

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

Date and Time :- Tuesday, 16 June 2020 at 5.30 p.m.

Venue:- Virtual Meeting - <http://www.rotherham.public-i.tv/>

Membership:- Councillors Atkin, Beaumont, Buckley, Clark, Cusworth (Chair), Elliot, Fenwick-Green, Hague, Ireland, Jarvis (Vice-Chair), Khan, Marles, Marriott, Pitchley, Senior, Simpson and Julie Turner

Co-opted Members – Ms. J. Jones (Voluntary Sector Consortium), Mrs. A. Clough (ROPF – Rotherham Older People's Forum) for agenda items relating to older peoples' issues

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

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

AGENDA

There will be a pre-meeting for all members of the Improving Lives Select Commission at 4.00 p.m.

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 March 2020 (Pages 1 - 11)

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 March 2020 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

5. Questions from Members of the Public and the Press

To receive questions relating to items of business on the agenda from members of the public or press who are present at the meeting.

6. Communications

To receive communications from the Chair in respect of matters within the Commission's remit and work programme.

7. Improving Lives Select Commission - Performance reporting to members (Pages 12 - 13)

8. Re-referrals and repeat child protection planning - Progress report (Pages 14 - 17)

9. Response to Domestic Abuse during the pandemic (Pages 18 - 23)

10. Work Programme 2020/21 (Pages 24 - 31)

To consider and approve the Commission's Work Programme.

11. Improving Lives Select Commission - Monitoring Report (Page 32)

To monitor the progress of recommendations made by the Improving Lives Select Commission.

12. Improving Lives Select Commission - Sub and Project Group Updates (Pages 33 - 34)


For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the activity regarding sub and project groups of the he Improving Lives Select Commission.

13. Urgent Business

To consider any item(s) the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

14. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission will take place on 28 July 2020 commencing at 5:30pm as a Microsoft Teams Virtual meeting.



SHARON KEMP,
Chief Executive.

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday, 3rd March, 2020

Present:- Councillor Cusworth (in the Chair); Councillors Jarvis, Atkin, Beaumont, Buckley, Clark, Elliot, Fenwick-Green, Ireland, Khan, Marles, Senior and Simpson.

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

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

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

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pitchley.

54. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2020

Resolved: - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission, held on 14 January 2020, be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jarvis declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9, Recommissioning of CSE Support Services, as she was a board member of RISE.

Councillor Senior declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9, Recommissioning of CSE Support Services, as she managed a charity that supported survivors of CSE.

56. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

57. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions.

58. COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair noted her concern that the Children and Young People's Services Vision Tracker, that showed key service information, and that had been circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission on a weekly basis, was now only being circulated on a monthly basis. It was noted that the weekly report of key performance information had been introduced as a result of a recommendation from

the Improving Lives Select Commission based on a study of best practice at other local authorities.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Neighbourhood Working advised that the change to the frequency of the report had been made due to increased demands being made on the time of the officers who prepared the report to complete other tasks and to prepare reports and other data for the Government. The Assistant Director, Social Care advised that she and other senior managers would be happy to answer any questions that members may have on the report. The Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion noted that as some of the data on the weekly tracker changed frequently, receiving the information weekly could present a misleading picture regarding the data, and that providing the data monthly would enable clearer trends to be shown and identified.

The Chair acknowledged these points but noted that any changes to the frequency of the report should have been agreed by members. The Deputy Leader suggested that a meeting with himself, senior officers and the Chair should be arranged to enable to the Chair to discuss members' concerns regarding the changes and to establish a way forward.

Resolved: - That the Chair meets with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Neighbourhood Working, and the Director of Children and Young People's Services to discuss the future circulation of the Children and Young People's Services Vision Tracker.

Councillors Jarvis and Senior, who had declared an interest in the following item left the meeting at this point.

59. RE-COMMISSIONING OF CSE SUPPORT SERVICES

The Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion and two managers from the Commissioning, Performance and Quality team, Sean Hill and Joanne Smith, attended the meeting to provide a progress report on the recommissioning of CSE Support Services.

The report noted that in 2016 the Council had entered into contracts with three local voluntary sector organisations to provide support services for adults who had experienced child sexual exploitation (CSE). These contracts initially ran from 1 July 2016 to 31 March 2019, with the option for them to be extended for a further two years. These contracts had now been extended until September 2020 with the option, if required to continue with a rolling month by month contract up until March 2021.

The Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion advised that work on a needs analysis that would inform the recommissioning of CSE support services had now been ongoing for 12 months. The Joint Assistant Director advised that ACEPPE had been commissioned to undertake an independent consultation exercise and

needs analysis, however this process had been interrupted when significant concerns were raised in relation to clinical governance and service user safety by Rotherham Rise, GROW and the Trauma and Resilience Service. ACEPPE had subsequently provided a pre-consultation report that had been primarily drawn from work with non-commissioned providers, Swinton Lock and Apna Haq. The Joint Assistant Director advised that this work had now been combined with other sources of information to provide a full needs analysis that included contract performance information, an academically led evaluation of the Trauma and Resilience Service and service user feedback facilitated by current providers.

The Joint Assistant Director advised that a public survey had been launched and that this would feed into the development of the needs analysis, that would in turn inform the recommissioning process. The Joint Assistant Director apologised to the members of the Improving Lives Select Commission with regard to the work that a sub-group of the Commission had undertaken during the summer of 2019 where members had conducted a benchmarking exercise by conducting interviews with other Local Authorities who had identified the need for post-CSE services, as the report incorrectly named the authorities that had been approached. The Joint Assistant Director confirmed that the authorities that had taken part in the exercise had been Rochdale, Telford and Wrekin and Oxfordshire.

The Joint Assistant Director provided assurance that a timeline that had been developed by the Council's procurement team that would ensure that new CSE support contracts would be in place prior to the current contracts expiring and that there would be no gaps in provision for the CSE survivors.

