

## **IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION**

**Date and Time: -** Tuesday 9 March 2021 at 5.30 p.m.  
**Venue: -** Microsoft Teams Meeting.  
**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

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 2:30 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 26 January 2021 (Pages 4 - 14)**

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 January 2021 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. Education in Rotherham - Covid-19 Response and forward planning (Pages 15 - 25)**

A presentation will be made by:

- Nathan Heath, Interim Assistant Director Education.
- Aileen Chambers, Head of Service, Early Years and Childcare.
- Dean Fenton, Head of Access Services.
- Vicky Helliwell, Head of School Improvement.

**8. Work Programme (Pages 26 - 40)**

To consider and approve the Commission's Work Programme.

**9. Improving Lives Select Commission - Monitoring Report (Pages 41 - 42)**

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

**10. Improving Lives Select Commission - Sub and Project Group Updates (Page 43)**

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.

**11. Urgent Business**

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

**12. Date and time of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on Monday 22 March commencing at 5:30pm as a Microsoft Teams meeting.



Sharon Kemp,  
Chief Executive.

**IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION  
Tuesday 26 January 2021**

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

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Fenwick-Green and Hague.

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

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

**128. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2020**

**Resolved:** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission held on 15 December 2020 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

**129. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**130. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

**131. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

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

**132. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chair noted that she had attended the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel on 5 January and advised that a full written update would be circulated to members.

The Chair advised that an additional meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission had been scheduled for Monday 22 March to enable members to receive a report on key performance indicators across the Children and Young People's Services Directorate.

**133. ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD - ANNUAL REPORT**

The Assistant Director - Adult Social Care and Integration and the Safeguarding Adults Board Manager attended the meeting to present the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board 2019/20 Annual Report.

It was noted that the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB)

worked to protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect with its key objective being to ensure that local safeguarding arrangements and partnerships acted to help and protect adults at risk or experiencing neglect and/or abuse. The report stated that the RSAB was a multi-agency strategic, rather than operational, partnership that was made up of senior/lead officers within adult social services, criminal justice, health, housing, community safety, voluntary organisations. It was noted that the main role of the RSAB was to coordinate the strategic development of adult safeguarding across Rotherham and to ensure the effectiveness of the work undertaken by Partner Agencies in the area.

The Safeguarding Adults Board Manager made a presentation to the meeting that included information on:

- The priorities of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board.
- Achievements during 2019/20, including:
  - Completing the first joint self-assessment with the Rotherham Children's Safeguarding Partnership.
  - Carrying out a training needs analysis across the partnership to develop a refreshed safeguarding training offer.
  - Holding a successful Safeguarding Awareness Week in 2019.
- Plans for future activity.

The Assistant Director - Adult Social Care and Integration advised that a key area focus of activity for the RSAB in the coming year would be the issue of hoarding and self-neglect with the objective to improve the level of support provided in this area. The Assistant Director stated that work would also continue be carried out in order to ensure that all safeguarding activity was based around the individual needs of each service user.

The full Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board 2019/20 Annual Report had been included in the agenda pack for the meeting.

Members asked for further information on the training that had been provided across the RSAB membership and whether training had been provided to voluntary sector organisations. The Safeguarding Adults Board Manager stated that training had been provided to voluntary sector organisations and noted that a new training provider was now working with the RSAB, with the training programme due to be relaunched in Spring 2021. The Safeguarding Adults Board Manager noted that the demands of the pandemic had resulted in a reduced take up of training but advised that the imminent relaunch of the training would aim to

increase the uptake of training opportunities.

Members noted the multiagency approach of the RSAB and asked for further information on the different organisations that had accessed safeguarding training. The Safeguarding Adults Board Manager stated that it was a key objective of the RSAB to deliver safeguarding awareness training as widely as possible, noting that banks and supermarkets held leaflets on to increase awareness on safeguarding issues and advised that banks had assisted in the delivery of awareness training regarding financial abuse.

The Chair asked for further information on the work that was being carried out to address the issues highlighted by a safeguarding adults review that had been detailed in the annual report following the death of a vulnerable 60-year old woman. The Assistant Director noted that the case had highlighted a series of failures including a lack of clarity for the service user and her support network. The Assistant Director advised that this case had shown the need to ensure that service delivery was always based around individual needs and to ensure that their needs were met rather than being based around set delivery methods and processes.

