the Council received a petition calling for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to be open and transparent by not switching off the webcast when debating their response to the request to review a petition. As the petition had more than 20 signatures, the petition was referred to the relevant officer for response.
- 1.4 On 20 February 2019, a response was sent by the Assistant Chief Executive to the lead petitioner. A copy of the response is enclosed within the Lead Petitioner's submission at Appendix 1.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The lead petitioner has submitted a request for Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to review the response received to the petition. A copy of the request is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The lead petitioner has been invited to attend the Board and may make verbal representations for up to five minutes. The Board then has the opportunity to seek further information from the lead petitioner through questions.
- 2.3 In considering the request to review the response to the petition, Members may seek and have regard to additional information to inform the review.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Should the Board determine that the petition has not been dealt with adequately it may instigate an investigation and make recommendations to the relevant officer or the Council's Cabinet.
- 3.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board may also decide that the authority's response to the petition should be discussed at a meeting of the Council.
- 3.3 Once the review request has been considered the lead petitioner will be informed of the result in writing by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board within 10 working days of the meeting.

4. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 4.1 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is responsible for considering the request to review the petition and communicating the outcome of the review within ten working days to the lead petitioner.
- 4.2 If Members determine that the request is valid and requires further investigation then Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will provide direction on whether it requires further consideration by an officer, the Cabinet or whether the response should be considered by the Council. The petition scheme does not provide a timescale for this to be completed, but where consideration is required by either Cabinet or Council this will be listed on the agenda for the next available meeting.

5. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications associated with this report.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications directly associated with this report.

7. Human Resources Implications

- 7.1 There are no human resources implications directly associated with this report.

8. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 8.1 The petition itself was concerned with securing an apology for every individual who did not have an annual assessment under the Care Act 2014. However, this report in itself does directly not have implications for children and young people or vulnerable.

9. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 9.1 There are no equalities or human rights implications associated with this report.

10. Implications for Partners

- 10.1 There are no implications for partners arising directly from this report.

11. Risks and Mitigation

- 11.1 There are no identified risks associated with this report.

Report Author: James McLaughlin, Head of Democratic Services
01709 822477 or james.mclaughlin@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website or can be found at:-
<http://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories=>

Review (by the OSMB) of the Petition Response about the webcast at OSMB meetings

Submitted on 11.4.19

The members of the Oversight and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) are asked to consider the following points:

- 1 The petition asked for the Oversight and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) [the "Scrutiny Board"] to **be open and transparent by not switching off the webcast when debating their response to the request to review a petition.**
- 2 It states on the Rotherham Council webcast page that there is a:

"commitment to making Rotherham Council as transparent and accessible as possible"
- 3 Mr Harron submitted the petition on 21.11.18 and requested a provisional scheduling of the petition at a Council meeting.
- 4 Following a meeting with the Head of Democratic Services, Mr Harron held a meeting with the Chair of the OSMB on 30.11.18 and following that meeting, whilst awaiting a written response from the Chair, Mr Harron asked for the petition to not be tabled at a council meeting until he received the Chair's written response.
- 5 Mr Harron asked a question at the OSMB meeting on 13 January 2019 and referred to the meeting with the Chair of the OSMB on 30.11.18. At that point 43 days had passed and Mr Harron was still awaiting the written response from 30.11.18.
- 6 Due to a mistake, before Mr Harron received the written response from the Chair of the OSMB, the petition was tabled at the Council meeting on 23 January 2019. Mr Harron was unaware of this and he did not attend the Council meeting and did not get an opportunity to address the petition.
- 7 The response promised by the Chair of the OSMB at the meeting on 30.11.18 was sent out 75 days later, on 13.2.19. See page 2.
- 8 The Assistant Chief Executive then wrote to Mr Harron in a letter dated 20.2.19 stating:

You met with Councillor Steele, Chair of the OSMB, on 30 November 2018 to discuss your concerns in respect of OSMB excluding the public from their deliberations on petitions. I understand that he has written to you on 13 February 2019 to confirm his approach to chairing meetings of the OMSB where petitions are being considered.