Two managers from the Commissioning, Performance and Quality team, Sean Hill and Joanne Smith attended the meeting to provide more detailed information on the commissioning process, noting that the process of developing the needs analysis had taken longer than anticipated due to the need to ensure that a broad range of stakeholder feedback had been gathered and used to inform its development. It was noted that the benchmarking work that had been carried out by the sub-group of the Improving Lives Select Commission would be included in the final draft of the needs analysis and that further work that built on the work carried out by the sub-group had been conducted. The full draft needs analysis was attached as an appendix to the officer's report and it was noted that this would be updated once the public survey had concluded in advance of it being used to determine the service specification for the new support contracts.

It was advised that it was anticipated that the service specification and request to start a tender process would be submitted to Cabinet for approval in June with the results of the tender process being submitted to Cabinet for consideration in October and that the new contracts would

come into operation in January 2021.

Members noted that with regard to the timescales allocated for the development of the needs analysis and service specification that the benchmarking work carried out by the Improving Lives sub-group during the summer of 2019 could have been allocated more time and as a consequence could have been wider in its scope. The Joint Assistant Director advised that due to factors that had been outside of their control and the need to ensure public consultation the timescales for the work had needed to be changed.

Members asked for further information on the increase in waiting times for service users to access services at Rothacs that had been shown in data included in the officer's report. Sean Hill, Manager in the Commissioning, Performance and Quality team advised that the increased waiting times were due to increased levels of demand, and that it had been explored whether other providers such as RISE could offer any assistance in dealing with the waiting list. It was noted that the information included in the officer's report was high level and showed demand from all service users and not just CSE survivors, and as such it was not necessarily CSE survivors who were waiting to access services. The Chair asked if there was any separate data available that showed how long CSE survivors were waiting to access services. Members were advised that separate data was not available, however members were assured that from discussions with service providers that CSE survivors were not waiting to access the support that they required, and that the final needs analysis would include the most up to date and accurate data that was available.

The Chair asked why there had been such a large delay in the commissioning of new support services contracts and expressed concern that this meant that service users were accessing services that were not providing as much support as was possible. The Joint Assistant Director advised that engaging with an independent third party in the preparation of the needs analysis in order to ensure that the needs analysis was as robust as possible had led to delays, but assured the Chair and members that the new project timescales were on track to enable new contracts to start being delivered from January 2021.

Members queried the usefulness of some of the qualitative data included in the report on how service users felt about the impact that the support services offered had impacted on them noting that the broadness of the categories for responses and their subsequent interpretation were very subjective. Joanne Smith, Manager in the Commissioning, Performance and Quality team agreed that for the type of service that was being offered, and because of the very different needs of each individual service user that it was very difficult to measure "success". It was noted that the broadness of the categories for responses had been designed so as to capture as much data as possible in an attempt to give a rounded overall picture of the impact that the services provided had made to individuals. Members asked whether any benchmarking had been completed against

the outcomes of post CSE support in other local authority areas. Sean Hill, Manager in the Commissioning, Performance and Quality team advised that benchmarking had not been completed due to the diverse range of services provided by other authorities meaning that it had not been possible to find a service offer comparable to that of Rotherham's.

Members noted that when support services for CSE survivors had initially been introduced that this had been done quite quickly in order to meet the need for this service provided, and as such had utilised several providers. Members asked that when the new services were commissioned whether a less disparate and more streamlined service for survivors could be provided by using less providers. The Joint Assistant Director advised that the experience of service delivery of the previous years would inform the needs analysis and service specification and meant that the services delivered from January 2021 would look very different from the current service offer.

The Chair expressed her disappointment that the benchmarking work that had been completed by the sub-group of the Commission during summer 2019 and the other inputs made by the members into the process of the development of the needs analysis for post CSE support appeared to have been somewhat overlooked in the development of the draft needs analysis, and hoped that a reconvened sub-group would be able to feed more its development in advance of it being considered by Cabinet

The Chair, on behalf of the committee, thanked the Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion and Sean Hill and Joanne Smith managers from the Commissioning, Performance and Quality team for attending the meeting and answering their questions.

Resolved: -

- (1) That the proposal that CSE Support Services be re-commissioned by the Council and that new services commence from January 2020, be noted.
- (2) That the Draft Needs Analysis, supplemented by a public consultation process during March 2020, be noted.
- (3) That the proposal that the service specification be developed based on findings of the full needs analysis, and that the commissioning timescale is aligned with the Trauma and Resilience Service, be noted
- (4) That the timescales for the re-commissioning CSE Support Services be noted.
- (5) That having regard to the revised timescales for the recommissioning of CSE support services, the benchmarking work carried out by members of the Improving Lives Select Commission

that concluded in August 2019 be recommenced in order that it may feed into the development of the CSE Support Services needs analysis.

Councillors Jarvis and Senior re-joined the meeting at this point.

60. UPDATE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) SUFFICIENCY PROJECTS

The Director of Children's and Young People's Services and the Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion attended the meeting to provide a progress report on the capital spending programme of £1.186 million that had been approved by Cabinet in September 2019 to create an additional 111 school places in Rotherham for children with special education needs and disabilities.

In introducing the report, the Director of Children's and Young People's Services noted that a peer review of the Council's Special Education Needs Service had just concluded noting that the process had been a positive experience for everyone who had been involved. The Director advised that the Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Sufficiency Strategy was an integral part of the Council's provision to meet the needs of the growing population of children with identified Special Education Needs in the borough.

The Joint Assistant Director noted that the SEND Sufficiency Strategy would enable an increase in places for children with autistic spectrum conditions, moderate learning difficulties and social, emotional and mental health problems, and as such would relieve pressure on the Dedicated Schools Grant (High Needs Budget) by reducing the need to place children in high cost independent specialist provision due to lack of appropriate local resources. It was noted that an increase in places provided by the Council would also be required due to the rise in numbers of children with education, health and care plans predicted for future years. The Joint Assistant Director noted the timelines for the delivery of individual schemes that were detailed in the report and provided assurance to members on the quality of the provision that was being provided.

Members asked how the model of provision that was being provided had been arrived at. The Joint Assistant Director advised that this information was detailed fully in the SEND Sufficiency Strategy document that was available. The Joint Assistant Director noted that the provision that was being created was more than just about creating more places and that the Strategy would provide more flexible provision that would support better learning outcomes.