The Chair noted the misleading use of the term “honour-based violence” in the annual report, as such activity was simply violence against women and girls. The Chair asked whether this type of violence was an increasing problem in Rotherham. The Assistant Director advised that there was currently no evidence of this type of violence increasing in Rotherham. The Chair asked how confident the Board was that they had the processes in place to ensure that they knew about all victims of this type of violence. The Safeguarding Adults Board Manager provided information on the reporting procedures used and assured members that the processes were robust and that the Board was confident that they had a good understanding about the victims and the prevalence of this type of violence.

Members also sought assurance about the data collection methods used by organisations supported by the RSAB and the reporting methods to the RSAB. The Safeguarding Adults Board Manager assured members that all organisations had clear processes for recording and reporting safeguarding concerns and detailed the processes and methods used by the RSAB for analysing and understanding cases and data.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director Adult Social Care and Integration and the Safeguarding Adults Board Manager for attending the meeting and answering members’ questions.

**Resolved: -**

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That the Independent Chair of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adult’s

Board attends the July 2021 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission to present a report on how the Board is working to identify and support hidden female victims of violence.

- 3) That the report presented at the July 2021 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission also includes an analysis of cases that resulted in no further action being taken.

#### **134. YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM INSPECTION REPORT**

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Neighbourhood Working, the Strategic Director – Children and Young People's Services, the Assistant Director - Early Help and Family Engagement and the Service Manager - Evidence Based Hub and Youth Offending Team attended the meeting to present a report that detailed the outcomes of the HM Inspector of Prisons inspection of the Rotherham Youth Offending Team (YOT) that had taken place between 14 and 17 September 2020. It was noted that due to the impact of the pandemic that the inspection had been carried out remotely. The inspection had looked at YOT activity over the three domains of Organisational Delivery, Court Disposals and Out of Court Disposals.

Jenny Lingrell, Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion, Alison Cowie and Paul Theaker from Rotherham NHS/CCG, Catherine Barnett, Head of the Youth Justice Board (Yorkshire and the Humber Region) and Inspectors Nathalie Gilmour and Abdul Aziz of South Yorkshire Police also attended the meeting for this item.

The Inspection report had been published on 17 December 2020 with the Overall judgement being "Requires Improvement". The full inspection report was attached as an appendix to the officer's report.

In introducing the report, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Neighbourhood Working noted the disappointment that had been felt across the service when the outcome of the inspection had been announced as "Requires Improvement". Despite the disappointment, the Deputy Leader advised that he was pleased to note the swift response taken by the Assistant Director - Early Help and Family Engagement, the Service Manager - Evidence Based Hub and Youth Offending Team to implement the recommendations that would address the areas of concern that had been detailed in inspection report. The Deputy Leader noted that while the outcome had been "Requires Improvement" that the inspection report had highlighted many examples of good practice across the service.

The Strategic Director – Children and Young People's Services echoed the disappointment in the outcome of the inspection that had been expressed by the Deputy Leader. The Strategic Director noted the extra challenges that an inspection carried out virtually had created for reducing the opportunities for officers across the YOT to have the type of

communication with the inspection team that would have been possible had the inspection taken place physically. The Strategic Director advised that she would also now be attending YOT Board meetings along with Chief Superintendent Steve Chapman of South Yorkshire Police.

The officer's report provided a summary of the activities that were planned to address the issues raised in the inspection. The full Inspection Action Plan was attached as an appendix to the officer's report.

The Assistant Director - Early Help and Family Engagement and the Service Manager - Evidence Based Hub and Youth Offending Team made a presentation to the meeting that presented the findings of the inspection and detailed the activities planned to address the areas of concern highlighted in the report.

As a result of the outcome HMIP had made five recommendations that were:

**The Chair of the YOT Management Board should:**

- Make sure that Board members understand the specific needs of children known to the YOT and advocate on their behalf in their own agencies.

**The YOT Management Board should:**

- Ensure the partnership understands the reasons for the significant number of Looked After Children known to the YOT and reviews the policies and practices of all agencies to minimise the possibility of children entering the criminal justice system unnecessarily.
- Undertake a comprehensive health needs analysis of YOT children to better understand the health provision being delivered and what needs to be developed.
- Review the quality and accessibility of education, training and employment provision for post-16-year-old children known to the service.

**The YOT Service Manager should:**

- Review the quality of risk of harm work and improve the effectiveness of management oversight in all cases.