Neither the Council's petition scheme or the Council's Procedure Rules are prescriptive in this regard and the legal record of the meeting are the minutes which fully record the outcome of the OSMB's deliberations. Whilst webcasting is a useful addition to the enhance engagement with the decision making and oversight functions of the Council, it is not the legal record of the meeting and its use is at the discretion of the Chair of any meeting that is webcast by the authority.

The response that you have been provided with by Councillor Steele is the position of the Council.
- 9 Possibly for the first time the process around the switching off of the webcast has been explained in writing but unfortunately the responses did not fully or adequately address the reasoning. In fact, it appears it is a unilateral decision by the current Chair that the current Chair applies in all situations.
- 10 **The proposal is that when the deliberation takes by the members of the OSMB about the review of the response to a petition by a member of the public the webcast should only be switched off when there clearly are sensitive or confidential matters and not as a routine matter of course.**

Petition Response from the Chair of the OSMB 13.2.19

From: [Steele, Brian-Cllr](#)

Sent: 13 February 2019 10:38

Cc: [McLaughlin, James](#)

Subject: Response

Dear Mr. Harron,

Further to our meeting in Rotherham Town Hall on 30 November 2018, I agreed to clarify how I will oversee the consideration of requests to review responses to petitions whilst chairing meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

The Council's petition scheme itself is silent on the process for considering requests to review responses received to petitions. The provision introduced within the scheme in 2017 was designed to provide an opportunity for an individual or group to refer a request for review to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for consideration. You are already familiar with the process that I have operated at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to consider such requests.

In our meeting on 30 November 2018, and in a subsequent petition submitted to the Council, you have indicated your disagreement with the decision to ask attendees to vacate the room and for the webcasting facility not to be used during the Board's deliberations. You have argued that all discussions should take place in public. I have explained that the process I follow in chairing meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is as transparent as possible, with the need to go into 'closed session' being the exception. However, there are occasions where this is not possible because of the issues under discussion.

By way of clarification, the ensuing process will be followed by me in chairing agenda items where the Board is asked to review responses to petitions or to consider petition requests themselves where the 600 signature threshold has been met:-

The Chair will confirm at the commencement of consideration of a petition or a request to review a petition that the deliberation of the Board will take place in private. Members the public, relevant Cabinet Member(s) or officer(s) will not be present during the private deliberation and that part of the meeting will not be webcast. Only Members of the Board and officers from Democratic Services will remain in the room for the deliberation.

When the Board has reached a view, recommendation or decision, the meeting will be opened up to the public and the webcast will re-commence, at which point the Chair will communicate the view, recommendation or decision of the Board. This will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting, which is the legal record of the meeting, and the Chair will write to the lead petitioner within ten working days of the meeting to confirm the outcome of the Board' deliberations.

Whilst I am aware that you remain in disagreement with the approach, you were keen to establish in writing the practice that would be followed. I am not able to bind the practice of individuals who may be appointed as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in future, but I can confirm that I will follow the above process whilst I remain in the role.

I am aware that the Assistant Chief Executive will respond to your recent petition on the same subject in due course.

Thank for taking the time to meet with me and for relaying your concerns.

Kind Regards

Councillor Brian Steele

Chairperson of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Hoober Ward

Mobile: 01709 255962

Email: brian.steele@rotherham.gov.uk

BRIEFING NOTE

Children's Services Financial Monitoring and Review 2018/19
Overview & Scrutiny Management Board
24 April 2019

1. Introduction

Children & Young People Services face significant financial pressures on their placement budgets and in the delivery of key social work services due to the number of children in the care system.

The budget pressure had been increasing month on month due to a steady rise in LAC numbers, but numbers and the budget have now stabilised (the budget position forecasting a financial pressure of £15.7m since October 2018) linked to the various projects instigated by the Directorate.

