

ORANGE BOOK FOR INFORMATION

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

Date: Wednesday, 27th February, 2019

Time: 2.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Health Select Commission (Pages 1 - 4)
2. Improving Lives Select Commission (Pages 5 - 19)
3. Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (Pages 20 - 74)
4. Report for Information (Pages 75 - 76)

HEALTH SELECT COMMISSION
17th January, 2019

Present:- Councillor Evans (in the Chair); Councillors Albiston, Andrews, Bird, Cooksey, R. Elliott, Jarvis, Keenan, Rushforth, Taylor, John Turner and Williams.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ellis and Short.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

61. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no members of the public or press present at the meeting.

62. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Health Select Commission held on 29th November, 2018.

Reference was made to Minute 51 (Minutes of the Previous Meeting) where it was noted that the Trailblazer bid for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services was successful and more details would follow once the participating schools have been selected.

With regards to Minute No. 53 (Integrated Care Partnership) it was noted that there was a request for an update on the crisis arrangements for CAMHS which was outstanding. This would be followed up.

It was also noted that the visit to Carnson House had been rescheduled due to it coinciding with a CQC inspection and the visit would now take place on Wednesday, 30th January, 2019 by the nominated sub-group.

With regards to Minute 55 (Work Programme) it was noted topics were being finalised for the workshops and spotlights reviews later in the year. One of the issues that was discussed was around potential changes to Rotherham Community Health Centre on Greasbrough Road and this would be included as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Information had also been circulated regarding GP's and GP practices and access to appointments with a reminder to feed in key lines of enquiry/issues for update on general practice.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th November, 2018, be approved as a correct record.

63. COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair invited Councillor Jarvis, on behalf of the Improving Lives Select Commission, to provide a brief update regarding the work currently taking place, which included the item that had been discussed on Domestic Abuse. Further detail would be provided by Councillor Jarvis and this would be circulated to the Selection Commission for information.

The Chair also reported that in the last Member Bulletin there was information about grants available for local groups for activities to support and improve men's mental health. Members were asked to encourage any local groups to bid, especially if a Ward was one with higher rates of suicide.

64. REFRESHED JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION

Gilly Brenner, Consultant in Public Health, and Rebecca Woolley, Policy and Partnerships, reported that the current Rotherham Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) was due to be refreshed. This provided an opportunity to consider rationalising the content, a better fit to drive current priorities and ensuring it was more meaningful to commissioners, Service providers and partners.

The launch of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy set out a new asset-based way of working placing communities at the heart of everything that was done. To work in a truly asset focused way required a change in emphasis from 'troublesome' indicators to include a better balance of 'heartening' indicators (assets, strengths, social capital, protective factors).

Previously the JSNA had been primarily owned and maintained by the Council. If it was to be meaningful and used by a wider audience, it was important that partners were actively involved in contributing data and contextual analysis. It should provide a rich resource of information to support the voluntary sector in evidencing information about their local community for funding bids etc.

The JSNA and data and intelligence provision, such as producing health needs assessments, needed to be a joined up and sustainable approach. Having information available online enabled users to access easily and kept resources in a common location.

The consultation was crucial in determining the most appropriate design to meet the needs of users. Components of the design to be decided included the structure of sections, content display and thematic content. It was proposed that key interested representatives from organisations be

identified/confirmed through the consultation who would then form part of a working authors group who contributed to the JSNA on an ongoing basis.

In order to provide the required level of data and accompanying contextual information with current capacity, it was proposed that:-

- the JSNA comprise of strategic overview of key areas at a Rotherham level and as Ward profiles
- depth for certain priority topics was added according to priority
- the JSNA author group support the provision of more indepth data where a priority was agreed
- determination of prioritisation where there was a defined current use and demand for information and where there was a sponsor who could lead a topic-specific working group to support collation of the required information

An interactive presentation was given allowing Select Commission Members to express their views on the proposal which included why the JSNA should be refreshed, followed by six questions asking the Select Commission to vote and give a steer on their preference. This information would be collated and included as part of the consultation. The consultation would remain open for a few more days if anyone wished to submit any comments.

In response to a query about whether or not the refresh would incorporate the new boundary changes, it was confirmed that this would be taken account of in due course.

The outcome of the consultation would be summarised and pulled together for consideration by a Stakeholder Steering Group in mid-February where again key partners would look at the content with officers in more detail.

This would shape the process for how the JSNA would work in April and then going forward would see the development of the new websites, the voluntary sector events and some more clarification around the deep dive and the needs assessment process.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposal of a refresh of the JSNA be approved.

(2) That an update on progress on the JSNA refresh and updated website be provided to the Health Selection Commission during the summer.

65. SOUTH YORKSHIRE, DERBYSHIRE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND WAKEFIELD JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Chair confirmed there was no further information to share for the South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Wakefield Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee other than to report that the next meeting would be in mid-March.

66. HEALTHWATCH ROTHERHAM - ISSUES

No issues had been raised.

67. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Consideration was given to the submission minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 21st November, 2018.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 21st November, 2018, be noted.

68. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Thursday, 28th February, 2019 commencing at 10.00 a.m.

**IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION
15th January, 2019**

Present:- Councillor Cusworth (in the Chair); Councillors Clark, Elliot, Jarvis, Khan, Marriott, Price, Senior, Short and Julie Turner.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beaumont, Brookes and Pitchley.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-
<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jarvis made the following Personal Declaration of Interest:-
Minute No. 49 – Domestic Abuse Update – a member of the Board of Trustees of Rotherham Rise.

Councillor Senior made the following Personal Declaration of Interest:-
Minute No. 50 – Rotherham Voice of the Child Lifestyle Survey 2018 – manager of a charity that participated in the survey although not personally involved.

46. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

A member of the public raised issues regarding safeguarding and the involvement of Police, Social Services and Mental Health colleagues.

As it did not directly relate to any of the items on the agenda for discussion, it was agreed that an officer would contact the member of the public directly and discuss his issues of concern.

47. COMMUNICATIONS

It was noted that the Corporate Parenting Panel Sub-Group convened to look at the LADO process and the impact thereof on foster carers had been cancelled due to illness. It was now to meet on 5th February.

48. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4TH DECEMBER 2018

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission, held on 4th December, 2018, and matters arising from those minutes.

Resolved:-That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission, held on 4th December, 2018, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

Further to Minute No. 43(2) (inclusion of Children Missing from Education to the weekly tracker), a meeting would be arranged to discuss its feasibility.

49. DOMESTIC ABUSE UPDATE

Sam Barstow, Head of Community Safety, Resilience and Emergency Planning, presented an update in relation to audit work conducted in support of the Council's work to tackle Domestic Abuse. The report also provided an overview of Service user engaged, the current Domestic Abuse review, a general update in relation to progress against the Domestic Abuse Strategy as well as an update in relation to Stalking and Harassment.

Attention was drawn to:-

- Partnership Audits – Housing
Officers had engaged in a supportive review of Housing Domestic Abuse practice with a specific focus on tenancy issues linked to Domestic Abuse. Increasingly there was a desire to support victims/survivors of Domestic Abuse and their families to stay in their own home, properly protected and supported, particularly where there were mothers and children. There would always remain a place and need for supporting victims/survivors to flee and the Council and its partners would continue to support this where necessary.
- Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)
Work was undertaken during July and August to review previous and current DHRs with a particular focus on any identified inconsistencies. 5 DHRs had been conducted since the legislation was introduced in 2004. A review had also been undertaken of the completion of actions across all previous DHRs and would seek to ensure lessons were embedded within Service delivery. Across all 5 DHRs there were 26 recommendations including those arising from the current active review. Of the 26, 20 were complete, one remained ongoing and a further 5 required validation but were expected to be completed.
- Domestic Abuse Service Review
The first phase of the whole system review was nearing completion. The process had involved significant efforts to engage Service users through focus groups and online surveys. Full analysis of the survey would be available shortly and used to further inform the final report which would be considered by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board at its meeting in February. The Council would seek to form proposals in relation to how the Service could be adapted.

– Strategy Update

The Strategy was attached at Appendix B of the report submitted. The Council and its partners had been the subject of an indepth peer review by the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council and its partners between January and March, 2018. The review had examined Domestic Abuse Services within Rotherham against 53 assessment areas with the final date of inspection taking place on 25th January 2018. 14 interviews and focus groups had taken place involving approximately 60 multi-agency staff and Service users as part of the challenge day.

A Perpetrator Programme had been launched in March 2018, a consistent training offer developed and remained on offer and accessible to all agencies free of charge, audit/review work on cases and processes within Housing, a programme of work led by the South Yorkshire Police District Commander to increase arrest rates and review of the Domestic Abuse Review.

– Stalking and Harassment

Initial governance had been established and performance on outcome rates was now reported to the SRP Board, however, the data was currently unaudited so could not be publicly released. Work was ongoing to address this issue, however, levels were broadly stable during the first 2 quarters of monitoring in 2018/19. As a result of changes to Home Office counting rules, demand numbers were likely to increase as it required Police Forces to record an additional offence of stalking, harassment or coercive control (as appropriate) to a reported crime of criminal damage for example where it was associated.

Stalking and harassment was not always domestic related; in cases where it was not domestic related support was likely to be more limited. Work was underway to map the victim journey following initial report.

Following establishment of a referral pathway and available support, partnership training would be arranged in the 2019/20 financial year.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Concern regarding the lack of progress being made with regard to stalking and harassment
- Acknowledgement that there were significant gaps in Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment (DASH) and how it effectively supported victims of stalking and harassment. DASH was being looked at currently and there was a commitment to open up the MARAC process to stalking and harassment

- Currently the figures did not distinguish in terms of stalking and harassment data and whether or not it was linked to domestic abuse or stranger stalking and harassment. At present there were figures that suggested how big the problem was around stalking and harassment but no understanding of how much of the problem was directly related to the domestic abuse situation or stranger stalking. Not only did the data need to be strengthened to enable a better understanding but also the processes regardless as to whether it was domestic abuse or stranger related. This would then have a positive impact
- The Rotherham Perpetrator Programmes were in the pre-criminal justice space. It was not known if there were any post-conviction Perpetrator Programme around stalking and harassment but attempts would be made to ascertain the information
- Continued support was provided for the victims in their own homes. Target hardening was part of the support which could include the installation of equipment that may well make the victim feel safer e.g. window alarms, security lights on the property, alarms etc. There was also the use of Violence Protection Notices and Orders to control the behaviour of the perpetrators and additional 1:1 support through both the commissioned service and Housing Officers
- Support was very much victim-led. If a victim felt uncomfortable remaining in their own home they would be supported to seek refuge elsewhere. That would be dealt with at the outset so the victim's wants and needs were understood
- Self-referrals could be made into the South Yorkshire-wide Perpetrator Programme that had been commissioned, however, few self-referrals had been made
- Information from Area Housing Panels was fed into the Domestic Abuse Priority Group. Within the action plan there were performance measures that were monitored on a monthly basis
- Work had taken place to make sure the voice of the child was captured particularly at the high risk end. This had included a change of guidance for MARAC Chairs to ensure they asked what the voice of the child was in those circumstances and work with the Police to make sure that, when they responded to a domestic abuse incident and a child was present in the household, that they did their utmost to have a conversation with the child to seek their views. It was not perfect and there were still examples seen where the voice of the child was not accurately captured and scrutinised but it had improved
- Work was still being delivered to develop the private sector and their responsibility with regard to domestic abuse. The first step was to encourage the private sector that it was their problem and that they

could do something. A good reception had been received from dentists across the Borough. The training offer remained open to all private businesses around domestic abuse and would remain so

- An increase in referrals would be expected after target training and awareness raising. There had been significant effort this year into communications around domestic abuse
- The Council's own HR policies made reference to domestic abuse and gave guidance to managers as well as an inhouse IDVA team. There was information on the website as well as an acknowledgement that it was not as good as it could be both the internal and public facing information
- The Domestic Abuse Charter had 10 standards of what was expected of partners as well as a specific requirement that companies have a HR policy that made reference to domestic abuse and ensure the right support was offered
- Stalking and harassment had not been drawn out of any of Rotherham's Domestic Homicide Reviews but was a prolific feature nationally
- Conviction rates were recorded nationally
- There was a clear service structure around domestic abuse in its own right and a full service commissioned, however, that service did not exist when it related to stalking and harassment. If it was stranger stalking and harassment the service was not available currently. There was support through Victim Support (through South Yorkshire Police)

The Chair commented on the progress made over the previous 18 months and thanked the Officer and his team for their work.

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

(2) That a further report be submitted in respect of the principles for the Domestic Abuse Service prior to submission to Cabinet.

(3) That a further report be submitted to a sub-group of the Select Commission with regard to the gap in service related to stalking and harassment.