Members welcomed the extra provision that was being created and asked how children would be supported to progress through the system. The Joint Assistant Director advised that each child's Education, Health and

Care plan would be used to ensure that they received the right level of support at the right time.

The Chair, on behalf of the committee, thanked the Director of Children's and Young People's Services and the Joint Assistant Director, Social Care for attending the meeting and answering their questions

Resolved: -

(1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the report on the peer review conducted on the Special Educational Needs Service be circulated to the members of the Improving Lives Select Commission when it becomes available.

The Chair, due to unforeseen circumstances left the meeting at this point.

Councillor Jarvis, the Vice-Chair took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

61. EARLY HELP AND SOCIAL CARE PATHWAY - PROGRESS REPORT

The Director of Children's and Young People's Services and the Assistant Director, Social Care attended the meeting to provide a progress report on the delivery of the Council's Early Help and Social Care Pathway.

In introducing the report, the Director of Children's and Young People's Services noted that like all directorates across the Council savings had needed to be identified, but that Children's and Young People's services still needed to be delivered, and delivered to a high standard. The Assistant Director, Social Care advised that the Early help and social way pathway was part of the transformational activity, alongside demand and market management, taking place in Children's and Young People's Services that would enable services to continue to be delivered at a high standard, but at the same time enable the savings that were needed to be made.

The Assistant Director advised that the pathway aimed to create an environment where children and their families received targeted help at the earliest possible opportunity that ensured that only the children who required more intense support progressed to receiving statutory social work intervention, and that where such intervention was made that intervention was underpinned by a service that delivered excellent social work practice

The Assistant Director made a presentation to the meeting that provided a detailed progress report on the development and implementation of the Early help and social care pathway. The presentation provided information on:

- The principles and objectives that had informed the design of the pathway.
- The activity surrounding the development of 10 workstreams that made up the pathway
- What was working well, including:
 - a well-trained and motivated workforce with reduced reliance on agency social work staff.
 - reduced demand for social work led services.
 - closer and more collaborative working between social care and early help services.
 - audits of the service having provided assurance on the quality of practice being delivered.
 - the delivery of the savings linked to the delivery of early help and social work pathway being achieved during 2019/20.
- Issues with regard to the delivery of the Early help and social care pathway that required further attention, including:
 - the turnover of staff, most notably in case holding social work teams being higher than was ideal.
 - caseloads of early help practitioners continuing to rise.
 - being able to reach a point of assurance where a reduction in the social work workforce could be safely made.
- The next steps in the delivery and development of the pathway, including:
 - completing a review of the work of social work locality teams and corresponding early help teams to inform future service delivery.
 - ensuring that any reduction in numbers of social workers was implemented in line with the principles of ensuring manageable caseloads and ensuring that any reductions were only made when it was safe to do so.
 - continued learning from audit and other feedback so as to share and showcase best practice in order to enable practitioners to learn from each other.

The Assistant Director advised that so far as result of the transformational work that had been carried out savings of £1.435m had been achieved during 2019/20 with further savings of £2.370m anticipated for 2020/21 and an additional saving of £1.935m in 2021/2022. The Assistant Director noted that the savings that had, and would be realised had been enabled by a reduction in the number of cases requiring intervention from qualified social workers, and that better understanding across the directorate of what support Early help could offer had enabled initial

referrals to be made to Early help rather than straight to a social work teams as had previously been the case.

Members asked for information on how managers reviewed and monitored caseloads to ensure that they were being managed and monitored safely and effectively, especially with regards to the appropriate transfer of cases between Early help and qualified social worker interventions. The Assistant Director provided information on, and assurance around the procedures that were carried out by managers to ensure the safe management of caseloads. The Assistant Director also noted how the Liquid Logic case management system that was used enabled regular and effective caseload monitoring. The Assistant Director advised that the monitoring of caseloads not only enabled any areas for concern to be picked up at an early stage but also enabled managers to see examples of good work being carried that could then be shared amongst their teams to demonstrate best practice and develop service delivery.

Members asked for further information on the steps that were being taken by senior managers to reduce staff turnover. The Assistant Director noted that as the retention of good staff across the teams was integral to the success of the Early help and social care pathway this area was being focussed on with particular attention. The Assistant Director advised that current staff were being actively engaged with and listened to in order to ensure that managers understood all the pressures that staff faced in all areas of their work and not just regarding pressures related to caseload size and management. The Assistant Director advised that such engagement with staff not only enabled managers to understand the issues that staff encountered on a daily basis that would enable them to ensure that working conditions were as good as they could be, but also enabled sharing and learning opportunities that came from regularly identifying best work practices.

Councillor Clark thanked the Assistant Director for the excellent and informative presentation, noting how far it showed that the Children's and Young People's Services had come in the last four years, and how much it had achieved. Councillor Clark noted that the progress that had occurred gave members across the Council confidence in the work that was being done to ensure that the borough's children and young people were looked after and kept safe.

The Vice-Chair, on behalf of the committee thanked the Director of Children's and Young People's Services and the Assistant Director, Social Care for attending the meeting and answering their questions.

Resolved: -

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That an update be provided to members of the Improving Lives

Select Commission on the implementation and use of the Liquid Logic case management system.

62. REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF THE ROTHERHAM PAUSE PRACTICE

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Neighbourhood Working and the Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion attended the meeting to provide a summary of the impact that the Pause Rotherham Practice, a project that worked with women who had experienced, or were at risk of, repeat removals of children from their care, had had on its first cohort of women since its launch in July 2018.

It was noted that the Rotherham Pause Practice had been recognised by the national team as delivering good practice. The report noted that women from the current cohort had achieved many positive outcomes as a result of the assertive intervention of the Rotherham Pause Practice in areas such as debt management, dealing with housing issues, registering with a GP, ending abusive relationships, re-establishing contact with children, making new friends and completing college and university courses.

The Joint Assistant Director provided information about some of significant achievements made by the women who had participated in the project, including:

- One woman has had just completed her first semester at University, where she was studying for a BA in Zoology.
- One woman had obtained 9 GCSE's and a Level 3 in Health and Social Care; and was being supported by Pause to explore Open University options.