The inspection report also included details of areas of strength in the YOT service that included:

- The Chair of the YOT Management Board was very committed to his role and was a strong advocate for children.
- There was priority given to involving children, listening to what they

said and responding to their feedback in order to influence future service delivery.

- The Management Board and the partnership were aware that there was a disproportionate number of black, Asian and minority ethnic children known to the YOT, and had projects in place to try to address the issue.
- YOT staff did all they could to encourage good engagement and compliance from the child and their family, and staff and managers were child-centred and knew their children well.
- The YOT had good transition arrangements with the National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company, that included regular transition meetings where cases were monitored and reviewed.
- The service had good links with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Team, and the Head of Inclusion was a member of the YOT Management Board.

The Inspection Report highlighted areas for improvement that included the following areas for improvement:

- Although health provision was available through the Early Help Service, the arrangements did not recognise the specialised needs of children known to the YOT, including physical and emotional, mental health and wellbeing concerns.
- The pathways for YOT staff to access health services, for example speech, language and communication provision, lacked clarity.
- Board members did not understand the specific needs of YOT children so could not effectively advocate on their behalf in their own agencies.
- The Management Board and the partnership had not focused on why so many Looked After Children were known to the YOT.
- YOT figures for post-16-year-old children who were not in education, training or employment were high, and the partnership had not done enough work to review what provision was available in the locality for this cohort of children.
- Although YOT practitioners could access the interventions that were available as part of the wider Rotherham early help offer, there was little evidence that these services were regularly used for children known to the YOT.
- The inspection found that management oversight was poor both for post-court orders and out-of-court disposals.



Over the 12 strands of the three domains that had been assessed of Organisational Delivery, Court Disposals and Out of Court Disposals, three had been found to be inadequate that were:

- Court Disposals - Assessments had been rated as inadequate. It was noted that this judgement related to six cases that had been inspected out of a cohort of 15 (40%).
- Out of Court Disposals - Planning – It was stated that “The quality of planning is rated as ‘Inadequate’. Planning relating to desistance was outstanding but planning for a child’s safety and wellbeing and keeping other people safe was inadequate, and this has led to the overall rating of ‘Inadequate.’”
- Implementation and Delivery were also judged to be inadequate. It was stated that “The quality of implementing and delivering interventions and services is rated as ‘Inadequate’. Delivering services to promote desistance was good; however, for safety and wellbeing and keeping other people safe it was inadequate.” It was noted that four cases had been inspected out of a cohort of 181 (2.2% of cases).

In advance of members asking questions related to the report the Chair invited the guests at the meeting to comment on the report and the issues raised.

Alison Cowie and Paul Theaker of Rotherham NHS/CCG noted the importance of the partnership working that was enabled by the Youth Offending Board and advised that work was being carried out to ensure that processes were in place to enable health and wellbeing needs to be identified and addressed met more effectively.

Inspectors Nathalie Gilmour and Abdul Aziz stated that South Yorkshire Police continued to be committed to working with the YOT in order to deliver the best possible outcomes for the service and advised that the role of youth engagement officers in the force would be further developed to support the work of the YOT.

Catherine Barnett, Head of the Youth Justice Board, Yorkshire and the Humber Region, noted the disappointment felt by everyone involved at the inspection result but emphasised that Rotherham YOT was only part way through an ongoing improvement and development journey and that that had been recognised and acknowledged by the inspectors. The Head of the Youth Justice Board also noted that the report had detailed many of the strengths of the YOT including how the Youth Offending Board placed the voice and experiences of the children and young people at the heart of all of its activity. The inspection report had also acknowledged that the YOT had a deep and sound understanding of the current cohort of YOT cases and of their individual needs. The Head of

the Youth Justice Board confirmed the commitment of all partners on the YOT Management Board to deliver the actions detailed in the inspection action plan that would address the areas for improvement that had been highlighted by inspection.

The Assistant Director - Early Help and Family Engagement noted the excellent level of support received from the Youth Justice Board and welcomed the contribution that they would be making to support the delivery of the actions as set out in the Inspection Action Plan.

Jenny Lingrell, Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion reaffirmed that the health assessments would focus on both physical and mental health needs, and that the process would ensure that the outcomes of these assessments could be clearly evidenced and understood by all of those involved in the process.