50. ROTHERHAM VOICE OF THE CHILD LIFESTYLE SURVEY 2018

Sue Wilson, Head of Service, Performance and Planning, gave the following powerpoint presentation on the Rotherham Lifestyle Survey:-

What is Lifestyle Survey

- An annual survey which captured the voice of children and young people on subjects important to them
- The questions in the survey had been shaped by our young people
- A unique opportunity for a large group of young people in Rotherham to share their views on matters that impacted on their lives

Why do we do it

- To provide young people with the opportunity to voice their opinion which was used by partners, schools and services to help shape future services
- Provided a rich source of data which provided the ability to compare with neighbouring local authorities and national surveys to identify trends and key areas for development

What do we aim to achieve

- Services shaped and improvements made which took into account or were a direct result of the views expressed by the young people
- Results that evidenced a positive impact on the lives of children and young people living and educated in Rotherham

Participation 2018

- 16 mainstream schools offered the opportunity to participate in the survey. 12 participated (4 schools choosing not to participate provided an explanation)
- 3 special schools chose to participate
- 3 Pupil Referral Units participated
- 3,499 pupils participated (52% of relevant population)

What is Working Well

Young people's voices are being listened to and the information collected is being used effectively

- Feedback from the Lifestyle Survey was utilised to support the commissioning of a new support service for drug and alcohol services for young people
- Schools utilised the feedback provided in respect of high sugar energy drinks to improve the displays/information available to children on the effects of the drinks and in some schools ban the sale of the drinks entirely. Leading to a reduction their consumption in school and an increase in the number of young people drinking the recommended amount of water per day
- One school was using its results to shape their PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) curriculum; working with Y8 pupils to co-produce the curriculum
- Safer Rotherham Partnership had used their results to help shape their priorities

- Young Carers Service identified from the results the need to raise awareness of the services they offered within schools. As a result, 10% more young people now say they have heard of the support available

What Areas are We Worried About

Results would be highlighted to schools and partners

- Regular feedback required from partners on the actions they were taking to address the findings and improve change services
- Increase promotion of the benefits of health eating – in 2018 less pupils said they were eating the recommended 5 per day and more pupils said they were worried about their weight
- Promote the activities available for young people in libraries and youth centres – in 2018 less pupils said they use these
- Address the increase in the number of young people who said they smoked on a regular basis
- Promote the new drug and alcohol support available to address the increase in the number of young people who said they had tried drugs regularly

Actions

What actions take place to share the results and highlight the impact of the survey

- Each school receives their own individual data with comparison to the previous year's results highlighting:
What's working well
What are we worried about
- Partners received highlight reports with set timescales in which to provide feedback on the actions taken and the impact of and planned actions for the future
- Results were shared with young people to help them identify and develop new ideas and to communicate positive messages to them
- Stakeholders were supported to review the results and develop action plans to address these
- Work undertaken with schools to highlight to young people opportunities and forums where they could get involved and have their voice heard i.e. School Council, Youth Cabinet, Young Inspector

Young People's Voice

- The Rotherham Lifestyle Survey had run for 12 years and in the time over 30,000 young people had had their voice heard
- In the past 5 years, 17,410 had participated. Schools welcomed and valued the survey with 12 schools already signed up to participate again in 2019
- This high volume of young people's voices needed to be recognised and become integral to shaping and developing the services we offered
- We need to act upon what they say to show they were listened to and taken seriously

The Select Commission discussed the following salient issues about this Survey:-

- The 4 schools that had declined to participate were the same schools who had not taken part for the last 3/4 years and were part of the same Multi-Academy Trust who ran their own survey. The fourth school was a Catholic school who had had concerns 2 years ago with regard to some of the questions for Y10 students around sexual health. This year they had not felt they could fit it into their curriculum timetable. Every opportunity was taken to encourage participation to increase the overall perception rate
- The data collected was linked as much as it could to national data/Public Health data. Work took place with colleagues in Public Health for them to use the data and share it with their commissioned services and strategy group and looked at national trends
- There was acknowledgement that there would be an element of bravado when the young people were completing the survey and whether this was taken into consideration when analysing the response
- Due to the difference in the size of schools a percentage of the cohort was taken to enable a direct comparison
- Schools were asked every year to review the questions and add any specific questions. It was asked if schools commented on questions to be taken out of the survey
- The 3 schools that did their own survey did not share their results with the Authority despite being requested to do so
- There was no opportunity for the young people to write free text. The survey had been designed to enable ease of analysis
- Young people had input into the questions

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

(2) That the partners receiving a copy of the report be supported.

(3) That consideration be given to streamlining of the survey for the future and that further consideration be given to the inclusion of information relating to demographics and equalities monitoring.

51. SOUTH YORKSHIRE REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY

Councillor Watson, Deputy Leader, and Jon Stonehouse, Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Service, presented an update on the development of the South Yorkshire Regional Adoption Agency.

Following a further meeting between the respective Directors of Children's Services and the Department for Education (DfE), an additional sum of money had been allocated to Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST) to underwrite the further project development costs. This would enable the employment of a project manager lead to re-write the Business Case.

If there was no functioning Regional Adoption Agency within South Yorkshire by 2020, the Government had retained the right, within the Legislation, to impose a model on the region. As a result, there was a risk that the model imposed would not best meet the needs of the Council, its children and families or its employees.

The Council would remain fully engaged in the process and development of the model in order to ensure it was best placed to shape and influence so that it would best meet the essential criteria. It was anticipated that the revised business case would be completed by April 2019 and then would be submitted accordingly for ratification.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- As host authority, both the funding and the post would sit with Doncaster Children's Services Trust, but would not incur any additional cost to the four local authorities. The reworked business case was due at the end of the month
- Barnsley, Sheffield and Rotherham had made it very clear they would not be contributing any funding into the RAA over and above what they currently spent. Performance of the 4 local authorities was strong in terms of adoption which was a big factor in reassuring that the new RAA would have the level of expertise and experience in adoption that would allow performance to be maintained
- Rotherham would still be accountable for adoption in Rotherham so the need to ensure the business case gave strong reassurance that rigorous democratic oversight would be provided by Lead Member, Scrutiny and Cabinet. Once the refreshed business case was received it would be an area to work through with the other three local authorities
- A clearer timeline would be known after the meeting on 1st February. It was included within the Forward Plan for February Cabinet or later dependent upon the business case

- Previous experience had been that an annual report was submitted to each of the local authorities on the work of the RAA

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

52. OFSTED RECOMMENDATIONS - UPDATE

Sue Wilson, Head of Service Performance and Planning, presented the following powerpoint presentation on the status of the 34 actions identified for completed against each of the 8 Ofsted recommendations for improvement identified during the November 2017 re-inspection:-

Current Position

- 8 recommendations made up of 34 actions (11 actions complete)
- 2 recommendations fully complete (subject to approval at the evidence panel) made up of 6 actions
- 6 other recommendations were partially complete (18 actions outstanding) and work on these continued

Recommendation 1

Ensure that managers provide challenging, reflective and directive supervision and, with support from Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) and Conference Chairs, address the quality of practice and planning for all children effectively

- A revised supervision template was now live in Liquid Logic
- The IRO Service had been developed and were providing a 'high support, high challenge' approach around planning for children
- The Rotherham Family Approach (Signs of Safety, Restorative Practice and Social Pedagogy) continued to be rolled out as part of mandatory training for workers across the whole of the Children's workforce
- Work was continuing to:-
Implement phase 2 of the Right Child Right Care programme of work (March 2020)
Further implement and embed the Rotherham Family Approach including across the broader partnership (April 2020)

Recommendation 2

Ensure that all assessments are: meaningful to children and their families; reflect the changing needs of children and effectively evaluate cumulative risks and their impact

- Case mapping exercises take place with staff to improving the quality of assessments
- The Social Care and Early Help Quality Assurance Framework looks at practice through a thematic lens to better recognise the understanding of cumulative risk of harm and to test out the quality of Assessments and Plans (particularly in relation to looked after children)
- Work is continuing to:-

Fully implement Liquid Logic to enable case recording to reflect the Rotherham Family Approach particularly in relation to the format of the recording of assessments

Recommendation 3

Ensure that all plans: are clear about how children's and young people's holistic needs are to be met; have clear timescales; can be understood by families and are always well informed by risk assessment

- Case mapping exercises take place with staff in relation to improving the quality safety plans
- The Social Care and Early Help Quality Assurance Framework looks at practice through a thematic lens to better recognise the understanding of cumulative risk of harm and to test out the quality of Assessments and Plans (particularly in relation to looked after children)
- Work is continuing to:-
Fully implement Liquid Logic to enable case recording to reflect the Rotherham Family Approach particularly in relation to the format of the recording of plans and risk

Recommendation 4

Ensure that early permanence planning is timely and considers the full range of placement options for all children when they are unable to return to their birth families

- The increased focus of the IROs is making a difference in relation to permanence planning
- Right Child Right Care (RCRC) is having a significant impact on permanence planning with more children being discharged from care since February 2018, as a result of the wider improvement in practice
- Work is continuing to:
Focus on foster care recruitment (based on the feedback from the recent Peer View and our own self-assessment)
Revise the Marketing and Placement Sufficiency Strategies in order to boost in-house foster carer recruitment by a net gain of 15 foster placements each year for the next 3 years

Recommendation 5

Improve the timeliness of the early help response to children particularly those who have a disability

- The standard response time for children with disabilities is now managed as part of the fortnightly performance meetings; regular meetings take place between the Early Help Disability Manager and an experienced Early Help and Family Engagement Service Manager
- Signs of Safety training has been rolled out in the team and is being embedded
- Performance data shows that timeliness has improved with an upward trend predicted to continue
- This is now complete

Recommendation 6

Work with schools to reduce the number of fixed-term exclusions and persistent absentees from education among children looked after

- The attendance and exclusions of looked after children are discussed at Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings
- Creative mentoring and attachment friendly schools are starting to show impact
- The Virtual School has seen a reduction in exclusions and attendance has improved from September 2017 to September 2018
- Work is continuing to:
 - Implement the creative mentoring scheme (January 2019)
 - Complete Phase 2 of the attachment friendly schools (September 2020)

Recommendation 7

Ensure that children benefit from a timely good quality Lifestory work and clearly written later life letters to enable children to understand their experiences, life history and reason for separation from their birth families

- Life Story Work (LSW) continues to be a priority and a new model has been implemented with additional support and training being provided by the Therapeutic
- Information about therapeutic stories and telling about difficult experiences or traumas has been shared with staff. The Advanced Practitioners and the Practice Consultants are leading on LSW within each team
- Court & Permanency Team have recently recruited a worker whose focus was specifically on LSW and with her lead and the support from the TT the quality of LSW has improved
- Work was continuing to:
 - Improve the quality of later life letters (January 2019)
 - Utilise Liquid Logic better to track the presence of lifestory and later life letters (February 2019)

Recommendation 8

Ensure that birth parents of children who are adopted fully understand what support is available and are helped to access this

- Additional support has been put in place for birth parents whose children have been adopted
- RMBC continues to commission this support PAC UK and the Adoption Team website has now been updated to include PAC UK and link to this service
- This is now complete

Liquid Logic

- Signs of Safety (SOS) within Liquid Logic is having an impact upon the development of key documents within the system impacting on completion of some actions
- In order to minimise this potential barrier we have commenced work around developing key documents to be used in the existing Liquid

Logic pathway

- This should then reflect our improving practice in the case record more effectively

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

- As part of the independent health check (6th-8th February 2019) commissioners would come in and test out the Ofsted recommendations. There was a series of meetings organised with case tracking taking place
- Lincolnshire Council was selecting 10 cases they would audit and look for evidence in current practice that they could now see a difference. The same as an Ofsted inspection, the Service ran “Annex A” - 11 lists of every child that the Service had been working with over the last 6 months. That document had been submitted together with a document called “chat”, a single page document listing the key concerns and risks about some of the cases. Lincolnshire would use it to select the 10 cases
- There was confidence that the Services rated by Ofsted in January 2018 as either being Good or Outstanding, were still of the same calibre. Rotherham was able, on an ongoing basis, to assess the effectiveness of its services. It was an ongoing effort which required time, energy and investment to ascertain an accurate view of how it was performing. A raft of information was submitted to the monthly multi-agency Performance Board where Assistant Directors and Heads of Services attended and presented narrative reports supported by data and performance information. There was also a very robust monthly schedule of case file audits which were evaluated and moderated, put together in an audit report and sent to managers, the learning from which was then fed into a training and development programme
- Practice learning days were also held where managers across the Service went out to observe practice with an action plan compiled following the visit. The Strategic Director and Deputy Leader would then visit and assess whether the services had performed against their action plan
- The new inspection arrangements included an Annual Conversation. Prior to the meeting, the Service had to develop and submit 2 weeks in advance, a self-evaluation assessment that covered all the requirements of the Ofsted inspection regime. Ofsted then interrogated representatives on the self-assessment. Following the Annual Conversation last year, a positive letter had been received

- There were a number of products that different local authorities used for their case management recording of their children's Social Care work and for some Early Help work; Rotherham used Liquid Logic for both. However, when Rotherham implemented Liquid Logic Signs of Safety was not being used and nor was the Rotherham Family Approach developed. As with any product, Liquid Logic had an "off the peg" product with the ability for each local authority to develop its own local nuances and add to the processes that existed. All Social Workers and managers had been trained around Restorative Practice and Signs of Safety. Liquid Logic had now developed a licensed Signs of Safety product which would sit alongside the existing products. Work was now required to ascertain if it was the right product for the Service or develop/alter the existing version that took into account Restorative Practice and Social Pedagogy. The Social Workers who were most confident in the use of the new methodologies were finding ways to record within current forms but some of the current development structure did not include making it intuitive. Some of the forms were not the most helpful to the Social Workers but if it could be improved it would help embed Signs of Safety
- Representatives of Liquid Logic would be visiting Rotherham soon to present demonstration work to establish whether it was best to improve the system or if there was an alternative way
- Of the 8 recommendations/actions that not yet been completed it was felt that the biggest challenges were:-

No. 6 (work with schools to reduce the number of fixed-term exclusions and persistent absentees from education among children looked after) was challenging because it relied upon a complicated partnership response. Fixed term exclusions was a national issue; the providers all wanted to help the Authority but it did rely on very effective partnership arrangements and something that was a real challenge in the country at the moment

Both No. 2 (ensure that all assessments are: meaningful to children and their families; reflect the changing needs of children and effectively evaluate cumulative risks and their impact) and No. 3 (ensure that all plans: are clear about how children's and young people's holistic needs are to be met; have clear timescales; can be understood by families; and are always well informed by risk assessment) which started with "ensure that all" were incredibly challenging for any Assistant Director or Strategic Director to say that every single assessment/plan was developed and achieved what was set out. However, The Service needed to be in a position where it could provide assurance that it was achieving the aim in more cases than it was not

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

(2) That the Ofsted outcome letter from the Annual Conversation be forwarded to the Select Commission for information.