At the end of February the projected overspend is £15.7m which in the main reflects pressures on staffing, transport and placement budgets, see the table below for the budget position per service area

Budget Position Report

Service	Prev Year Actuals	Budget	Forecast	Variance
Children's Social Care	57,512,449	47,135,266	62,312,094	15,176,828
Commissioning, Perf, Qual & Inclusion	2,266,077	2,627,447	2,595,949	-31,498
Directorate Wide	2,195,860	955,104	1,150,670	195,566
Early Help Services	6,930,416	7,150,294	7,620,646	470,352
Education	902,898	667,143	560,372	-106,771
Overall Total	69,807,700	58,535,254	74,239,731	15,704,477

Pay Budgets

The direct employees budgets stands at £40.9m and is a combination of core and grant funded services, the projected overspend at the end of February is £618k across the directorates, a £182k favourable movement from the previous period due to savings across Children's Social Care. The table below provides the position per service area this period.

CYPS Staffing Budgets @ February (P11)

Centre Structure Level 4 Code & Description Level 5	Budget	Forecast	Variance
District Wide	390,562	425,653	35,091
Children's Social Care	21,816,551	22,579,639	763,088
Education	2,320,155	2,192,147	-128,008
Commissioning, Performance, Quality & Inclusion	6,610,279	6,195,562	-414,717
Early Help Services	9,799,511	10,162,073	362,562
Summary	40,937,058	41,555,074	618,016

The above projected spend includes both employees and agency staff with spend being closely monitored through the recruitment process and agency staff reducing month on month (see 2.1 below).

Non- Pay Budgets

A significant element of the non-pay budgets relates to placements (£23.430m) with an estimated spend of £36.475m (excluding DSG funded placements). The financial pressure at the end of February is £13.045m, an adverse movement of £447k this period which is mainly due to a reduction in estimated CCG income (£461k), see Appendix 1 for details.

Current place pressures reflect LAC numbers remaining at circa 645 despite the various strategies in place.

Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group contributes to funding placements if the child is eligible for NHS Continuing Care or funding based on Section 117 of the Mental Health Act. Detailed work has been completed in partnership with the CCG which will result in a clearer basis on which funding packages will be agreed from 2019/20.

Other major budget pressures have also been incurred linked to the increase in number of LAC Children this financial year. Transport (car allowances, public transport and vehicles) as a forecast overspend of £670k and section 17 & 23 payments which are projected to overspend by £250k. There is work being done to identify spend categorised coded to section 17 & 23, with financial reports being developed this month to improve the monitoring of spend to assist in delivery of cost efficiencies. A task and finish group is in place and undertaking work to support a reduction in section 17 and 23 spend.

The budget pressure of £15.7m is based on numbers remaining stable and not increasing between now and the year end. Various projects are now in place as outlined in the next section and impact is being closely monitored.

2019/20 Budget

In order to set a robust budget for 2019/20 and 2020/21 a review of the current CYPS budget has taken place and estimated cost reductions that can be expected to be achieved over and above delivery of the budget savings, which leaves a budget gap of £9.5m in 19/20 and £7.5m in 20/21. To reduce the budget pressure and achieve the budget savings will mean reducing spend in CYPS by £9.7m in 2019/20 and by £19.9m in 2020/21.

The £9.7m reductions in 2019/20 is a combination of budget savings of £3.6m and cost reductions of £6.1m.