The report stated that 39% of the women in the cohort were moving forward in their lives by gaining new skills and employment opportunities. It was noted that these outcomes were particularly positive in the context of the distance travelled from the point at which the women on the project engaged with the programme until graduation.

The Joint Assistant Director provided information on the financial impact of the project, noting that due to the nature of the project in influencing the potential future behaviour of the participants, the financial impact of the project had been measured in terms of cost avoidance. The Joint Assistant Director advised that the cost avoidance associated with 20 women on the programme taking a pause from pregnancy and the associated avoided births showed that the immediate avoidance would be £1,292,599 with the potential for avoiding £2,088,480 over a five-year period – of which £1,631,683 would be cashable cost avoidance.

Members welcomed the positive outcomes that the project had made on

the women who had participated in helping them move forward with their lives and noted their satisfaction that the project would continue in Rotherham with a second cohort of women.

Members expressed their appreciation and thanks to Lindsey Knight, Pause Project Lead who was leaving her job supporting the project for all the work that she had put into making Pause in Rotherham such a success and wished her success in her new role at the Council.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Neighbourhood Working noted his agreement with the comments of members and thanked members of the Improving Lives Select Commission for their support of the project from the outset and the role that they had played in getting others to see it's benefits in order enable the initial implementation of the project to happen

The Vice-Chair, on behalf of the committee thanked the Deputy Leader and the Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion for attending the meeting answering their questions

Resolved: -

- (1) That the report on the impact of Pause Rotherham since its launch in July 2018 be noted.
- (2) That a further report on the impact of Pause Rotherham be brought to the Improving Lives Select Commission after May 2021.

63. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

64. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on Tuesday 16 June 2020 at 5:30pm.

BRIEFING	TO:	Improving Lives Select Commission
	DATE:	Meeting – 16 June 2020
	LEAD OFFICER:	Sue Wilson, Head of Service, Performance and Quality
	TITLE:	Performance reporting to members
1. Background		
1.1	<p>The purpose of this briefing is to provide a proposal to members on the most appropriate way of providing them with relevant and accurate performance information to enable them to provide effective scrutiny and challenge to officers.</p> <p>Over the last few years there have been different ways of reporting performance to members of Improving Lives Select Commission, this has included a quarterly performance sub-group chaired by the vice chair of the commission with both member and officer attendance, this discussed in detail the monthly scorecards from both Early Help and Social Care.</p>	
1.2	<p>In June 2018 following consultation with a group of members (based on a visit they undertook to Leeds where they shared their weekly “obsessions” report) Improving Lives began to receive a weekly tracker which had selected measures of interest, this continued up to February 2020. Since that date it became a monthly report as it was clear to officers that many of the measures did not lend itself to weekly reporting as the incremental change was often so small that changes in performance were not evident and as such a proposal was put to the DCS and Cabinet member for this to move to a monthly position which has been the case since March this year.</p> <p>It is worth noting that Leeds no longer produce their obsessions report and other colleagues in the region just use the published quarterly Council Plan performance report to report to members.</p>	
1.3	<p>This was discussed at the last full Improving Lives in March and the action was:</p> <p><i>That the Chair meets with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Neighbourhood Working, and the Director of Children and Young People's Services to discuss the future circulation of the Children and Young People's Services Vision Tracker</i></p>	
2. Key Issues: What's Working Well / What are we worried about?		
2.1	What's Working Well? <ul style="list-style-type: none">Members receive a link to the social care scorecard in the Members newsletter on a monthly basis in addition to the quarterly council plan performance report which includes many of the measures that are in the scorecards and / or the tracker.Members are used to receiving the monthly vision tracker and use this as a basis for challenge and scrutinyThe Chair of Improving Lives and Lead Member both receive the daily email of key indicators	

2.2	<p>What are we worried about?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The monthly vision tracker is an additional reporting tool that replicates many of the measures in the scorecards and as such is a duplication of work for staff. • We are worried that members no longer find the vision tracker useful and it no longer meets their needs.
<p>3. Key Actions and Timelines</p>	
3.1	<p>There are four options for consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The process remains the same, the tracker continues in its current format and published on a monthly basis. 2. The vision tracker continues to be published monthly but the measures are refreshed more regularly based on themes / areas of interest, this could be done jointly with a group of members / officers on a six monthly basis to decide on the themes they are keen to know more about. 3. Once the monthly scorecards are published members have a week to decide which measures they require a deep dive, a meeting will be then convened with lead officers to undertake a performance clinic type discussion based on the particular measures or interest 4. The performance sub- group is reconvened as it used to be with a cross section of Heads of Service from the Directorate.
<p>4. Recommendations: What are we going to do about it?</p>	
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That members consider the options and discuss the best approach for them to receive and discuss the measures they are interested in.

BRIEFING	TO:	Improving Lives Select Commission
	DATE:	Meeting – 16 June 2020
	LEAD OFFICER:	Ailsa Barr Assistant Director Children's Social Care
	TITLE:	Re-referrals and repeat child protection planning

1. Background

- 1.1** The purpose of this briefing is to provide assurance the commission regarding concerns raised by members in relation to re-referrals and children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time.

Referrals to children's social care and second/subsequent periods of child protection planning are both performance indicators reported to the Department for Education (DfE). The rate of referral is one of the indicators of need and a high rate of re-referral can be an indicator of the right services or intervention not being provided at the right time. Therefore, it is important to consider the local referral rate and be assured that all measures are being taken to understand and reduce the re-referral rate.

In order to understand Rotherham's context, it is important to see the local data in the context of regional and national data. In Rotherham we measure the re-referral rate, the percentage of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time ever which is a national indicator and we also measure the percentage of becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time in the last 2 years which is a regionally agreed measure and so not reported to the DfE.

When reviewing Rotherham's performance in relation to referrals and both measures for second and subsequent child protection planning the data compares favourable against, regional, statistical neighbours and national data.