(3) That the outcome of the Peer Review for Looked After Children be submitted to this Select Commission as well as Corporate Parenting Panel.

53. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Tuesday, 5th March, 2019 commencing at 5.30 p.m.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
17th October, 2018

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Cowles, Cusworth, Keenan, Mallinder, Napper, Sansome, Short, Walsh and Wyatt.

The webcast of this meeting can be viewed at:- <https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

82. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER AND 3 OCTOBER 2018

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the previous meetings held on 12 September and 3 October 2018 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

83. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

84. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from members of the public or press.

85. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair reported that there were no items of business on the agenda that would require the exclusion of the press or public from the meeting.

86. PETITION - INSTALLATION OF A CCTV CAMERA AT THE MEMORIAL GARDEN, CLIFTON PARK

Consideration was given to a petition seeking the installation of a CCTV camera at the Memorial Garden in Clifton Park which had been submitted by the family of the late Kurtis Spafford.

Councillor Cooksey addressed the meeting on behalf of the family to explain the reason for submitting the petition. Following the premature death of Kurtis Spafford, his family and friends raised funds for a bench to be positioned in the Memorial Gardens at Clifton Park. This was chosen because of the beauty and seclusion of that part of the park, where people can take time to reflect. However, the bench had been subject to vandalism on a number of occasions, and whilst council officers had restored the bench to original condition, it was felt that such vandalism could occur again.

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The fear of further vandalism to the bench had become a source of stress for the Spafford family and they requested that a CCTV camera be installed as a deterrent and to support efforts to reduce anti-social behaviour.

The Cabinet Member for Cleaner Greener Communities responded to the issues raised by the petitioners and expressed her thanks for their attendance. She further indicated that officers had been to the site with a view to the future installation of a camera. Whilst work was ongoing to establish its viability, the service had confirmed that it would increase patrols of the area by park rangers and the police in the meantime. Responding to a question in respect of potential timescales for installation, the Cabinet Member confirmed that it would take a minimum of three months, so it was expected that a camera would be installed by the beginning of the 2019-20 financial year.

The Chair thanked the petitioners and Cabinet Member for their attendance.

Having reflected on the comments of the petitioners and the update provided by the Cabinet Member, the Board felt that action should be progressed in accordance with that set out by the Cabinet Member above. It was therefore

Resolved:-

1. That the action proposed by the Cabinet Member for Cleaner Greener Communities be supported.
2. That arrangements be made for the installation of a camera at the Memorial Garden as soon possible and at the latest by the start of the 2019-20 financial year.

87. OUTCOMES FROM THE IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION WORKSHOP SESSION - COMPLEX ABUSE INVESTIGATION

Consideration was given to a paper presented by Councillor Clark, the former Chair of the Improving Lives Select Commission, which outlined the outcomes and recommendations from a workshop session held by the Improving Lives Select Commission on 24 April 2019. The purpose of the workshop was to seek assurance and further understanding of the extent to which agencies are working effectively together to address complex abuse.

It was reported that the Improving Lives Select Commission had considered the report at its meeting on 18 September. It was recommended that the report and recommendations be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and from there, presented to a future Council meeting for information to share the findings with the wider membership.

The following recommendations had come from the workshop:-

- That further investigations takes place to establish the low rate of neglect referrals from dental health services.
- That information is shared in line with existing operational protocols and on a 'need to know' basis with ward members for the purpose of signposting residents appropriately.
- That the appropriate agencies ensure that the GDPR does not act as a barrier to the appropriate sharing of information.
- That further representation is made by the LSCB to the CPS and relevant Court Services to raise the issue of how all agencies can take timely action to safeguard children at risk of flight.
- That a further update be submitted to Improving Lives Select Commission in 12 months' time.

Members welcomed the report and recommendations from the Select Commission and felt it was a positive reflection on the work being undertaken.

Resolved:-

1. That the report and recommendations, as outlined in Paragraph 9 of Appendix 1, be approved.
2. That the scrutiny review be forwarded to the Council for its consideration.
3. That the response of the Cabinet and partner organisations to the recommendations be reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

88. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EARLY HELP STRATEGY 2016-2019: 'PHASE TWO & PHASE THREE'

Consideration was given to a report concerned with proposals for the implementation of Phase Two & Phase Three of the Early Help Strategy 2016-2019, following the 90 day public, partner, staff and young people's consultations which began in April 2018 and which concluded in July 2018. The report provided a summary of the ninety day consultation activity, feedback on the proposals from staff, service users and partners and an overview of how the responses had informed the final proposals. The report also covered the approved savings considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 14 December 2017.

Councillor Cusworth providing the following feedback from the Improving Lives Select Commission who had looked at the issues in details:-

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- Members were assured around children centres that de-registration would not lead to loss of service. Examples were provided to Members of different and improved delivery models
- Members had sought assurance that service level agreements would be in place with schools in respect of youth service provision (once approval had been given)
- Members were assured that rationalisation of job descriptions would not have detrimental impact on service users and that there was a good focus on staff development
- Members were assured that team would have blend of skills/specialisms
- Members had raised concerns whether asset transfers could deliver savings in timescales, as this was considered an ambitious target
- Members expressed concerns about lack of engagement with children and young people and other service users – want to review in September 2019 – with focus on seeking children and young people/service users views
- Members questioned the exit survey as a measure, specifically whether this had captured views of Early Help users who had been escalated to social care
- Member raised no concerns in respect of the equality impact assessment

Members sought reassurances that the public were fully on board with proposal. In response, the Cabinet Member explained that whilst the proposal was to de-register Children's Centres, the buildings would remain in place and this would not cause an issue because 70% of contacts with families were not in the Council's own buildings, but in other community locations. The essence of the proposals was to take the service to families, rather than binding it to specific buildings or locations.

Following on, Members sought clarification in respect of the future use of the buildings. The Cabinet Member again reiterated that the Children's Centres were proposed to be de-registered, rather than closed. The Acting Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment confirmed that where buildings were surplus to the requirements of the service, they would return to the corporate landlord estate.

Reflecting on the fact that the vast majority of young people would grow up without intervention from the service, the proposed move to a targeted service model was considered to make sense, but Members sought further assurances in respect of how targets would be detected in future. In response, the Cabinet Member indicated that neighbourhood working would help with the process by enabling services to work closer together to provide and share intelligence. The bottom up and local intelligence model would be critical to establishing this.

Councillor Napper referred to consultation that had taken place in Silverwood ward which had identified youth provision as the biggest issue for local residents. He further explained that young people have to travel by bus and use buildings for youth activity in the ward and specifically referred to the reluctance of academy schools to have anything take place after school hours. In response, the Cabinet Member offered to meet with Councillor Napper in due course to continue discussions on options available.

Assurances were sought that the proposal for integrated youth offending teams would work, as Members considered that these had been more effective when operating separately. In response, it was explained that officers were trained to deal with a whole family, rather than just an individual so that the influencing factors can be considered and provide an added advantage. Furthermore, the Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety, who was also the Chair of the Safer Rotherham Partnership, referred to that body's statutory oversight of Youth Offending services. The Board had also scrutinised and questioned the proposals and felt that the direction of travel was very positive.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That Improving Lives Select Commission keeps a watching brief on the implementation of Phase 2 & 3 of the Early Help Review.
3. That an update be provided in March 2019 in respect of the progress in establishing Service Level Agreements with schools for youth service provision and related transfer of assets.
4. That an update be provided in September 2019 to reflect how the service is capturing the child/young person's voice in the work of the Early Help service.
5. That the Cabinet be requested to revisit the exit survey and number of assessments completed by partners as performance measures.
6. That Ward Members be consulted on the transfer or disposal of assets.

89. MODERN SLAVERY UPDATE AND TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT

Consideration was given to a report which provided a brief overview of planned activity in relation to modern slavery for the financial year 2018/19. This report also provided a draft statement for publication in line with the requirements laid down by the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Members sought assurances about the measures in place to monitor modern slavery in the agricultural and construction industries. In response, it was explained that work had started with car wash businesses, but there was an awareness of high risk sectors across the economy. Intelligence was considered to be key in addressing the issues underpinning modern slavery and working with the Gangmasters Licensing Authority.

Reflecting on the guidelines detailed in the paper, Members queried whether work had reached a point where detail could be provided on implementable policies or whether that remained work in progress. In response, the Cabinet Member indicated that work was underway and more work remained to be done.

Members were pleased to see that this work was in progress and welcomed the Council's recent adoption of the Co-operative Party's Charter Against Modern Slavery.

Resolved:-

That the Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

90. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION - PLANNING PROCESS AND SHALE GAS

Consideration was given to a report introducing draft responses on behalf of the Council to two government consultations relates to the planning process and shale gas. The two papers were:-

- on the principle of granting planning permission for non-hydraulic shale gas exploration development through a permitted development right
- on inclusion of shale gas production projects in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) regime

Members noted that the draft responses to both consultation papers were not supportive of the proposals. The Board indicated its support for the response to be sent to the Secretary of State.

Resolved:-

That the draft responses to the government consultations be supported.

91. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2018

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan of Key Decisions covering the period from 1 October to 31 December 2018 and Members identified the following items for pre-decision scrutiny:-

Resolved:-

That the following items on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions be submitted for pre-decision scrutiny:-

- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Sex Establishment Policy
- Community Energy Switching Policy
- Submission of the Clean Air Zone Outline Business Case to the Joint Air Quality Unit

92. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reported that there were no items of business requiring the Board's urgent consideration.

93. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be held on Wednesday 24 October 2018 at 11.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
24th October, 2018

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Brookes, Cusworth, Evans, Keenan, Mallinder, Napper, Sansome, Short and Walsh.

Apologies were received from Councillors Cowles and Wyatt.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sansome declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 5 (Budget Options 2019/20 and 2020/21) on the basis that a relative was accessing the advocacy service provided by Healthwatch Rotherham.

95. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

A member of the public attended on behalf of Sight and Sound to query the budget proposal that the Board was due to consider at its meeting (ACH1 - Proposed ending of funding for the Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind Sight and Sound service). It was asserted that the information provided to the Board was not correct and there were major concerns in respect of the proposal.

In response, the Chair indicated that he was unable to answer the question, but would ensure that the question would be put to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health later at the meeting.

At the appropriate point, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health Roche expressed his appreciation for the excellent work and service provided by Sheffield Sight and Sound. He indicated that the agreement with the charity was for funding to be provided for two years, after which it would become self-sustaining. However, the proposal was open to consultation and officers would be happy to meet with the Chief Officer of the charity and its trustees to discuss the proposal.

In response, Members were advised by the member of the public that there was a difference of opinion on the recollection of what had been agreed previously, however the offer of a meeting was appreciated.

96. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair reported that there were no items of business on the agenda that would require the exclusion of the press or public from the meeting.

97. BUDGET OPTIONS 2019/20 AND 2020/21

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on the overall value of budget reductions necessary over the next two financial years and presented options that had been identified from service areas to significantly address the budget gap across both years.

Members noted that consultation with the public, key partners, trade unions and staff would formally commence on 26 October and close on 30 November 2018. The outcomes from the consultation would be considered when finalising the Budget. It was further reported that the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was expected in mid-December 2018, with the Final Settlement expected in early February 2019. This would confirm the Government funding to be received and alongside feedback from the consultation and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, was planned to enable the budget to be finalised.