The £9.5m budget requirement in 2019/20 is provided through investment to provide a balanced budget, which then reduces to £7.5m in 2020/21

2. Budget Projects

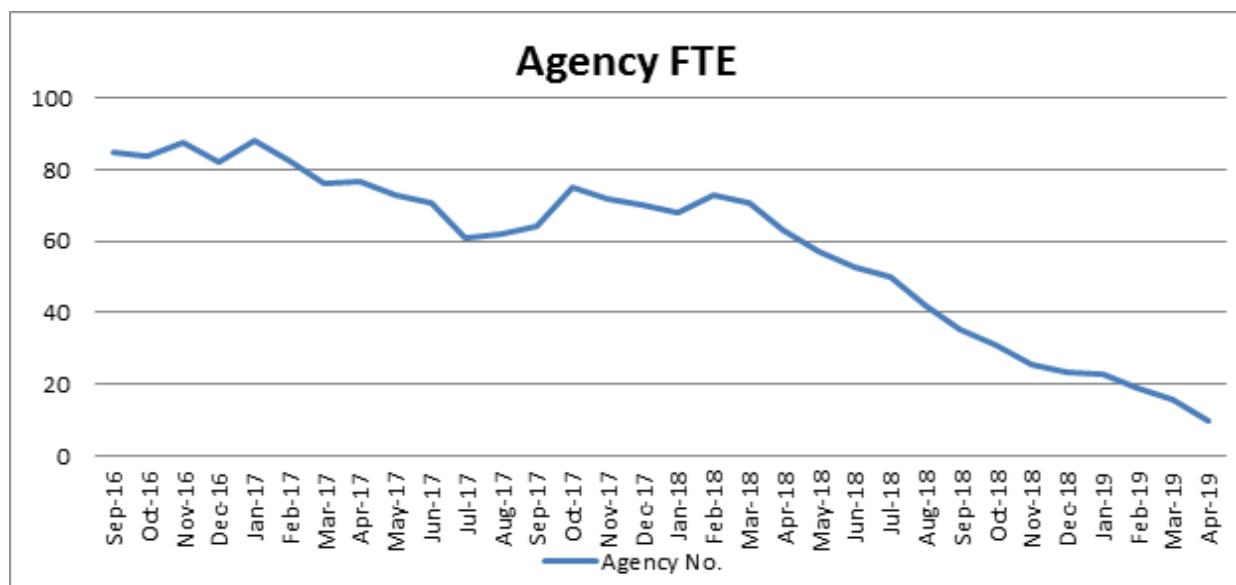
2.1 Staffing & Agency

The £618k net staffing pressures outlined in the table on page 1 relate to staffing and agency cost pressures in children's social care £763k due to the number of agency workers across the service during this financial year and business support £833k (part of the £362k overspend in Early Help) in the main from delays in implementing the new staffing structure. The staffing forecast has reduced across Children's Social Care by £200k in February in the main due to vacancies across the service area.

There has been a positive month on month reduction in the number of agency staff in Children's Social Care from 63 in April to 16 at the end of March and is projected to reduce to 10 by the end of April, see table and graph below.

Agency Profile

	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19
Agency FTE	31.1	25.5	23.5	23	19	16	10
Reduction		5.6	2	0.5	4	3	6



In 2017/18 financial year agency workers within Social Care cost £4.9m and the estimated spend in 2018/19 cost £2.5m, a reduction of £2.4m which exceeds the target to meet all the associated agency savings / cost reductions in the table below:

Staffing Savings	18/19 £000	Managed by:
NQSW - Agency Release (Investment Bids 16/17)	385	Budget Reduced
Regional Agency Agreement (17/18 Savings Plan)	200	Budget Reduced
Regional Agency Agreement (18/19 Demand Management)	200	Reflected in Forecasting
Agency - reduced %	200	Budget Reduced
NQSW - further reduction in agency (18/19 Demand Management)	300	Reflected in Forecasting
Advanced Social Worker Posts - funded by vacancies in CYPS (18/19 Demand Management)	489	Reflected in Forecasting
Shortfall in In house fostering saving, met from Agency	100	
Total Due to be Saved	1,874	

2.2 Business Support

A review of business support is underway and phase 1 of revised operating model has now been implemented in January 2019, with phase 2 to be implemented in June 2019. There has been delay due to challenges in identifying and testing the technology and management changes. The 2019/20 budget has been set on the new service structure so there will be cost pressures linked to reduction of the supernumerary posts in the first quarter.