Re-referred in 12 months since referral date (CIN CENSUS DEF) (Lower is better)

Local Authority	2018/2019	2019/2020 (In-year Q4/YTD) RIA	Diff +/-
Rotherham	21.30%	20.70%	-0.60%
Regional	24.60%	23.60%	-1%
Stat neighbours	20.01%	Not published yet	N/A
National	22.60%	Not published yet	N/A

% of children becoming the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time - ever - rolling 12 months (lower is better)			
Local Authority	2018/2019	2019/2020 (Q4/YTD) RIA	Diff +/-
Rotherham	21.20%	17.50%	-3.7%
Regional	19.60%	19.80%	+0.20%
Stat neighbours	18.39%	Not published yet	N/A
National	20.80%	Not published yet	N/A

% of children becoming the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years - rolling 12 months (Council Plan Indicator) (Lower is better)			
Local Authority	2018/2019	2019/2020 (Q4/YTD) RIA	Diff +/-
Rotherham	6.00%	8.60%	2.60%
Regional	8.00%	9.00%	1.00%
Stat neighbours	Not a national measure		
National	Not a national measure		

It is important to understand that a re-referral isn't always a negative thing, there are occasions where the first referral and period of intervention can lead to a subsequent referral. For example – referral received due to a domestic violence incident from one partner to another and the assessment that follows identifies potential for harm to the children. Through the intervention the parent who has suffered domestic abuse ends the relationship with the abusive parent and after a testing out period the social care involvement comes to an end. At a later point the abusive parent becomes dissatisfied with the contact arrangements and makes a private law application to secure a legal order. Because there has been past social work involvement a referral is made (which becomes a re-referral) by the court for a social worker to provide a report to the court.

Conversely there are also situations where a re-referral is absolutely an indication that the last period of intervention did not progress the situation positively forwards and in these examples we tend to see the issues being repeated from one referral to the next meaning that opportunities to meaningfully engage with children and young people and improve their lived experiences are missed. Concerns in relation to this type of re-referral meant that the senior leadership team in social care undertook a piece of audit work focusing on re-referrals during late 2019 and early 2020.

The audit work undertaken in relation to re-referrals has indicated that there is a need to strengthen safety planning work prior to ceasing social work involvement. By strengthening safety plans we can be more confident that families have been supported to make effective changes. Meaning that in the future they will be able to respond to their own challenges and by ensuring that these plans work before ending social care involvement others working with the family (health partners, schools etc) will have a greater understanding of the networks around a family and how these networks can be engaged if additional support is needed as opposed to a re-referral being needed.

Good practice needs to be demonstrated throughout the period of intervention to ensure the best outcome. This is best achieved where workers and managers consistently apply

thresholds and where there are effective multi-agency relationships. The work in the service in relation to this area is focused on achieving the following:

- Good quality multi-agency information sharing and screening at the earliest opportunity to leading to
- a strong a clear assessment includes triangulation of information, professional curiosity, effectively considers historical information and uses a variety of methods to capture and understand the voice of the child which leading to
- a strong plan which sets out clearly what needs to change and how this will happen, and this leading to
- purposeful intervention, meaning that the family properly understand what the social worker and other professionals are worried about and are supported to make meaningful and lasting changes. An effective safe plan is developed and tested properly meaning that
- a safe exit can be achieved.

2. Key Issues: What's Working Well / What are we worried about?

2.1 What's Working Well?

- The data indicates that Rotherham's performance in relation to referral rates and second/subsequent child protection planning is comparable or better than data from other local authorities.
- Despite the relatively positive performance the senior leadership team within children's social care identified towards the end of 2019 that a focus on understanding the reasons for re-referral's and repeat child protection planning was required.
- Audit work has been completed in relation to re-referrals, this has involved heads of service and service managers reviewing 10 children's case files each and completing audit work relating to the reasons for referral and determining if this was avoidable or not.
- Regular audits are undertaken in relation to referrals that do not progress to social work assessment to provide assurance that thresholds are being consistently applied.
- There is an audit framework which provides opportunity to regularly review casework and provides insight to practice and provides learning opportunities which are shared with the workforce.

2.2 What are we worried about?

- Data indicates that that Rotherham's performance in the areas explored is comparable with others, but this means still means about 1 in 5 children is referred to children's social care. Arguably this is too high, and we need to be tenacious in working to reduce this.
- If work is not completed to reduce the incidents or referrals and second/subsequent child protection planning the lived experience of vulnerable children in the Borough may not be sufficiently improved.
- Safety plans are not consistently tested out before social care involvement ends which contributes to a percentage of re-referrals.

3. Key Actions and Timelines	
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning work to be developed within the service during June, July and August • Key messages from audit work will be shared with the service and examples of good practice will be shared to assist with learning. • The senior leadership team will review the data on a quarterly basis to consider progress made. • A subsequent piece of audit work in respect of re-referrals will be planned for Jan – Mar 2021.
4. Recommendations: What are we going to do about it?	
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That members note the information contained within the report and seek further assurance from the Assistant Director for Children's Social Care at subsequent meetings of the improving lives select commission.

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Commission – 18 June 2020

Report Title

Domestic Abuse Services Update – Covid-19

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Sam Barstow, Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report has been drafted at the request of the Improving Lives Select Commission and provides an update in relation to the response of Domestic Abuse (DA) services to the current Covid-19 pandemic. The report also provides information in relation to planning for any potential increases in demand, or an extended period of operating in a different way, as a result of the pandemic.

Recommendations

1. Members of the committee are asked to note and provide comment on any element detailed within the report.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

[Domestic Abuse Strategy for Rotherham](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