In terms of governance, Members noted that the final Budget and Council Tax report would be considered by Cabinet on 18 February 2019 and the Cabinet's recommendations would be referred to Council on 27 February 2019 for approval.

The Chair welcomed the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive to the meeting and invited them to deliver a presentation to set the scene for the budget setting process for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years. A copy of the presentation is appended to these minutes.

The Leader of the Council reflected on the priorities of the Council which had been set out three years earlier and on the significant shift away from local government being funded from the Revenue Support Grant from government. For nine years, the Government had enforced a period of austerity on public services and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) had been the hardest hit in government, with local government being the hardest hit part of the public sector. By way of illustration of the profound shift in funding of local government, the Leader explained that the grant from government in 2013/14 had been £84.3m, in the current financial year it had been £21m and in the 2019/20 financial year it was expected to be £15m. That represented an 82% reduction in funding and it was expected that the Revenue Support Grant would be phased out altogether. These reductions in funding had occurred at the same time as the outturn spend on Children and Young People's Services had increased by 150%.

Continuing, the Chief Executive explained that pressure around social care was being felt right across the country, especially by metropolitan councils. Nationally, local authorities were overspent on social care by more than £800m. The Local Government Association had calculated a funding gap of £3.6b across the country. With uncertainty around the future of local government funding, the Chief Executive indicated that she was not able to provide any further information on the funding regime beyond the current period. Whilst there had recently been funding for winter pressures in Adult

Social Care, the announcements had been in October and the money does not follow as quickly and this was inhibiting the ability of services to deliver in the long term.

However, the Council was clear in respect of its strategic direction and what services it would continue to provide. In terms of place shaping, the Council was clear about what it needed and wanted to do to drive inclusive growth. The reality was clear that it would not be enough to manage reductions in finance, as the gap was too big to bridge. The Council had made a commitment to neighbourhood working, customer Services was a priority and writ large throughout the budget proposals.

The Leader of the Council reminded Members that Rotherham was fastest growing borough economy in the region and in the top ten nationally. There remained work to do on breaking the cycle of low paid work and some of the higher skills and paid roles being created in the borough emphasised that changes were being made. The number of businesses in the borough had grown by more than 800, creating 4000 more jobs. There were projects around town centre regeneration and University Centre Rotherham to tackle the historic low skills base.

Referring back to the future funding model, the Leader acknowledged that the Council had an issue in respect of business rates, as the borough was dependent on a small number of big employers. However, there was work to do and with an assumed increase of 700 Band D properties, that would generate additional council tax receipts. Reference was made to a number of assumptions in respect of housing growth and government policy. Returning to neighbourhoods and partnership working, the Leader reminded Members that they were moving from world where Council was the deliverer of services to an environment where it was shaping the borough by working with the public and the voluntary sector economy. He noted that strong arrangements meant that a strong financial benefit would be realised and cited examples of the introduction of seven day social care practice, changes to the falls service saving £3.6m per year. With neighbourhood working, alongside member led activity, more joined up activity was being undertaken with the police which meant they and the Council were getting on top of problems before they happened, which in turn had saved money down the line.

Referring to the comments in respect of economic and housing growth, Members queried whether the Council was maximising its potential for Section 106 monies from new developments. In response, the Leader indicated that there was a process in place, but Section 106 was less important following the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy. He did not think there was any reason to be troubled presently, but Members would want to understand how those CIL contributions began to add up and what that would mean.

Members queried which council budget paid for legacy costs related to child sexual exploitation. In response, the Leader indicated that the information presented to Members was designed to show how services are being rebuilt

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and made fit for purpose. The Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services indicated that financial values associated with legacy costs would not be disclosed in public and that the Council was working with the Information Commissioner's Office to establish what can be disclosed. All costs had been through audited accounts and the Strategic Director monitored the figures on a monthly basis and at year end, and indicated that she was comfortable with what the Council had accounted for.

Members queried what contingencies or options were available if the expected savings could not be made, given the reliance on a number of big projects and reconfigurations. The Leader confirmed that there was not a lot of flexibility with only a small contingency fund in the budget. If the Council was not able to move quickly enough in delivering the savings there would be serious difficulties. Following on, the Chief Executive reiterated that every council with social care responsibilities was experiencing pressure around Children's Social Care and Adult Social Care, with very few not overspending. In the context of Rotherham, there was a higher overspend on children's services, but the Council was not an outlier in terms of adult social care. As these services were facing challenges nationally, the approach had been to take evidence based practice from around the country to inform the proposals before Members.

Members sought assurances from the Chief Executive that the budget proposals submitted had been discussed in full and detail was available on how savings will be made. In response, the Chief Executive indicated that officers had provided proposals earlier in the year than previously had been the case and that if Members wanted more detail it would be provided. She cautioned that it was easier to provide detail when changing a line in a budget, as transformational change would require a strategy and parts of those proposals would only become clear when in the implementation stage. She indicated that she was assured by the level of detail behind each of proposals which was presented for scrutiny, however she would be happy to receive feedback and learn from the experience and do things differently where it would be beneficial to do so.

Clarification was sought in respect of how the authority would consult residents, businesses and partners on its budgets savings proposals. In response, the Leader advised that the feedback provided by Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had been reviewed from the previous process and different ways had been identified to undertake consultation this year. He referred to budget consultation being difficult to engage with from a public perspective and highlighted the success of recent examples of consulting on service based proposals. There would be a chance to view all of the proposals online and this would be publicised. Furthermore there would be a chance to have conversations with people to take feedback on their priorities and make it a more useful conversation, so that public would understand why they do not see an increase of 6% in services when asked to pay the equivalent amount more in council tax. The Leader confirmed that the public consultation would end on 30 November 2018 and all feedback would be considered before the Cabinet recommended the budget to Council in

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February 2019.

Responding to a query from the Chair, the Leader confirmed that the savings proposals had been through a robust process and Members were aware that there was a limited amount of money available to fund services, which would be used to fund priority services and those that the Council was required to provide by law.

Members highlighted that an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy had not yet been presented for scrutiny and queried the level of confidence in the proposals as being achievable given the financial position. In response, the Leader confirmed that he was as confident as he could be given the circumstances. There was nothing in the savings proposals that should give cause for concern in respect of the headline numbers, as the numbers were credible. An undertaking was provided that the Medium Term Financial Strategy would be available for scrutiny Members through the pre-decision scrutiny process in December.

Members considered the following budget proposals:

Title	OSMB Comments	Supported or Not Supported	Additional Actions
Human Resources (ACX1)	Members sought clarification in respect of how the new way of working would enable the delivery of savings and what the impact would be on remaining staff.	Supported	N/A
Performance, Intelligence and Improvement (ACX2)	Members sought assurances in respect of partners' commitment and the sustainability of the proposal. Further clarification was sought as to why the saving proposal CYP3 was not linked to this proposal.	Supported	N/A

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Democratic Services (ACX3)	Members raised a number of concerns in respect of the viability of the proposal, specifically in respect of the Scrutiny Unit and the impact that a reduction would have at a time when the Council would not long be out of intervention.	Not supported	Referred back to the Assistant Chief Executive
Riverside House New Lease (CORP1)	No comments	Supported	N/A
Customer & Digital – Back office efficiencies (FCS5)	No comments	Supported	N/A
Customer and Digital - Back Office Efficiencies (R&E1)	Members sought to understand the lessons learned from the roll out of the Green Waste Service and whether the proposals were realistic given that recent experience. Further concerns were raised in respect of the proposals to reduce the number of full time equivalent staff and the impact that would be had on morale.	Supported	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will closely monitor the implementation of the proposal.</p> <p>Members were keen to pursue digital working to reduce paper usage for committee meetings.</p>

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Proposed ending of funding for the Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind Sight and Sound service (ACH1)	Members sought assurances that the charity was able to self-sustain to provide its services	No decision	The Strategic Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health to report back to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the outcome of the meeting with the charity.
My Front Door (ACH2)	Members were concerned that this represented a large saving to be achieved over a short period of time.	Supported	Delivery of the saving to be monitored by the Health Select Commission
Reduction in 'call off' budget provision for Absolute Advocacy service (ACH3)	Members expressed concerns in respect of the absence of an equality impact assessment accompanying the proposal, however assurances were provided that the service would be available as it was a statutory duty.	Supported	N/A
New Target Operating Model (TOM) for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health (ACH4)	Members were concerned at the absence of performance measures linked to this proposal	No decision	This will require monitoring by Health Select Commission
Reassessments / Right Size Care Packages Programme (ACH5)	Members sought further assurances in respect of how the saving would be performance managed	Supported	This will require monitoring by Health Select Commission.

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Proposed reduction in the contract value of the Healthwatch Rotherham contract (ACH6)	Members expressed concerns at the proposal in the light of representations received from Healthwatch Rotherham and service users.	No decision	That the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health provide an update following discussions with the provider.
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) contribution to Housing Related Support – Floating Support and Equipment/Adaptations (ACH7)	No comments	Supported	N/A
Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Strategic Commissioning function – reduction in revenue budget (ACH9)	No comments	Supported	N/A

98. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reported that there were no items of business requiring urgent consideration by the Board.

99. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**Resolved:-**

That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be held on Friday 26 October 2018 at 9.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
26th October, 2018

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Brookes, Cusworth, Mallinder, Napper, Sansome, Short, Walsh and Wyatt.

Apologies were received from Councillors Cowles and Evans.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

100. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

101. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from members of the public or press.

102. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair reported that there were no items of business on the agenda that would require the exclusion of the press or public from the meeting.

103. BUDGET OPTIONS 2019/20 AND 2020/21

Members considered the following budget proposals:-

Title	OSMB Comments	Supported or Not Supported	Additional Actions
Community Safety and Street Scene – Street Pride Zonal Working (RE2)	Members recognised the transformative nature of the proposal and the work that would be required to ensure that the new operating model was effective and delivered the anticipated savings.	Supported	N/A
Community Safety and Street Scene – Integrated Regulatory and Enforcement Services (RE3)	Members sought assurances that there would be no diminution of service provision.	Supported	N/A

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Transport Fleet Extended Lease Years (RE4)	Members sought assurances that the purchase of vehicles represented best value as opposed to the present leasing arrangement.	Supported	N/A
Capitalise revenue expenditure for capital works carried out on the Highway Network, specifically Multihog patching works (RE5)	No comments	Supported	N/A
Capitalise expenditure for works carried out to replace obsolete street lighting units (RE6)	No comments	Supported	N/A
Review of Council Depots (RE7)	Members emphasised the importance of pace in delivering the proposed changes if the anticipated savings were to be realised in the timescales described.	Supported	N/A
Heritage Services – increased volunteering (RE8)	Members were very supportive of the proposal and suggested utilising a number of other organisations in the borough, such as the MCVC, for potential sources of volunteers.	Supported	N/A

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Reduction in the Library stock budget (RE9)	Clarification was sought in respect of the number of fiction books loaned from libraries opposed to reference books. Further assurances were sought around consultation on proposals for reviewing library service provision.	Supported	Clarification to be provided in respect of the ratio of fiction books to reference books loaned from libraries in the borough.
Introducing an automatic car parking system at Rother Valley Country Park (RE10)	Clarification was sought in respect of the timescales for implementation and the impact on disabled users of the park.	Supported	N/A
Planning and Building Control - Reduction of staffing resources in Planning Service (RE11)	Discussions focussed on the impact of increased workload on the service if the number of applications increased subsequent to implementation. Assurances were provided that the proposal would not negatively impact on the provision of good service.	Supported	N/A
Increase in income from licence fees paid by business centre tenants and an increase in occupancy levels (RE12)	Clarification was sought in respect of how the proposal would impact on occupancy rates and it was confirmed that the analysis indicated that there would not be a negative impact.	Supported	N/A

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Riverside House Café (RE13)	Members wanted further information on what the exact implication of the proposal would be. It was understood that this would not become clear until a procurement process had been undertaken.	No decision	A further report to be submitted to OSMB to provide further detail in respect of staffing implications and the impact on users of Riverside House.
Asset Management and Property Savings (RE14)	Members were not satisfied with the explanations provided in respect of the impact on the retention of archives and records currently stored at Bailey House.	No decision	A further report to be submitted to OSMB outlining how archives and records will be transferred and securely stored.
Review of Clinical Waste Operation (RE15)	Members sought further information in respect of the exact nature of the service provided in light of recent national news stories concerning the disposal of clinical waste. It was noted that this was a service provided to the NHS, but was not one that the Council was statutorily required to provide.	Supported	N/A

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Bring Site Removal from October 2019 (RE16)	Members advised that signage would be required to be placed at sites to ensure that residents were aware of impending changes. It was hoped that the pending changes to household recycling collections would reduce the need for the bring-site provision.	Supported	Information to be provided to Members in respect of the impact of the earlier removal of the bring site at Morrisons in Bramley.
Reduce Public Right of Way staff resource (RE17)	Members sought assurances that there would be no adverse impact on rights of way work and it was confirmed that the proposal would make permanent a temporary arrangement that was already in operation.	Supported	N/A
Introduction of Pre-Inspection Food Hygiene Inspections (RE18)	Members were very supportive of the proposal and queried whether the service had underestimated the potential income to be generated. It was explained that the proposal had been realistic for the first year of operation, which could be reviewed as demand developed.	Supported	N/A
CYP Demand Management (CYPS1)	In the context of the current position of demand for child social care services, Members did not feel that sufficient detail had been provided to explain exactly how the transformative approach would deliver the anticipated savings.	Supported, in principle	A further meeting be held to scrutinise the proposals in detail.