Placement Projects

As an overview the placement projects below are all having a positive impact on the budget position, but are not envisaged to reduce the LAC numbers between now and the end of the 2018-19 financial year, but stop the growth in LAC numbers.

2.3 In-house fostering

In 2018/19 the target increase in foster carers was not achieved due to the number of foster carer de-registrations, which outweighed the number of new foster carer approvals.

At the start of the financial year there were 170 In house foster carers. During 2018/19 there have been 14 new foster families approved with a further 3 assessments ongoing. Therefore there is a projected 17 new foster families this year. However foster carer de-registrations are current 21 with a further 1 expected by the end of the financial year which will mean a net reduction in foster carers of 5 in this financial year.

	2018-19		
	Completed	Awaiting Completion	Total
	No:	No:	No:
Foster Carers 01.04.18			170
Foster carer approvals	14	3	17
Foster carer de-registrations	-21	-1	-22
Net position	-7	2	-5
Foster Carers as at 31.03.19			165

The Market Management Project, part of the Big Hearts Big Changes programme, will prioritise the recruitment of in-house foster carers. A revised Foster Carer recruitment strategy is being developed outlining a comprehensive approach to improve recruitment performance. This will include increasing the number of enquiries (currently 18 per month on average) and ensuring that the conversion process is effective and timely. As well as existing strategies, including the Foster Carer Diversity project and 'Refer a Foster Carer' incentives, there are proposals to significantly enhance Rotherham's profile through targeted use of social media.

Incremental gains are also expected through the introduction of a Carers Transfer Protocol with Independent Fostering Agencies and incentives to increase child to carer ratios.

2.4 Review of care leavers accommodation & support costs

Rotherham's higher than average costs of care leaver accommodation can be attributed to the 'Coming Home' project whereby LAC aged 16-17 living in OoA residential placements have had their care plan formally reviewed by senior managers and where appropriate supported to semi/independent accommodation prior to their 18th birthday. Although these placements are more expensive than for other care leavers they are less expensive than it would have been to retain the young person in a residential placement until their 18th birthday.

The current 2018-19 forecast spend of £2,102m includes previous high costs placements that have now ended. Despite placement numbers remaining similar across the year (currently 48) the forecast has seen a reduction of £490k from the start of the financial year.

A Commissioned Care and Support Panel for Looked after Children is in place which has seen an increased awareness in costs of placements, the increased challenge of commissioned placements and an improvement in the right care at the right costs for young people. A more robust process is in place around commissioning, monitoring and reviewing placements for young people. In addition placements are reviewed by Commissioning as part of QA process and contract review meetings to ensure best value.

2.5 **The House project** is a cabinet approved scheme which aims to take 10 children per annum from their current placement and house them in Council void properties to make it their 'forever home' avoiding the need to stepdown into supported accommodation. The first cohort of 10 will move to their new property in July 2019. This will see a saving to placements of £1,051m for 2019-20 based on a 100% success rate. The cost of the scheme is £400k per annum and the CYPS recovery plan includes profiled budget savings of £565 for this scheme.

3. Summary and Next Steps

- 3.1 Work is ongoing to achieve the budget savings and costs reductions as outlined in the CYPS budget plan for 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years.
- 3.2 The High Needs Block is being reviewed through the SEMH Strategy Group and SEND Sufficiency Board as part of the plan to reduce the DSG overall deficit.