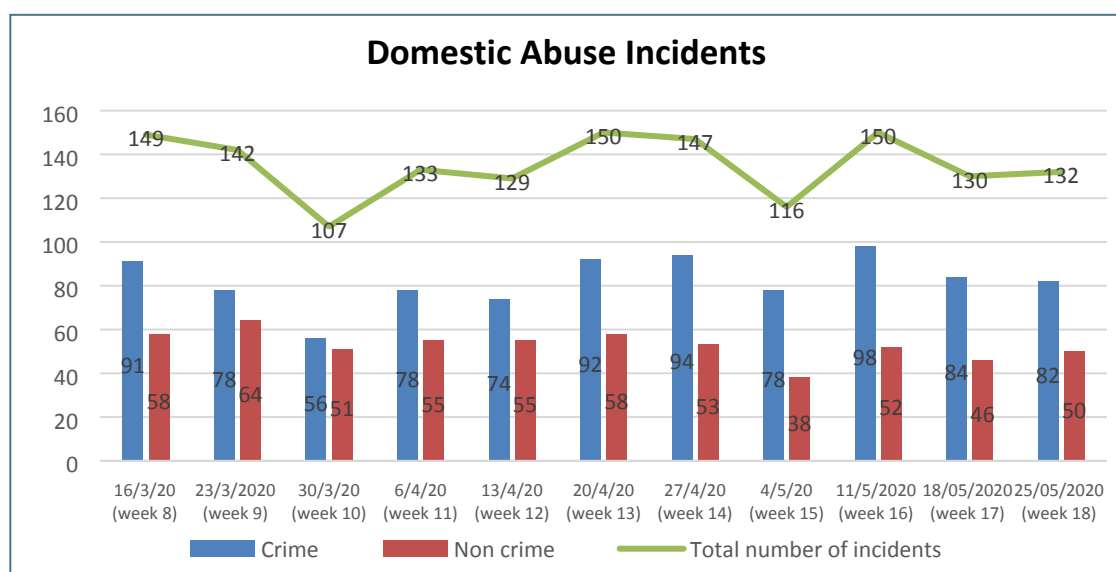
Exempt from the Press and Public

No

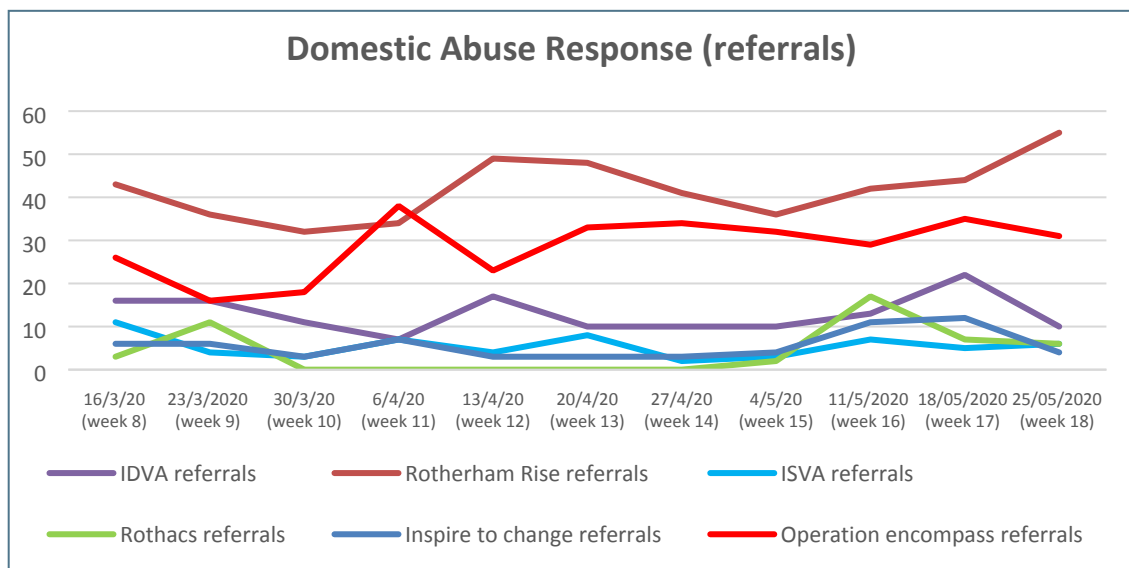
Domestic Abuse Services Update – Covid-19

1. Background

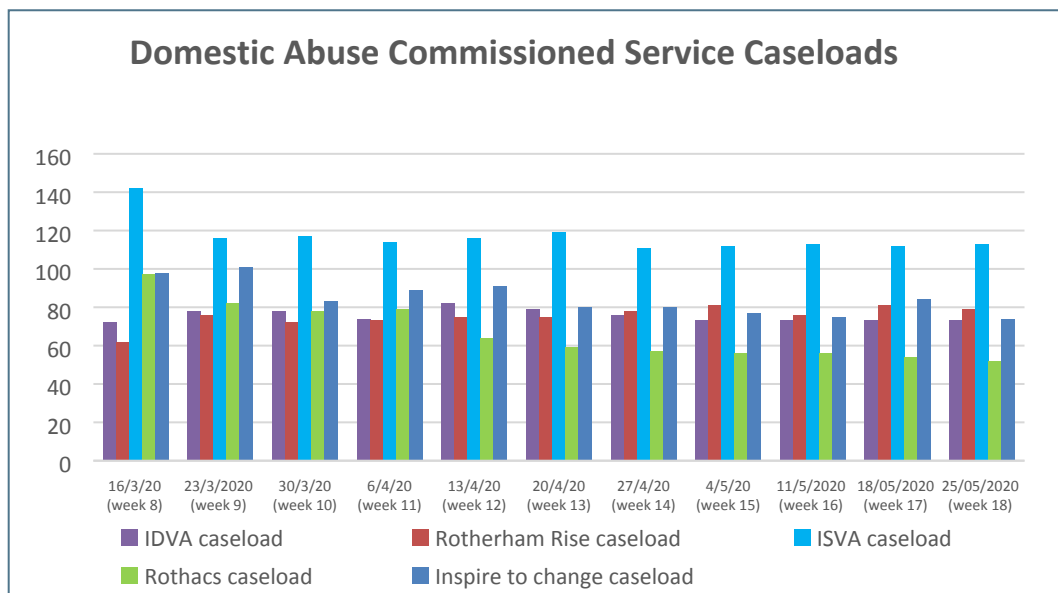
- 1.1 This report has been drafted at the request of the Improving Lives Select Commission and provides an update in relation to the response of Domestic Abuse (DA) services to the current Covid-19 pandemic. This report also provides information in relation to planning for any potential increases in demand, or an extended period of operating in a different way, as a result of the pandemic.
- 1.2 The DA Priority Group, which reports to the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP), has continued to meet during the current pandemic and has stepped up engagement to fortnightly meetings to ensure continued delivery and management of risk. The partnership has also continued to monitor Domestic Abuse both in terms of demand for Police service and demand for support services.
- 1.3 In relation to policing, Domestic Abuse service have been prioritised and maintained but, in some circumstances, have necessitated the use of phone contact where appropriate. In recognition of the individual challenges created by the pandemic South Yorkshire Police quickly established a dedicated online reporting tool for DA and the details can found on the following link:
<https://www.reportingcrime.uk/SYPDA/>.
- 1.4 The level of incidents and crimes have remained broadly consistent over the previous 10 weeks, as described in the chart below. Some reduction in demand was experienced during the initial weeks of the pandemic but this appears to have returned to pre incident levels. Despite the challenges, arrest rates have remained at a strong level and above 70% based on a 12-week average. Whilst often DA cases will result in charges (around 20%) the partnership will seek out the most appropriate disposals to support the victim, ensure engagement and minimise any future risk to victim e.g. use of Cautions, Restorative Justice (in appropriate circumstances) and Domestic Violence Protection Notices/Orders.