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Children and Young People's Services, Early Help & Social Care Pathway (CYPS2)	Recognising that the proposal represented a fundamental change to the way in which services were delivered, Members did not feel that sufficient detail had been provided to explain exactly how the transformative approach would deliver the anticipated savings.	Supported, in principle	A further meeting be held to scrutinise the proposals in detail.
CYP Performance & Quality (CYPS3)	Assurances were sought that the proposal had not been submitted in haste following the departure of the former Commissioner for Children's Social Care. It was felt that it was the correct time for the proposal to be brought forward given the confidence that the Ofsted inspection and the return of powers had brought.	Supported	N/A
CYP Market Management (CYP4)	Members welcomed the proposal and wished to see more pace in pushing regional market and demand management to realise efficiencies whilst ensuring the best outcome for children.	Supported	N/A

104. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reported that there were no items of business requiring urgent consideration by the Board.

105. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**Resolved:-**

That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be held on Wednesday 7 November 2018 at 11.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
Wednesday, 7th November, 2018

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Cowles, Cusworth, Evans, Mallinder, Napper, Sansome, Short, Walsh and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Brookes and Keenan.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-
<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

106. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

107. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

A question was from received from Mr. Harron in respect of the provisions for members of the public to be present in the room for Members' debate on requests to review responses from the Council to petitions and why the webcast was not used to record the debate.

The Chair responded that it was not practice for parties connected to petitions to remain in the room whilst Members debated their recommendations on the request to review. All officers beyond those advising the committee on matters of procedure would also be asked to leave the room for such discussions. In those circumstances it would not be appropriate to record the debate via the webcasting facility.

As a supplementary question, and referring to a later item on the agenda for the meeting, Mr Harron asked whether he could be present in the room to listen to the debate. In response, the Chair confirmed that all present would be asked to leave and the webcast equipment would be turned off. The outcome of the debate and the reasons for the decision would be reported in public session, on the webcast of the meeting and in the minutes of the meeting.

108. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that he would ask members of the public and officers to leave the meeting during the deliberation of the request to review the response to a petition concerning the return of a publication (agenda item 4).

109. REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF PETITION RESPONSE - RETURN OF PUBLICATION

It was reported that a request had been received for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to review the response provided by the Council to a petition calling for the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services (or the Chief Executive) in Rotherham Borough Council (RMBC) to issue a public statement giving the reasons for deciding to return 1400 copies of the publication 'Voices of Despair Voices of Hope'.

Members were advised that 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.

Mr. L. Harron attended the meeting as lead petitioner and set out his reasons for requesting the review of the response provided.

Referring to Mr Harron's representations, Members sought clarification of what was meant by 'everyone' requiring a public statement. In response, Mr. Harron confirmed that he meant the people who had provided their voices for the publication 'Voices of Despair Voices of Hope'. Following on, Members also sought to understand how important it was to Mr. Harron that the publication was returned by the Council. In response, Mr. Harron explained that reasons had not been given for the return of the publication and he considered that there had been dishonesty on the part of officers who had been part of the decision making process. Mr. Harron stated that he did not want to focus on dishonesty in this meeting.

Clarification was sought as to how many survivors were being represented through the petition. In response, Mr. Harron indicated that he was not prepared to indicate and that the petition was not about him, but reiterated that the outcome he wanted from a review of the response to the petition was for the original request in the petition to be acted upon by the Council.

Reference was made to the return of the publication and Members queried what had happened to the returned copies sent to Mr. Harron. In response, Mr. Harron confirmed that he had redistributed copies of the publication very quickly, with two copies sent to each MP and councillor representing the borough. Furthermore, Mr. Harron suggested that Members should seek to understand the decision making process that had led to the return of the publication following spend of £6,000 in a period of austerity.

Members sought to understand what had been communicated to Mr. Harron at the time that the publication was returned to him. In response, Mr. Harron explained that he had received an explanation from an Assistant Director in Children and Young People's Services, but he considered the reasons given to be nonsense. He added that no officers of the Council had met with him to give him honest reasons for the return of the publication. Whilst he had met with the Chief Executive and a ward councillor, he considered that no one had provided truthful reasons.

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Whilst the present Chief Executive was not employed by the Council at the time of the return of the publication, Mr. Harron considered that she had the opportunity to state why the decision was taken based on information that he considered to be available to the Chief Executive.

In summary, Mr. Harron indicated that he wanted the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to dismiss the response provided by officers. It was a matter of regret to him that the line of questioning from Members had drawn the discussion into the issues he considered to demonstrate dishonesty.

Members adjourned the meeting to have a private discussion of the issues raised in the request. Having considered the representations made by Mr. Harron, Members considered that they did not wish to review the response further and were satisfied with the information provided. Members also identified the following recommendations, which were informed by the questioning of and responses provided by Mr. Harron:-

1. That, in future, the lead petitioner and other petitioners be recommended to address petitions to the Council, rather than seeking action to be taken by a specific post holder.
2. That the lead petitioner be advised to pursue correspondence on this subject matter with Cabinet Members and officers, rather than using the Council's petition scheme.
3. That the lead petitioner be advised that the Council's Complaints Procedure is the appropriate route for such matters to be responded to by the authority.
4. That the lead petitioner be advised of the process to be followed in reporting concerns regarding the conduct of officers, which is the appropriate route for such concerns to be raised rather than petitions.

Resolved:-

1. That the request for a review of the response to the petition in respect of the return of the publication 'Voices of Despair Voices of Hope' be declined.
2. That the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board write to the lead petitioner to confirm the outcome of the Board's deliberations and the additional recommendations.

110. CHILDREN'S SERVICES FINANCIAL MONITORING AND REVIEW 2018/19

Consideration was given to a report submitted by the Strategic Director of

Children and Young People's Services in respect of the financial position of the directorate, which outlined the current budget position and pressures; in-year mitigations; future plans and progress of sustainability plan and demand management initiatives.

It was reported that demand on Children's Services was high and had continued to rise across all key areas which included children in need of help, protection and children requiring care. The main factors that had impacted on demand were:

- Complex abuse inquiry and Operation Stovewood – the service has worked with over 600 children that have been referred from these investigations and there are currently over 200 open cases where children are in need, have a child protection plan or are in care;
- Improved social work practice intervention in legacy cases specifically re neglect; and
- National increase in statutory intervention and a national budget shortfall of £2bn predicted by 2020.

The Children's Services current budget for 2018/19 was £58.7m with forecast expenditure at £71.7m (including a contribution of £1m from reserves for 2018/19 only). It was explained that an in-year pressure of £13m, which had increased compared to the £10m previously reported, was predicted after mitigations due to a continued net increase in the number of children admitted into care.

Both the Cabinet Member and the Strategic Director explained to Members that it was difficult to benchmark the financial position of the directorate given the recent history of Children's Services in Rotherham. However, it was considered that there were reasons to be optimistic with in care numbers remaining stable, which had provided confidence that measures taken and investments previously made were having some impact.

Further confidence was taken from the average age of children coming into care reducing in the current financial year. All of statistics available provided by an indication that demand was beginning to level and slow a little. The Strategic Director indicated that the directorate would remain focused and concerned about the number of in-house foster carers and a lot of work was being done to improve the foster care situation.

In response to a question in respect of thresholds for bringing children into care, officers confirmed that Ofsted had reviewed cases during their inspection of the service in November and December 2017 and had not found any child in care where it was not warranted. Furthermore, a number of initiatives were in their infancy at the time of the Ofsted inspection, such as work around Edge of Care and Family Group Conferencing, which could enable a child to remain with family or extended family. Senior officers were confident that was enough oversight

to know that Heads of Service were making safe decisions on a day by day basis.

Assurances were sought by Members that the directorate was getting to grips with the staffing pressures facing the budget in view of the projected overspend of £1.4m on employee costs. In response, reference was made to the significant reduction in the number of agency employees within the directorate compared to the previous financial year. It was noted that an underspend was projected on basic pay due to the number of vacancies in the service and that this was used to offset the anticipated overspend on other staffing costs. Additional clarification was provided in respect of the process followed before seeking agency staff to fill vacancies and it was explained that there was almost always a gap in recruitment given the timescales for recruitment following receipt of notice from a departing employee. Furthermore, all decisions were subject to challenge and oversight by the Workforce Management Board, a corporate group of Assistant Directors, chaired by the Assistant Chief Executive.

Reference was made to expected savings that had previously been identified from the directorate's business support function and how delivery of savings was being monitored. It was explained that good progress had been made to implement the review of this service and new technology was being trialled, such as use of digital recording of meetings, to enable the delivery of savings.

Members sought clarification in respect of the impact of Operation Stovewood and the Complex Abuse Inquiry on the financial position. In response, it was confirmed that officers from the service were meeting with colleagues from the National Crime Agency and the Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner to identify the real costs associated with these areas of work.

Resolved:-

1. That the financial monitoring update in respect of the Children's Services be noted.
2. That greater clarity be provided to Members in future reports in respect of timescales and milestones for addressing in-year pressures.
3. That the Chair and Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the Chair of Improving Lives Select Commission meet with the Deputy Leader and Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services to confirm future arrangements for monitoring of the financial position of the directorate by Overview and Scrutiny.

111. ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT

Consideration was given to a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Executive presenting the annual summary of complaints and compliments received by the Council. The report also sought to identify key trends within complaints and compliments over a five year period.

The report detailed a number of performance headlines which compared the 2017-18 year with previous years. The annual report also included several recommendations regarding how complaints handling and reporting could be improved over 2018/19:-

- Exploring how the new e-case management system can be utilised to keep Elected Members routinely apprised of progress regarding complaints.
- Developing the training offer for officers who sit outside of the Complaints Team.
- Focussing more on the lessons learned from upheld complaints and how these can be addressed effectively.
- Continuing to report the key themes emerging from customer feedback into Directorate Leadership Teams and including complaints as a key source of intelligence within the performance review sessions for senior officers.
- Working to improve performance within statutory timescales.
- Reporting on improved intelligence around complainants, particularly with regards to equality and diversity information.
- Developing further the way that complaints are categorised and tracked, to better reflect the complexity and diversity of the feedback received.
- Using the new neighbourhood working model to work with residents on the issues that matter most to them, including any opportunities to learn from feedback and complaints

Members welcomed the report and provided positive feedback on the presentation of the information, which had been significantly improved upon from previous years. In discussing the report, Members sought reassurances and clarification in respect of work being done to ensure that responses to complaints were timely and effective in dealing with the issues raised by the public. As an indicator of public confidence in the Council, it was recognised that the handling of complaints would remain an area of interest for scrutiny in future.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

112. YOUTH CABINET/YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES

It was reported that a response to the Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge report and recommendations was expected to be submitted to the Cabinet for approval in January 2019. After that, it would be reported to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in February 2019.

Members were reminded of the invitation issued by the Rotherham Youth Cabinet to attend the 2019 Manifesto Launch on Tuesday 13 November 2018 at 5.00 p.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

Resolved:-

That the update be noted.

113. WORK IN PROGRESS - SELECT COMMISSIONS

The Chairs of the Select Commissions provided an update on current and planned activity:-

Health Select Commission

Councillor Evans reported that at the last meeting the Commission had received:-

- Social Emotional and Mental Health Strategy Progress Report
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Update
- Feedback from a Performance Sub Group which had focussed on the provisional year end performance of the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework
- Feedback from the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee which included a presentation and Strategic Outline Case presented to the CCGs and hospitals recently which had been developed following stakeholder feedback to the Hospital Services Review report

Improving Lives Select Commission

Councillor Cusworth reported that the Commission had met on the previous day and had considered reports in respect of:-

- Demand Management and Placement Sufficiency – where Members had asked for the refreshed Sufficiency Strategy to be submitted to Improving Lives Select Commission in March 2019, with specific reference to the eight OFSTED action points for improvement
- 2018 Education Performance Outcomes

The Chair further reported that the Committee had requested the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services and Neighbourhood

Working to organise a visit to University College Rotherham for Select Commission Members.

Improving Places Select Commission

Councillor Mallinder reported that the Commission had met in the previous week and had received an update on the implementation of the Home to School Transport Policy, where Members had recommended that officers raise the possibility of using contactless cards with SYPTTE/bus companies. A further recommendation was made for in respect of the appeals process for the renewal of a home to school free bus pass to be reconsidered in those cases where a family's circumstances had not changed from the previous year.