4. Accountable Officers

Name: Jon Stonehouse

Role: Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services

Date of Approval: 12.04.19

Report Author: Neil Hardwick, CYPS Head of Finance

2018/19 CYPS Placements Summary P11 FEBRUARY 2019

Cost	Budget - Net Latest Estimate (LE)	Net Forecast LP P11	Net Variance (Fore P11 - Budget LE)
In - house Fostering	3,494,279	3,238,353	-255,926
Fostering Independent Placements	7,715,979	11,274,459	3,558,480
External Residential Placements	6,156,886	11,921,078	5,764,192
Parent and Baby Units		226,406	226,406
Remand Placements		106,102	106,102
Secure Placements		182,085	182,085
Emergency	400,000	700,000	300,000
Supported Accommodation - Care Leavers (LAC ONLY)	421,811	2,102,832	1,681,021
Total Looked after Children, net	18,188,955	29,751,315	11,562,360
Other placements			
EHC Personal Budget (Direct Payments)	600,000	870,063	270,063
Short Break Unit (Liberty House)	703,062	831,537	128,475
Child Arrangement Orders (Non Agency)	1,257,197	1,702,024	444,827
Special Guardianship Payment (Non Agency)	1,165,406	1,941,191	775,785
Adoption Allowance (Non Agency) - Post Adoption Non LAC	1,030,746	964,865	-65,881
Leaving Care Accommodation (RMBC)	484,462	414,329	-70,133
Total other placements	5,240,873	6,724,009	1,483,136
Grand total	23,429,828	36,475,324	13,045,496

Summary Sheet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 24 April 2019

Report Title

Cabinet Response – Spotlight Review of the Ofsted Inspection of Adult Community Learning

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jon Stonehouse, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

John Stonehouse, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services
01709 334162 or jon.stonehouse@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-wide

Summary

This report responds to the findings and recommendations of a spotlight review undertaken by the Improving Lives Select Commission in March 2018 which followed the Ofsted Inspection of Adult Community Learning in June 2017. The purpose of the review was to seek assurance that there was a clear understanding of the issues leading to the inadequate judgement in June 2017; that the issues arising from the inspection have been addressed; and that there are clear plans in place to ensure that adult learners have pathways to secure employment or skills training. The conclusions and recommendations made by Members are based on information gathered from the spotlight review and examination of related documentation.

The report and recommendations were submitted to Council in July 2018.

Under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Cabinet is required to respond to any recommendations made by scrutiny and this report is submitted to provide the response to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Recommendations

1. That the Cabinet's response to the spotlight review following the Ofsted Inspection of Adult Community Learning and the up to date position noted.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix A Cabinet's Response to the Spotlight Review following the Ofsted Inspection of Adult Community Learning

Background Papers

Report of the Improving Lives Select Commission – Spotlight Review following the Ofsted Inspection of Adult Community Learning

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Cabinet – 15 April 2019

Council – 22 May 2019

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Cabinet Response – Spotlight Review of the Ofsted Inspection of Adult Community Learning

1. Background

1.1 The review report presented the findings of spotlight review which Members had undertaken in March 2018 following the Ofsted Inspection of Adult Community Learning in 2017. The purpose of the review was to seek assurance that:-

- there was a clear understanding of the issues leading to the inadequate judgement in June 2017;
- the issues arising from the inspection have been addressed; and
- there were clear plans in place to ensure that adult learners had pathways to secure employment or skills training.

1.2 The conclusions and recommendations made by Members are based on information gathered from the spotlight review and examination of related documentation.

1.3 The review report was submitted to Council on 25 July 2018, which represented the formal publication of the report. Under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Cabinet is required to respond to any recommendations made by scrutiny and this report is submitted to meet that requirement.

2. Key Issues

2.1 There were five broad recommendations arising from the review, which are detailed in Appendix A. The schedule provides detail in respect of whether the recommendations are agreed, not agreed or deferred. Where recommendations are agreed, the schedule details what action will be taken, by when and who will be responsible.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The recommendations in the scrutiny review have all been accepted and work has already progressed in relation to the relevant actions.

4. Consultation

4.1 Work has been undertaken with Rotherham and North Notts College in relation to their role in the contribution to the Employment and Skills Plan. The relevant council officers have been consulted with in relation to the 5 point action plan.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Each of the five actions has its own specific timescale and accountability sits with each of the named lead officers.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no financial or procurement implications

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The delivery of the Adult Community Learning agenda is to ensure that those families including the BME and Roma communities have access to high quality learning to move them into employment.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

10.1 Adult community learning has the potential to extend equality of opportunity to those excluded from employment opportunities including women, individuals from black and ethnic minority communities, those for whom English is a second language, and people with disabilities. Adult learning can be a key stepping stone to enable individuals to access further education, employment or skills development.