- 1.5 Domestic Abuse support services have also rapidly adapted to change through increasing phone contact and diversifying their online offer; some of which has been supported by SRP funding.
- 1.6 In relation to high risk support, provided by the Council's in-house Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) services, provision has continued for all contacts. The service has also increased its offer through extended provision to include weekend support within current staffing levels.
- 1.7 In relation to standard and medium risk victims, who are offered support through the Council's commissioned service, the support offer through Rotherham Rise has been able to increase through partnership funding and to diversify through the creation of an online offer. At the outset of the pandemic, recognising the challenges presented by the restrictions in relation to accessing support, Rotherham Rise quickly established an online support offer for victims to speak to workers.
- 1.8 The chart below shows the level of demand for domestic abuse support services over the previous ten weeks. As can be seen, demand for support services remained broadly static however, during recent weeks, there has been a slight uplift in support provided to medium and standard risk victims.
- 1.9 Inspire to Change, is a programme for men and women who have been abuse, controlling or violent towards their partner. Operation Encompass, which enables schools to connect with the Police to support children and young people who have been subject to or have witnessed domestic abuse. Rothacs provide counselling services for children and adults who have suffered a form of abuse at any time in their life.



- 1.10 The caseloads of domestic abuse agencies have also remained broadly static, as can be noted from the chart below.



1.11 In relation to homelessness, the number of DA applicants presenting and accommodated by the homelessness team during Covid-19 has increased. The Council is tracking daily homelessness presentations including those presenting due to Domestic Abuse. Since the 30 March 2020 the Council has received 272 new homeless presentations, and 53 of these are due to domestic abuse. This equates to 19.5% of all new applications due to domestic abuse.

1.12 In order to complement the response to the demand the Council has recently supported a successful bid of £98,000 with Rotherham Rise for emergency accommodation relating to DA. Rotherham Rise partnered up with Target for 5 ringfenced domestic abuse temporary accommodation properties in Rotherham and an a full time DA support worker, funded until October 2020. The funding bid also provided an opportunity for Rise to seek funding to cover any additional refuge costs due to Covid 19.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The first key issue in terms of the response to Covid19 has been to ensure a diversity of service offer, which is responsive to the current needs of victims. Practically, when people are restricted from normal movements, when the offices of support services are closed and, when contact with families or friends are limited, there is less opportunity to speak out or to find support for a variety of issues, including domestic abuse. As can be seen in the information above, both support and enforcement services have adapted to maintain delivery in this critical area. To further support the Council's commissioned domestic abuse support service, the Safer Rotherham Partnership has provided an additional £12,000 of funding to expand the online and telephone contact offer and to ensure provision is delivered outside of normal office hours. This has been supplemented with a targeted campaign on social media to raise awareness of the new online support.

- 2.2 The second key issue is that whilst demand did, for a time, fluctuate downwards, it is clear that in some cases it is stabilising and has returned to pre-covid levels. There is broad concern that the pandemic and related restrictions will have created further pressures within the home and that in some cases, this may lead to increased levels of domestic abuse. Furthermore, with limited access to services, some victims or perpetrators, who may have come forward, may either not have had the opportunity to do so, or not felt that they could come forward. Both of these elements present a concern in relation to a potential surge in demand for domestic abuse services as restrictions lift. In the light of this risk the SRP has again been working on developing partnership planning around increases for services. Whilst, broadly, statutory services are able to withstand limited increases, commissioned or voluntary sector organisations may not be able to, and the SRP is therefore exploring options to offer increased support.
- 2.3 The Ministry of Justice has recently announced funding to support domestic and sexual abuse support services, through Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). The fund has resulted in £474,000 being allocated to the South Yorkshire PCC. The funding will be distributed as follows:
- DA abuse services that are already commissioned by PCCs (total amount available £237,000)
 - SV services that are already commissioned by PCCs and those that are not currently funded by PCCs (total amount available £118,500)
 - DA services that are not currently commissioned by PCCs (total amount available £118,500)
- 2.4 The partnership is currently developing a bid across support agencies in order to support increased capacity. The bid will also seek to ensure that, should restrictions be sustained, local services can respond through providing a safe and compliant space to submit video evidence to court.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Members of the committee are asked to note and provide comment on any element detailed within the report.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 This paper has been shared with relevant colleagues for comment however does not present a decision and is provided as an update.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 As noted above, this paper is provided for information only and does not propose a decision.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 As noted above, this paper is provided for information only and does not propose a decision.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 As noted above, this paper is provided for information only and does not propose a decision.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 As noted above, this paper is provided for information only and does not propose a decision.

9. Implications for Partners

- 9.1 Detailed within the body of the report.

10. Risks and Mitigation

- 10.1 As noted above, this paper is provided for information only and does not propose a decision.

11. Accountable Officer(s)

Sam Barstow, head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Report Author: Sam Barstow, Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Work programme – Improving Lives Select Commission 2020-21

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations	Follow up
16 June	Response to Domestic Abuse during the pandemic	To receive an update on the Council's work regarding domestic abuse during the pandemic.		
	Performance Monitoring	<p>To receive briefing paper addressing areas of poor performance identified previously e.g. rereferrals into Child in Need/Child Protection Plan.</p> <p>To agree a method and frequency of performance monitoring based on the CYPS tracker.</p>		
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme		
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.		
	ILSC Monitoring Report	To monitor the progress of recommendations made by ILSC.		