Updates were provided on the Homelessness Strategy and proposed amendments to the Housing Allocations Policy which was due to be considered by the Cabinet in January 2019.

114. CALL-IN ISSUES

The Chair reported that there were no call-in issues following the most recent Cabinet meeting.

115. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reported that there was no business that required urgent consideration by the Board.

116. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be held on Wednesday 14 November 2018 at 11.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
14th November, 2018**

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Cowles, Cusworth, Mallinder, Napper, Sansome, Short, Walsh and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Evans.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

117. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

118. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from members of the public or press.

119. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair reported that there were no items of business on the agenda that would require the exclusion of the press or public from the meeting.

120. CONSULTATION ON THE ADOPTION OF SCHEDULE 3 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982 AND A ROTHERHAM SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENSING POLICY

Consideration was given to a report which was due to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 19 November 2018 which outlined a proposal to consult on the adoption of Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 that, following amendment through the Policing and Crime Act 2009, classified the following establishments as sex entertainment venues:

- Lap, pole and table dancing;
- Strip shows;
- Peep shows and live sex shows.

The report sought consent from Cabinet to recommend that Council approve the commencement of public consultation on the adoption of the Schedule. The adoption of the Schedule would give local communities a greater say about the presence of sex establishments, including sex entertainment venues, sex shops and sex cinemas, and would allow the local authority to more effectively regulate such premises through a formal Sex Establishment Licensing Policy. The report to Cabinet also sought approval to begin public consultation on a proposed Sex Establishments Licensing Policy to run parallel to consultation on the adoption of Schedule 3.

Members welcomed the report, along with the accompanying equality analysis, and queried what groups would be consulted and how they would be targeted. In response it was confirmed that there was a wide ranging indicative list of groups and organisations who would be consulted, which included women's refuges, schools, youth facilities and places of worship. The intention was to undertake a structured consultation with these groups and with existing establishments in the borough, along with industry representatives and workers.

Clarification was sought as to whether the Council envisaged that licensing fees would vary for different types of venue. In response it was confirmed that a fee had been set out and all venues were classed in the same way within statute, but the consultation would provide an opportunity to express views on what was proposed.

The proposals had been designed to regulate business and provide a robust policy for regulation that protects the community around them and people working within those businesses. Members queried whether there was confidence in the proposals to avoid challenge. Officers indicated that there was the potential for legal challenge by the industry and those against the industry.

Members further highlighted the need for safe consultation with those working within the industry to protect their welfare, especially those who could be considered to be vulnerable. The Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety agreed with the point on worker welfare and the need for safe consultation with those individuals. Members further added that it would be helpful if officers could establish a means for safe and anonymous consultation for workers in the industry.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That a wide ranging consultation be supported.
3. That engagement with industry workers take place on a safe and anonymous basis during the consultation period.

121. SEPTEMBER 2018/19 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to a report which set out the financial position of the Council as at the end of September 2018, which was based on actual costs and income for the first half of the financial year with forecasts for the remaining six months of 2018/19.

It was reported that at September 2018, the Council needed to identify a further £3.1m of cost reduction actions by financial year-end in order to achieve a balanced financial outturn, after taking account of the £10m

budget contingency approved within the 2018/19 budget. The overspending against budget in the Children's and Young People's Services directorate had continued in the current financial year as a result of demand for services outstripping budget capacity. The number of children in care had continued to increase and the forecast overspend on Children's Services had increased to £15.7m.

The increased number of Looked after Children also placed significant pressure on Legal Services within the Finance and Customer Services directorate. The forecast overspend for Legal Services was £1.488m. The Finance and Customer Services directorate overall had forecast to outturn within budget after putting into place a range of mitigating actions to compensate for the legal service forecast overspend. The Adult Care, Housing and Public Health directorate remained on track to bring its overspend down to £6.221m. A combination of increased client numbers, the rising cost of care packages, and delays in delivery of savings plans had led to pressure on budgets across all client groups. A recovery plan had been developed to address previously undelivered savings and project plans were being finalised with the expectation that further savings would be identified from that activity. The Regeneration and Environment directorate had forecast a balanced budget, although it was facing challenges from a combination of declining business from the School Meals service and challenges with delivery of budget savings, including transport and property savings.

Members referred to the report stating that initial target levels of children in care not being achieved as planned and sought clarification as to who was monitoring and discussing progress and what was actually taking place. In response, officers explained that this did not mean that activities were not having the correct effect, but there were higher numbers of referrals to the Council. A significant number of senior officers from Finance and Children and Young People's Services were analysing data and information, whilst the Chief Executive and Cabinet Members were also reviewing this on a regular basis to check that the service is doing what it should do and needs to do and then to check what else was happening beyond that which meant that the cost of the service was not reducing.

Further clarification was sought in respect of the delays in delivering savings from the Regeneration and Environment directorate. In response, it was confirmed that there was a rigorous process to monitor actual and approved savings. Where savings had not been delivered they had been mitigated and alternative actions.

Members queried how many children had been estimated to be referred to the Council for the current financial year. In response, it was confirmed that a budget was in place for between 460-480 children, yet the current figure was 657 looked after children. Following on, Members queried how many looked after children were being budgeted for in the 2019-20 financial year. In response, officers explained that the Medium Term

Financial Strategy was in the process of being updated, however the service did not expect to see a significant reduction in numbers. Members then sought clarity in respect of the impact on the budget if spend continued to rise or be maintained its current level. In response, officers explained that financial figures were based on what was happening with the service. In broad figures, the cost per looked after child varied between £40-50k per child, and with approximately 200 more children in care than some years ago, that represented a significant increase in cost. Ultimately, if children needed to be protected, the authority had a statutory duty to provide that protection. With regard to the budget, this would mean a further reduction of budgets for other Council services if it continued, however work was ongoing to ensure that a balanced budget could be set.

Members accepted that it takes time for children to progress through services and therefore the savings to be accrued will take time to be realised, so it was not surprising that targets were initially missed. Assurances were sought that savings would be followed up, even where initiatives were not progressing to timescale, to ensure that they reach their target. Officers confirmed that there would always be opportunities to improve the process of following up on savings delivery. Within Children and Young People's Services, numbers are planned and monitored, however it is the unpredicted demand which had caused problems.

Members referred to progress in respect of customer and digital services and the use of vacancy management. Reflecting the experience of the roll out of new green waste bins, it had caused questions to be asked around whether big service changes could be met as residents had been unable to get through to the Council. In response it was acknowledged that work was ongoing to better understand and anticipate demand for services.

Resolved:-

That the Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

122. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reported that there were no items of business requiring the Board's urgent consideration.

123. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be held on Wednesday 28 November 2018 at 11.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
28th November, 2018**

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Brookes, Cowles, Cusworth, Evans, Mallinder, Napper, Sansome, Short, Walsh and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Keenan.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

124. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Walsh declared a personal interest in item 5 (Community Energy Switching Scheme) on the basis of his role as a Corporate Member of the Energy Institute.

The Chair (Councillor Steele) declared a personal interest in item 6 (Universal Credit Roll Out in Rotherham) on the basis of his role as a trustee of the Citizens Advice Bureau, which was providing support to individuals.

125. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from members of the public or press.

126. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that agenda item 5 (Community Energy Switching Scheme) contained exempt information which the Board would wish to discuss. Consequently, it was

Resolved:-

That under Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for agenda item 5 (Community Energy Switching Scheme) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006.

127. COMMUNITY ENERGY SWITCHING SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report due to be considered by the Cabinet on 17 December 2018 concerning proposals to establish a Community Energy Switching Scheme.

It was reported that the proposed scheme would be open to all Rotherham residents and would reduce the number of households paying high tariffs for gas and electricity and reduce fuel poverty. Although the scheme would be open to all residents it should be particularly beneficial for hard to reach and vulnerable tenants that were generally considered to be the groups that required the greatest support to identify and change to a cheaper tariff.

It was expected that residents could save around £200 to £300 per year in an average 3 bedroom semi-detached houses. A Community Energy Switching Scheme report had been discussed at the former Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting on 9 July 2018, where it had been agreed that a feasibility study should be undertaken and a report be brought back for consideration. Having completed the feasibility study, approval was sought to carry out an OJEU procurement process to identify a potential partner to develop a community energy switching scheme and inform a business case that will be developed based on the results of the tender.

Members sought clarification in respect of the proposed marketing campaign and advised that it would be crucial to target groups and individuals, with GP surgeries be a suggested venue for marketing materials to be placed. In response it was confirmed that the marketing strategy was subject to development, however it could not be rolled out until the procurement process had been completed, which mean that June or July 2019 was expected to the date for roll out. It was noted that additional resources would be required to undertake this work.

Members sought assurances the customer support and service standards were built into the specification for the scheme to ensure that the local people would receive a high quality service, as well as lower costs. It was also felt that this was an important work stream and, as such, the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy should maintain oversight over performance in respect of customer support and service standards.

Further discussions were held in respect of the procurement process and the criteria that may be used in determining which scheme and supplier would be chosen.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That Cabinet be asked to ensure that customer support and service standards are built into the tender framework.
3. That the performance of customer support and service standards be reported on a quarterly basis to the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy.

128. UNIVERSAL CREDIT ROLL OUT IN ROTHERHAM

Consideration was given to a report submitted by the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health in respect of the roll out of Universal Credit across the borough on 11 July 2018. It was reported that individuals move onto the Universal Credit system when they are a new claimant or if there is a change in their circumstances which would trigger the changeover from legacy benefits.

The report explained that working groups continue to meet at both strategic and operational levels, which have brought together service providers, the Department for Work and Pensions, Jobcentre Plus and other relevant partners, including Rotherfed and the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

It was reported that, as at 21 September 2018, there had been 58 referrals for Personal Budgeting Support, of which 43 claimants attended the subsequent appointment, meaning that 26% of referrals had failed to attend. It was advised referral rates needed to be maintained, as the value of grant funding received by the Council was based on forecasted referral rates provided by the Department of Work and Pensions. For Personal Budgeting Support it was anticipated there would be 799 Personal Budgeting Support appointments by 31 March 2019.

It was further reported that the migration of 720 Universal Credit Live Service claimants (single people who made a claim locally between December 2015 and December 2017) commenced on 19 September 2018. It was expected that all claimants in this group would be transferred by December 2018, prior to the national computer system for Universal Credit Live Service claims being switched off early in the New Year. The Housing Service would continue to support all affected tenants to offer support as required given the claimant would need to activate a new claim for the Universal Credit Full Service.

Members sought assurances that the Council was prioritising the residents of Rotherham, rather than the risk of rent arrears hitting the finances of the Housing Revenue Account. In response, it was advised that the Housing Income Team had been restructured to help support tenants with financial advice in the context of Universal Credit. Members observed that the support offered was limited and could not be regarded as an advocacy service. In response to a question regarding contact from the Council when entering arrears, it was confirmed that tenants would receive a notification immediately and a conversation with the service would take place within three weeks of entering arrears.

Members expressed some surprise at the report citing an absence of difficulties being experienced by partners in providing support following the roll out of Universal Credit. In response, it was confirmed that it was still relatively early in the transition and that a further report would break

down the issues relating to impact on housing tenants and the broader impact of implementation of Universal Credit on residents in the borough, which would take into account the demand on foodbanks and other support services, including services across the Council. It was recognised that it was still relatively early in the roll out and the Council was not responsible for the implementation, but it was driven by Government through the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).

Assurances were sought from Members that training for staff in respect of assisting tenants with making claims for housing benefit had taken place across the authority, rather than just in the Housing Service. It was confirmed that there had been a corporate roll out of the training. Further concerns were expressed that communication with DWP was creating issues which were impacting on residents. Further assurances were providing that senior officers were meeting with DWP to ensure that services were more joined up and effective in responding to a moveable issue with the Government's position on Universal Credit being uncertain in some areas.

Resolved:-

1. That a further report be submitted to the Board on the impact of the roll out of Universal Credit.
2. That the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the Chair of the Improving Lives Select Commission work with the Scrutiny Officer to assist in the scoping of the future report from the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

129. YOUTH CABINET/YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES

The Chair reported that a motion had been submitted for the Council meeting on 5 December 2018 to thank young people for their work in developing the South Yorkshire Transport Charter, which had been developed after a Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge with Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Furthermore he paid tribute to the excellent presentation by the Rotherham Youth Cabinet on 13 November 2019 of the manifesto for the year ahead. Members wished for their thanks to be recorded to the Rotherham Youth Cabinet.

Resolved:-

1. That the update be noted.
2. That the thanks of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be extended to the Rotherham Youth Cabinet for the excellent launch of their manifesto on 13 November 2018.

130. WORK IN PROGRESS - SELECT COMMISSIONS

The Chair invited the Select Commission Chairs to provide updates on current and planned activities:-

Health Select Commission

Councillor Evans reported that the Commission had not met since his last update, but was due to meet on 29 November 2018 where consideration would be given to the role of integrated care and an update on the performance of the drug and alcohol treatment recovery service. The Commission would also be considering themes for spotlight reviews in the coming months.