11. Implications for Partners

11.1 Delivery of Adult Community Learning was transferred to Rotherham and North Notts (RNN) College and as a partner they have contributed to the development of the Education & Skills Strategy

12. Risks and Mitigation

12.1 There are no specific risks in relation to the delivery of the relevant actions.

13. Accountable Officer(s)

Jon Stonehouse, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	29/3/2019
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services	Graham Saxton	28/3/2019
Assistant Director of Legal Services	Stuart Fletcher	28/3/2019
Head of Procurement	Lorna Byne	25/3/2019
Assistant Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development	Amy Leech	25/3/2019

Cabinet's Response to Spotlight Review of the Ofsted Inspection of Adult Community Learning

Recommendation	Cabinet Decision <i>(Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)</i>	Cabinet Response <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	Officer Responsible	Action by (Date)
1. That areas of concern raised in external inspections or reviews are referred to the relevant scrutiny commission on a timely basis, alongside a plan detailing what action is proposed to address identified areas of improvement	Accepted	Performance information is shared with scrutiny through quarterly performance reports and includes information about areas of underperformance and action being taken to address these. A significant number of peer reviews and inspections take place in the council each year. These will be received and logged corporately. Where inspections raise areas of concern, Scrutiny will have the opportunity to review these and subsequent improvement plans on a timely basis	Strategic Directors, Jackie Mould, Head of Performance, Intelligence and Improvement	Establish log from February 2019 As required following an inspection or review.
2. That the Corporate Performance, Intelligence and Improvement Team ensures that learning from the reporting of areas of concern and in particular the issues arising from this spotlight review, are applied to inform how performance management information is shared and acted upon	Accepted	Performance management information is shared through the quarterly performance reports and are discussed within each directorate leadership team on a monthly basis. SLT / AD performance sessions chaired by the Chief Executive now take place on a quarterly basis to highlight and discuss areas of underperformance and agree any action needed. In future the performance, intelligence and improvement team will receive and log any peer reviews and inspections that are undertaken and it is the responsibility of each Strategic Director to ensure that these are acted upon. Internal audit are responsible for auditing a sample of recommendations each year.	Jackie Mould, Head of Performance, Intelligence and Improvement	Quarterly
3. That future performance reports and scorecards should signpost Members clearly to areas of declining performance and actions taken to address these	Accepted	Quarterly performance reports have been redesigned to clearly highlight areas of declining performance. Quarterly reports now include areas of under performance and the action being taken to address any issues and improve performance.	Jackie Mould, Head of Performance, Intelligence and Improvement	Completed and ongoing

<p>4. That further details are provided to the Improving Places Select Commission to clarify how Council priorities linked to the skills agenda and community engagement will be delivered by Rotherham and North Notts College and how outcomes will be reported to Members</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>A 'Skills Strategy' is currently being consulted upon. This will include how adult learning contributes to the development of skills in the borough. Rotherham and North Notts College will contribute to the development of the Strategy. RNN including the ACL team have been fully consulted in the development of the Employment Skills Plan and will be a member of RTP sub-group which will oversee delivery. Plan goes to April 2019 RTP Board for consideration and approval</p>	<p>Simeon Leach, Economic Strategy and Partnerships Manager</p>	<p>Ongoing due April 2019</p>
<p>5. That the Council's representatives on the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel are asked to keep oversight of the devolution of adult education provision to ensure good outcomes for Rotherham learners</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>This is a matter for the Council's representatives to report back to Members and the relevant scrutiny body in Rotherham on the outcomes of scrutiny activity relating to adult education provision.</p>	<p>James McLaughlin, Head of Democratic Services</p>	<p>Completed</p>