28 July	Update on LAC Sufficiency	To monitor progress and to assess any impact on capacity due to Covid-19.		
	Children's social care service in the light of Covid-19 pandemic – Progress Report	To provide a progress report on activity detailed in the briefing to members received on 4 June 2020.		
	Youth Offending Team – Progress report	<p>To monitor progress and highlight an area for further scrutiny.</p> <p>Specifically, to check progress of recommendations made last year and to seek assurances around a changing demand due to the apparent decrease in numbers of first time young offenders and the increase in the complex nature of a this reduced cohort of young offenders.</p>		
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.		
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.		
	ILSC Monitoring Report	To monitor the progress of recommendations made by ILSC.		

22 September	Elective Home Education	To seek assurance that children who are elective home educated are being effectively safeguarded/educated		
	Missing from Home/Education (Update from Strategic Missing Group)	Progress report		
	Rotherham Education Strategic Partnership	<p>Resolved in June 2019 - That the evaluation of the Early Years Home Visiting Project be submitted to this Commission.</p> <p>That a report detailing key timelines, milestones and outcomes to reflect the difference that RESP is making be submitted to this Commission in December 2019. December meeting cancelled.</p> <p>To assess the impact that the service is having</p>		
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.		
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.		
	ILSC Monitoring Report	To monitor the progress of recommendations made by ILSC.		

27 October	Adult Care Annual Report	To receive and consider the annual report.		
	Rotherham Children's Safeguarding Partnership – Annual Report	To receive and consider the annual report.		
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.		
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.		
	ILSC Monitoring Report	To monitor the progress of recommendations made by ILSC.		

15 December	Counter extremism in schools	<p>Resolved in September 2019</p> <p>That a report be submitted to this Commission as part of 2020/21 work programme outlining how the local authority was meeting its Prevent duty. That an update on its counter extremism work be submitted to this Commission as part of 2020/21 work programme.</p> <p>That this update includes an evaluation of the work in schools and further details of the work with adults and neighbourhoods and any specific work with parents and carers.</p> <p>Focus to be on work being done in schools.</p>		
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.		
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.		
	ILSC Monitoring Report	To monitor the progress of recommendations made by ILSC.		

26 January	CYPS Directorate workforce strategy	Progress report		
	Invitation to Regional Schools Commissioner to attend meeting			
	School Performance	Progress report on latest figures		
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.		
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.		
	ILSC Monitoring Report	To monitor the progress of recommendations made by ILSC.		

9 March	Pause Progress report	Resolved in March 2020 to bring a further report after May 2021.		
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme and to reflect on work programme for 2020/21		
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.		
	ILSC Monitoring Report	To monitor the progress of recommendations made by ILSC.		

Items pending schedule or removal

Item	Details	Status
Progress report on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the SEND Peer Review conducted in March 2020.	Peer review circulated to members April 2020.	To be scheduled.
Child Friendly Borough Update		To be scheduled
Safeguarding Adults report Safeguarding Children report	Deferred from December 2019	Check if still required and schedule if needed
Court Procedures (pre-proceedings)	Resolved on 30/04/19 - To scrutinise if progress/milestones are being reached – follow on from earlier work	Check if still required and schedule if needed
Safer Rotherham Partnership	Resolved at OSMB July 2019 That an update be provided to the Improving Lives Select Committee on the actions and recommendations to address stalking and harassment.	To be scheduled

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS – IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING SCHEDULE
UPDATED: 8 JUNE 2020

Decision Date	Item	Scrutiny Recommendation	Completion date for actions	Action/Response Completed	Further action required by Scrutiny
29/10/19	Youth Justice Plan	<p>1. That the Deputy Leader explores if further measures can be taken to identify Council apprenticeship opportunities for young people involved in the youth justice system and engage the wider business community in similar initiatives such as job fairs.</p> <p>2. That the involvement of service users in offering awareness raising in schools and/or peer support to other young offenders or those at risk of offending, be explored.</p>			ILSC to agree any further actions.
03/03/20	Early Help and Social Care Pathway	That an update be provided to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission on the implementation and use of the Liquid Logic case management system.		Requested and written briefing will be circulated.	

Sub and Project Group Work

Updated: 8 June 2020

Project	Details	Status
One off spotlight review involving the Youth Cabinet and off camera to understand the impact of school closures due to COVID19 on Rotherham pupils.	To specifically involve and loom at the impact on those who would have sat exams this year and bring back the YOT specifically to check progress of recommendations made last year and to seek assurances around a changing demand due to the apparent decrease in numbers of first time young offenders and the increase in the complex nature of a this reduced cohort of young offenders.	To schedule
CSE – post abuse support (task and finish to feed into commissioning process)	Task and finish group established. Interviews undertaken with 3 local authorities (July/August 2019)	March 2020 – Resolved to reform group to feed into rescheduled process for creating the needs analysis. April 2020 - Needs Analysis to be shared with committee members. Needs analysis at June 2020 OSMB and Cabinet. Next steps for scrutiny to be established. Scope to be drafted.

Performance Sub-Group	Expression of interest sought	Check if still needed in view of agenda item at June meeting regarding performance monitoring.
Domestic Abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Homicide Review Stalking and Harassment Domestic Abuse Service Principles 	Referral from OSMB and January 2019 ILSC	To schedule (awaiting update from Home Office on domestic homicide). To agree actions to complete the review.
Lifestyle Survey	Report to subgroup in January 2020	To arrange a meeting for January 2021 to receive the latest survey.
Food Poverty/Holiday Hunger		In scoping stage. Update meeting with Cllr Allen, Chair, Vice-Chair and Sally Hodges to be arranged.
Early Help Offer	Resolved in October 2019 That a sub-group be established to undertake further scrutiny of the early help offer.	Report on Early Help and Social Care Pathway received in March. Early Help Review – use ISOS document to scope – must involve triangulation of qualitative data through speaking with partners and front-line staff. 5 June 2020 – Scope being drafted