Improving Lives Select Commission

Councillor Cusworth reported that there had not been a further meeting since the last update to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board earlier that month. However, at the next meeting on 4 December 2018, the Commission was due to receive the annual reports of the Local Children's Safeguarding Board and Local Adults Safeguarding Board. Furthermore, an update on domestic abuse was expected to be received in January 2019.

Improving Places Select Commission

Councillor Mallinder reported that the Commission would meet informally on 11 December 2018 to consider proposals to be reported to Cabinet in respect of the Clean Air Zone. Any recommendations from this meeting would be reported to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 12 December 2018. The next formal meeting of the Commission was scheduled for 20 December 2018 where reports on Asset Management and the draft Rotherham Skills and Employment Plan were due to be considered.

Resolved:-

That the updates be noted.

131. CALL-IN ISSUES

The Chair reported that there were no call-in issues arising from recent Cabinet decisions.

132. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reported that there was no business requiring urgent consideration by the Board.

133. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be held on Wednesday 12 December 2018 at 11.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
12th December, 2018**

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Cowles, Evans, Keenan, Mallinder, Napper, Sansome, Short, Walsh and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Cusworth.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

134. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 (Council Tax Support and the impact of Universal Credit) because of his role as a non-voting trustee of the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

135. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from members of the public or press.

136. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that item 7 (Rotherham Town Centre Masterplan – Forge Island Agreements) and item 8 (Riverside House Café) included exempt information which would require consideration by the Board. It was

Resolved:-

That under Section 100(A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for agenda items 8 and 9 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

137. QUARTERLY UPDATE ADULT SOCIAL CARE: THE BUDGET FORECAST AND CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report from the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health to update Members on the budget forecast and continued Improvement Plan in Adult Social Care.

It was reported that original projections estimated the Directorate overspend to be £8.646m. In the year-to-date there had been £1.422m savings achieved in adult social care, with additional savings support from other service areas within the Directorate of £660K. This had reduced the projected overspend to £6,564m with £343K of savings still to be secured.

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It was further reported that the care package review programme, supported by the promotion of Direct Payments, was on target to achieve the additional £343K required and reduce the 2018/19 overspend to £6.221m. Members noted that other projects were in place to ensure known areas of risk for unplanned, high cost spend were mitigated.

It was further reported that of the 19 key areas of accountability contained within the improvement plan:-

- 8 had progressed on to become routine activity;
- 9 had formed part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) project plans, either directly or as an enabler to delivery;
- 2 had become the focus of DLT challenge sessions - Commissioning and Safeguarding Adults

In presenting the report, the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health confirmed that good progress was being made in terms of the budget and performance, however focus had moved onto issues that had arisen in recent weeks to ensure that safeguarding was prioritised following closures of residential homes. Transforming care continued to be a high risk for the service because it impacted on the most vulnerable people with very complex needs. The service was working with the CCG to identify specialist placements for those individuals but that presented a significant financial risk, as well as operational risk, in terms of placing those individuals in the right location and service.

Members sought assurances that the overspend against the service would continue to fall. In response, the Strategic Director advised that the overspend remained a challenge for the service, but she felt that it was on the right direction of travel with the level of the overspend decreasing each month since September 2017. The challenge for the service was to increase the pace at which the overspend could be further reduced without increasing risk. Following on, the Strategic Director confirmed that she expected the overspend to reduce significantly in the coming years.

Members sought assurances that the service was capturing positive outcomes from the transformation of adult social care services. It was confirmed that data was being captured from the Wellbeing Forum and it was recognised that more could be done to produce good news stories and disseminate them across the service.

Clarification was sought from Members in respect of the difference between reviews and reassessments and the timescales for both. The Strategic Director explained that a review was undertaken to check whether support plans were still adequate and appropriate, whereas a reassessment was effectively restarting the process and based on need following changes to circumstances. The Strategic Director added that the Council was not out of kilter with other local authorities, with 145 reassessments undertaken in the year, but it remained a significant challenge and all would be done in the next 18 months. Responding to

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Members' concerns around pace and meeting targets, the Strategic Director indicated that she would return with a specific activity report to provide assurances to Members and also an overview of the requirements of the Care Act 2014 in respect of reviews and reassessments.

Members referred to mental health reviews and what the position was in respect of this area of service. The Strategic Director confirmed that this was an area where relationships needed to be built and suggested that the new Assistant Director of Adult Social Care should return to the Board in 2019 with a report on this area.

Responding to a question in respect of direct payments, the Strategic Director confirmed that there was not a target, but the focus had been on enabling people to make a choice and there had been more of a move towards direct payments. It was further confirmed that a lot of work had been done with staff in respect of understanding and promoting direct payments and this had led to an increase in confidence in that area. The Strategic Director confirmed that the service could present a paper to Members on direct payments. Members indicated that they would welcome information in respect of the cost of commissioning training on direct payments from Active Independence.

Resolved:-

1. That the outcomes and performance data from the Excellence in Social Work LGA review be shared with Members of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
2. That an update be provided on the Commissioning Strategy.
3. That the Improvement Plan be updated with clear dates and milestones
4. That the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health liaise with the Scrutiny Team in respect of specific timescales for future reports arising from the discussion in the meeting.

138. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT AND THE IMPACT OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Consideration was given to a report submitted by the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services in respect of Council Tax Support and the impact of the introduction of Universal Credit in Rotherham on 11 July 2018.

It was reported that Universal Credit included Housing Benefit, but did not include local Council Tax Support for which residents were required to apply directly to the Council. There was a concern, supported by anecdotal evidence from other councils and reports published on the subject, that following the introduction of Universal Credit there was a risk

that there could potentially be a decline in Council Tax Support applications. This was due to the Council Tax Support application becoming an additional and separate process to the Universal Credit application which is made directly to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

The Strategic Director explained that where the decline in Council Tax Support applications was as a result of a genuine reduction in the level of support required, it would have a positive impact to the Council's budget with Council Tax income increasing. However, if the decline was a result of those who would be entitled to support failing to claim, it would result in an increase in Council Tax arrears together with the costs of collection and for Universal Credit claimants an increase in personal debt levels.

Prior to being rolled out in Rotherham in July 2018 only a relatively low number of Rotherham residents were claiming Universal Credit, however the Council Tax Support caseload had significantly decreased by 1,886 from April 2017 to July 2018. In the three months following the roll out, the caseload decreased by a further 541. This fall was impacted by a number of factors including a move of some claimants onto Universal Credit:

- A general change in the economy with more people moving into work and no longer qualifying
- An increase in the state pension credit age resulting in lower numbers of pension age applicants claiming Council Tax Support
- Changes to Rotherham's Council Tax Support scheme which came into effect in April 2018

The report stated that it was difficult to assess accurately the degree to which those on Universal Credit not claiming Council Tax Support had been responsible for the decline in caseload particularly as not all claimants groups were affected prior to roll out. Since December 2015, only a small client group (single job seekers) had been compelled to apply for Universal Credit regardless of where they lived and other household groups in certain areas of Rotherham being introduced in the past six months.

The report went on to detail the actions that the Revenues and Benefits Service had introduced to encourage those potentially entitled to Council Tax Support to apply.

Members sought assurances in respect of the work undertaken to communicate changes to residents. In response, it was explained that there had been a continued trend of a decline in Council Tax Support applicants, which had been the case prior to the introduction of Universal Credit. A number of initiatives were started to maximise take up, which had proved to be fairly successful.

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The service had not seen a significant increase in debt recovery as a result of Universal Credit, but it was speculated that it may start to become an issue in twelve months time. The Revenue and Benefits Services were not aware of specific private housing rents issues, but would discuss debit issues and signpost to debt advice services.

In response to a question about the methods used to promote claiming Council Tax Support, it was explained that customers were advised the scheme when recovery notices were issued within four days of instalments being missed. In addition, where mobile phone numbers had been provided, the service sent targeted text messages to customers.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the information be used to inform future work in respect of the impact of Universal Credit.

139. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2018 - 2021

Consideration was given to a report submitted by the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services which shared an interim update to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), which set out a framework for understanding the challenges the Council faces and supports corporate planning. It helps the Council to shape its finances over the medium term by examining the projected resources available to meet the s priorities as set out in its Council Plan.

Members noted that the Strategy set out the framework and principles upon which current and future financial projections, over the medium term, will be predicated. The MTFS financial projections were revised and updated alongside the setting of the revenue budget 2018/19 and illustrated budget gaps of £29.7m over the period 2019/20 and 2020/21. The updated budget gaps were re-affirmed in the Financial Outturn 2017/18 report to Cabinet in July 2018 and the financial assumptions underpinning the budget gaps were reviewed again in Summer 2018 with no changes required to key financial assumptions.

Members noted that the financial projections had been reviewed and updated again alongside the development of a two-year budget for 2019/20 and 2020/21 and are incorporated into the MTFS. The details of the budget including outcomes of consultation had been scheduled to be reported to Cabinet and Council in February 2019, when the Budget and Council Tax Report 2019/20 would be considered.

The Strategy provided both national and local context of the challenges faced by councils in delivering services, particularly the demand pressures in respect of adults and children's social care. It set out a clear set of objectives that were intended to support the Council in developing its

annual budgets and ensuring financial resilience. Furthermore, it provided details of the risks and uncertainties that were characteristic of local government finances.

Members noted that the Strategy document represented an interim update to the Council's medium term financial plans, which would be further updated following completion of budget consultation and the receipt of further information on the Council's funding from Government to be provided on 6 December 2018 within the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2018/19.

Members sought clarification in respect of contingency plans if the strategy for the management of the Council's finances could not be realised. In response, the Strategic Director confirmed that the Council would have call on its reserves and take in-year action to balance budgets. The Chair referred to the recent case of Northamptonshire County Council who had been allowed to convert a capital receipt to revenue budget to assist with its financial challenge and queried whether this would be something that the local government sector should lobby central government to introduce for all authorities. In response, the Strategic Director indicated that course of action would not be advocated and would require legislative change.

Members sought assurances that the budgets proposed and the detail of the strategy was controllable. In response, the Strategic Director indicated that she could only be as confident as the information that was presented for analysis from each directorate in respect of every part of the budget, however Members could be reassured that every part of the budget was being challenged and correctly set.

Reference was made to the Healthcheck that had been arranged to take place in February 2019 and Members sought assurances that the budget position and financial strategy would be sufficiently robust to meet the expectations of those assessing the Council prior to intervention ceasing at the end of March 2019. In response, the Strategic Director reflected on all of the actions being taken across the Council and specifically in respect of Children's Services and Adults Services, which had been subject to scrutiny by officers and Members. To this end, there was confidence that the financial strategy was sufficiently robust.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Strategy be updated by the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services to take account of the funding announcements from central government and address the concerns expressed by Members.

140. ROTHERHAM TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN - FORGE ISLAND AGREEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report due to be submitted for determination by the Cabinet at its meeting on 17 December 2018, which sought approval of the approach to deliver the Forge Island development through the grant a long lease of the site Muse Developments Ltd and to agree to take a head lease of the development.

It was reported that the proposal from Muse Developments Ltd would allow the Council to consider options at its discretion once the full commercial detail had been agreed. On such a basis, the Council would not be committed to entering into a head lease until it was satisfied with the business case and commercial offer. Based on the information available, it was considered that this would provide a viable and affordable route to deliver a key component of the town centre's regeneration and a Council priority.

Members queried why the Council had not explored the insertion of an exit clause after a number of years. In response, it was explained that such a clause would impact on the financial modelling of the scheme. Advice had been taken from professional bodies and the view was that this was not likely to be viable due to the nature of the market, and that had been reflected in the bids received from potential development partners.

Referring to the plans for increased housing within the town centre, Members sought clarification on how the proposals would support the housing agenda. In response, officers confirmed that various initiatives were designed to encourage housing growth in the town centre. Members reiterated the need to get the sequencing correct so that housing demand is met to encourage further economic growth and leisure activity in the town centre.

Resolved:-

1. That the recommendations be supported.
2. That quarterly updates continue to be provided to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the Forge Island.
3. That the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy provide exception reports to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in the event of the scheme not progressing to plan.
4. That further assurances be provided to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that the insertion of a break clause is not feasible prior to entering the lease agreement.

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5. That a report be provided to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the feasibility of inserting of break clauses for future major projects.

141. RIVERSIDE HOUSE CAFE

Consideration was given to a report which detailed the implementation proposal to achieve a proposed 2019/20 budget saving, by commissioning an external partner to deliver the Riverside House Café provision. It was reported that Riverside House had been open for seven years during which time the café had become an established feature. Soft market testing of the opportunity as a business venture had established interest and it was considered that a commissioned partner could offer a more cost effective solution to opening the café.

Members sought clarification in respect of how the Council could ensure that individuals working within the café would not be disadvantaged through any changes. Officers confirmed that TUPE arrangements would apply and any affected staff would transfer with existing terms and conditions. Noting that the proposal would be subject to a tender process, Members sought to understand what alternative proposals would be considered in the event that the process was not successful.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That if the tender process is not successful that future proposals be brought back to Overview and Scrutiny for review.
3. That preliminary work be undertaken at the earliest opportunity on alternative options in the event of a tender process not being successful.

142. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

Consideration was given to a paper detailing proposed recommendations from Improving Places Select Commission in respect of two papers due to be submitted to the Cabinet on 17 December 2018 titled 'Improving Air Quality in Rotherham' and 'Immobilisation of Vehicles – Persistent Evaders and Untaxed Vehicles'. The paper also confirmed the recommendations agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 28 November 2018 in respect of a report concerning a Community Energy Switching Scheme which was also due to be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 17 December 2018.

Having considered the information presented by the Chair of the Improving Places Select Commission it was:-

Resolved:-

1. That in respect of the report titled 'Improving Air Quality in Rotherham' the following recommendations be made to the Cabinet at its meeting on 17 December 2018:-
 - (a) That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
 - (b) That the fleet of vehicles used by RMBC be reviewed to ensure that they meet the required regulations.
 - (c) That, on completion of the consultation, the final business case should make clear those points which have been included arising from the consultation.
 - (d) That the Cabinet Member notify the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board when funding has been received from Government for the initiative.
 - (e) That the Clean Air Zone be kept on the scrutiny work programme.
 - (f) That the outline consultation plan be reported to Improving Places Select Commission
2. That in respect of the report titled 'Immobilisation of Vehicles – Persistent Evaders and Untaxed Vehicles' the following recommendations be made to the Cabinet at its meeting on 17 December 2018:-
 - (a) That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
 - (b) That the viability of reducing the number of offences from 6 to 3 be explored.
 - (c) That the introduction of the vehicle immobilisation (clamping) be widely publicised by the Council throughout the borough
 - (d) That an update report be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board six months after the introduction of the immobilisation initiative.
3. That in respect of the report titled 'Community Energy Switching Scheme' the following recommendations be made to the Cabinet at its meeting on 17 December 2018:-
 - (a) That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
 - (b) That Cabinet be asked to ensure that customer support and service standards are built into the tender framework.
 - (c) That the performance of customer support and service standards be reported on a quarterly basis to the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy.

143. SCRUTINY REVIEW - MODERN METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION

Consideration was given to a report which presented the findings from the scrutiny review into Modern Methods of Construction. The review was undertaken by a group of members from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the Improving Places Select Commission.

The report detailed a number of recommendations which would be submitted to Cabinet for its consideration and would be reported to Council for information on 23 January 2019.

Resolved:-

1. That the scrutiny review of Modern Methods of Construction be approved for submission to Cabinet.
2. That the Cabinet respond to the recommendations from the review by the end of March 2019.

144. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reported that there were no items of business requiring urgent consideration by the Board.

As this was the final meeting of the calendar of the year, the Chair took the opportunity to thank Members and officers for their work in 2018 and wished all a very happy Christmas.

145. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be held on Wednesday 16 January 2019 at 11.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
16th January, 2019

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Cowles, Brookes, Evans, Keenan, Napper, Sansome, Short, Walsh and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Cusworth and Mallinder.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-
<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

146. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

147. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

A member of the public attended the meeting and referred to a meeting he had held with the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board concerning a response from the Board to a request to review a petition. In that meeting, the Chair had explained the Corporate Complaints Procedure and the provision for Stage 3 Hearings by Members. Following that, the member of the public had contacted the Complaints Team who had advised that his particular complaint could not be referred to Stage 3 and the question was put as to why this would not be possible.

In response, the Chair indicated that he would need to raise this specific issue with the officers concerned to establish what the issue was.

By way of a supplementary question, the member of the public enquired whether the Chair considered it possible that he would not have to attend a future scrutiny meeting in his capacity as a member of the public in connection with changes to learning disability services.

In response, the Chair indicated that this was not supplementary to the original question and that he could not comment on the issue raised.

148. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair reported that there were no items of business on the agenda that would require the exclusion of the press or public from the meeting.

149. AMENDMENTS TO THE HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY - JANUARY 2019

Consideration was given to a report which was due to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 21 January 2019 in respect of proposed amendments to the Housing Allocation Policy. It was reported that the Council was required to allocate Social Housing according to a published Allocations Policy.

Members noted that Rotherham's Housing Allocation Policy was last fully reviewed in February 2017. The policy outlined who could seek re-housing through the local authority, the properties they could apply for and how people were prioritised for available homes. There were certain circumstances when the Allocation Policy needed to be adjusted, including when there were legislative changes, if there were changes in supply and demand or when equality data requires a change the way properties were allocated. The five proposed amendments addressed some of those issues and would also help to prevent homelessness earlier, reduce waiting time for households with a medical need and apply consistent approaches within the policy for people who wished to move to a smaller home.

Members welcomed the report and recommendations, applauding the approach to simplifying the process, but raised concerns in respect of the allocation of properties in small communities of older people to disruptive, young people. Reference was made to the problems that this caused those communities, councillors representing those communities and the officers in the Housing Services and the need to respect the rights of existing residents not to be disturbed by new residents who may not be best suited to a particular street or neighbourhood. In response, it was confirmed that officers vet individuals before they were offered a property, with the Area Housing Officer having the final decision in respect of allocating a property to an individual. Where there were concerns, those would be referred to a Head of Service to refuse a property. Tenancy Support Officers were available to assist in such circumstances and handle referrals. It was further explained by the Cabinet Member that properties were allocated on a basis of need, but there were occasions where things would go wrong and individuals would need to be supported through that process.

Following on, Members sought assurances in respect of the processes in place to support existing residents where problems arise from new residents in council housing. In response, it was confirmed that problems did occur and tenancy support officers were crucial in providing assistance to residents in such circumstances. More tenancy support officers had been recruited recently and would, following induction and training, be able to do more work on prevention and tenancy periods, both with Members and local communities.

In response to a question in respect of the allocation criteria for people from outside of the borough it was explained that applicants would have to have family resident in the borough or work within the borough for the previous three years. Eligibility was detailed in the local connection criteria of the policy and applicants would not be eligible if they could not demonstrate a local connection. A further explanation of the local connection process was provided to the Board.

Members queried the wording in respect of recommendation (e) of the report and specifically whether the wording around parents overextended the criteria intended and whether there would be other family members that would be included. In response, it was confirmed that the wording implied a close family relative and this had been included on the recommendation of the Improving Places Select Commission.

Members sought assurances in respect of the availability and quality of temporary accommodation and referred to issues in respect of both over the recent Christmas holiday period. In response, it was confirmed that there had been a focus on temporary accommodation, with an increase in the number of crash pads available from 29 to 50. Work was ongoing to ensure the quality of those was to an acceptable standard. Members were reminded that prevention was the key to this particular area of work.

The Chair referred to the absence of an equality impact assessment which the Board considered should have accompanied the report. This issue had been raised on a number of occasions and he indicated that he would raise it again formally at the next Cabinet meeting where the report was due to be considered. In response, the Cabinet Member for Housing accepted the comments made by the Chair and indicated that an initial desktop exercise had been undertaken and a full equality impact assessment would be undertaken and forwarded to the Board in due course.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported, subject to recommendation (e) being amended for the local connection rule to include persons with a close family connection

150. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – BUSINESS PLAN 2019/20

Consideration was given to a report which was due to be submitted to the Cabinet meeting on 21 January 2019 which provided a detailed technical overview of the current position and the reason for proposed changes to the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan for 2019/20.

It was reported that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) recorded all expenditure and income relating to the provision of council housing and related services. The Council was required to produce a HRA Business Plan setting out its investment priorities over a 30 year period. Following

the introduction in 2012 of HRA self-financing, whereby the Council was awarded control over its HRA in return for taking on a proportion of national housing debt, Rotherham's HRA was in a strong position with a healthy level of reserves. A number of policies were introduced by central government that resulted in a reduction to HRA resources, namely:

- 1% per annum reduction in Council rents over four years. 2019-20 in the final year of the policy
- Reinvigoration of the Right to Buy (RTB) (reduction of qualifying period to three years): Reducing stock
- Welfare reform - bedroom tax, universal credit and benefits cap: Impacting on tenants' ability to pay their rent, and increasing the resources required by the Council to collect rent from tenants in receipt of benefits.

Members noted that over the past year, there has been a shift in government policy towards increasing the availability of housing across all tenure types. This had reduced pressures on the business plan, the most significant policy announcement being the return of the previous rent formula from 2020-21 onwards, namely set at Consumer Price Index (CPI) + 1% for five years. The subsequent review of the HRA Business Plan for 2019-20 had focused on achieving the following:

- Contributing to the borough's housing growth target of 900 homes per annum through building and/ or purchasing new properties
- Maintaining and continuing to improve 20,500 Council homes
- Contributing to the development of low cost home ownership products that were needed locally and would play a critical role in Rotherham's overall economic growth
- Continued investment to support the General Fund budget position

Referring to the recent scrutiny review on modern methods of construction and specifically the opportunities presented by modular housing, Members queried why further investment was not planned from the Housing Revenue Account when it could be delivered without further borrowing. In response, the Cabinet Member for Housing explained that £51m had already been agreed, further monies were in the pipeline but had not yet received Cabinet approval.

Members referred to the risks highlighted in respect of repairs and maintenance, where over a five year period it was planned to invest around £99mm with an efficiency saving of £11m over that time. Assurances were sought as to whether a review of how repairs and maintenance was working would be undertaken and what amount of exposure there was to interest rate rises. In response, it was explained that efficiency savings for repairs and maintenance would contribute to better quality, which would ensure that the authority would not be spending as much as it would have been. Furthermore, the repairs and maintenance contract was out to tender and would contribute to a reduction in spend, realising efficiencies through the new contract.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD - 16/01/19

Members noted that 250 properties fall out of decency each year and needed to be attended to.

As with the previous item, the Chair referred to the absence of an equality impact assessment and indicated that this would be expected in future.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

151. BUDGET CONSULTATION REPORT 2019-20 & 2020-21

Consideration was given to a briefing paper which outlined the process and feedback received during the consultation on the Council's budget proposals, which was subject to public consultation from 26 October to 30 November 2018.

It was reported that there was a need to inform the public about the necessity of working in a different way and the scale of the challenges faced due to ongoing Government reductions, particularly, the cost of social care, which helped to explain some of the difficult decisions faced by councils like Rotherham. After reviewing budget consultation approaches from other areas, digital channels and social media proved more effective than public consultation events. Therefore a reduced number of face-to-face sessions were held, with the main focus on online engagement through the following channels:

- Online questionnaire
- Social media engagement – Facebook and Twitter
- Short videos of the Leader answering budget related questions
- Web content on Council website

Members noted that a total of 1,181 people participated in the consultation overall, through online engagement, face-to-face sessions, letters and emails.

Following the conclusion of the presentation on the report, Members sought further information on how the consultation process was designed, seeking to understand why questions had been structured in a particular way and whether any difficulties had been encountered in pulling information together for the different methodologies used. In response, it was explained that previously it had been difficult to analyse open questions and with there not being a large amount of responses or engagement, the process was designed on this occasion to be focus on questions that the Council wanted answers to. There remained opportunities for open ended answers and to talk about specific issues. Having presented savings options, the consultation was decided to elicit responses about the Council's most important services and to get ideas on the savings proposals that had been published. Advice was provided by the Communications and Marketing service to establish what was

needed to give a greater response.

Members queried whether the Council had received the data that it had wanted to get in the feedback and indicated that it would have been useful to have received the full feedback received, including comments. In response, it was confirmed that a lot of the feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the last year's budget consultation had been used to inform the approach for the current year. A lot more information had been published via the website and a commitment was given to provide further information to Members outside of the meeting. It was acknowledged that the consultation process around the budget would continue to evolve as a learning exercise.

Clarification was sought in respect of how the Council had sought to consult with groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. In response, it was considered that there was some learning in how this could be done in future and improving targeted work, but it was more difficult to do this in a consultation process which was not service specific or that mattered to individuals.

Members sought to understand how much the consultation had cost in terms of time and money. In response, it was explained that figure could not be provided, but it was not expected to significant with face to face contact time being limited.

Resolved:-

1. That the feedback on the budget consultation be received.
2. That future budget consultation exercise ensure that protected characteristic groups are targeted more effectively.

152. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reported that there were no items of business requiring urgent consideration by the Board.

153. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be held on Wednesday 30 January 2019 at 11.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

EMPLOYMENT APPEAL PANEL
17th January, 2019

Present:- Councillor Alam (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin and McNeely.

23. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following 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 an individual).

24. APPEAL - G1/01/19 - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

The Panel considered a grievance appeal relating to G1/01/19

Resolved:- That the appeal be not upheld.

EMPLOYMENT APPEAL PANEL
24th January, 2019

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin and McNeely.

25. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following 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 an individual).

26. APPEAL HEARING - G2/01/19 - FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

The Panel considered a grievance appeal relating to G2/01/19

Resolved:- That the appeal be not upheld.