Members noted their disappointment at the result of the inspection, having been previously given assurances on how well the YOT was functioning. Members however acknowledged the challenges that the remote inspection had created, the small number of cases reviewed out of a very complex cohort and that the YOT was still only part way through an improvement journey.

Members asked whether training was being planned to ensure that all members of the YOT Management Board were able to understand the specific needs of children known to the YOT and were able to advocate on their behalf in their own agencies. The Assistant Director advised that training would be delivered to YOT Management Board members to enable them to maximise the effectiveness of their roles. The Service Manager advised that the YOT Management Board had undergone a period of expansion to make its membership broader, and as such had more diverse membership of stakeholders, some of which did not have the background and deeper understanding of youth offending issues. The Service Manager advised that as such many of the Board members were still developing into their roles. The Service Manager advised that a varied and in depth training offer would be provided to enable the newer members gain a broader understanding of youth offending issues that would enable them to contribute fully to the workings of the Board.

Members asked how service users were involved with the YOT Management Board and how the Board used their experiences to shape service delivery. The Assistant Director advised that service user's experiences were central to the working of the YOT Management Board with service user feedback and other listening activities being widely used.

Members asked whether a skills audit had been completed for the members of the YOT Management Board to ensure that the Board was fully utilising the skills of its members. Members also asked whether former service users were involved in the governance role of the YOT

Management Board. The Assistant Director confirmed that a skills audit had been conducted and advised that at present former service users were not involved in the governance of the Board but noted that some former service users were employed in support roles in the YOT and that their experiences and input had been fed into service development.

Members asked about how the YOT worked with wider families to ensure that other family members did not start offending behaviour and to prevent offending behaviour becoming normal behaviour for those families. The Service Manager advised that this absolutely was a focus for the YOT. The Service Manager advised that the adoption of the Early Help assessment process had enabled a much more holistic approach to support to be taken as the assessment process for service users was much broader in its scope than the assessment process that had been used previously. The Service Manager advised that the new assessment process enabled consideration to be given to how other issues and the wider social environment may impact on a service user. The Service Manager advised that this broader approach enabled work to be carried out with the wider family and supported activity designed to prevent family members following into offending behaviour. Members asked that case studies regarding this area of the YOT's work be included in any future YOT updates to the Improving Lives Select Commission.

Members welcomed the focus on preventative work with families and noted the importance of working to break offending cycles of behaviour. Members asked for further information on the work that was carried out before young offenders were released from young offender institutions. The Service Manager advised that the YOT started working with and providing support to individuals before sentencing and then throughout their sentence in order to prepare them for release and reduce the risk of them reoffending.

The Chair asked what could be learned from the outcome of the inspection. The Deputy Leader advised that prior to the inspection that an improvement plan for the YOT had been being progressed, and that while the outcome of the inspection had been disappointing the inspection report hadn't highlighted any areas for improvement that had not already been included in the improvement plan for the service. The Chair noted these assurances and welcomed the speed in which the Inspection Action Plan had been put into place. The Chair asked how much confidence there the required activities included in the Inspection Plan being delivered. The Deputy Leader advised that he was as confident as he could be on the delivery on the Inspection Action Plan given the uncertainties surrounding the pandemic. The Deputy Leader advised that the Corporate Parenting Panel would be looking into the issue of the number of Looked After Children in the current YOT cohort.

The Head of the Youth Justice Board advised that there was the potential for a reinspection of the YOT within the next 12 months and noted that the Inspection Action Plan would ensure that the YOT would be fully prepared

for any future inspection.

The Chair thanked Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Neighbourhood Working, the Strategic Director – Children and Young People's Services, the Assistant Director - Early Help and Family Engagement and the Service Manager - Evidence Based Hub and Youth Offending Team for attending the meeting and answering members' questions.

The Chair also thanked Jenny Lingrell, Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion, Alison Cowie and Paul Theaker from Rotherham NHS/CCG, Catherine Barnett, Head of the Youth Justice Board (Yorkshire and the Humber Region) and Inspectors Nathalie Gilmour and Abdul Aziz of South Yorkshire Police for attending the meeting and answering members' questions.

**Resolved: -**

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That a progress report on the implementation of the Youth Offending Team Improvement Plan be brought to the July 2021 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission.
- 3) That the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Improving Lives Select Commission be consulted as part of the activities included in any future peer reviews conducted by the Youth Offending Service.

**135. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered its Work Programme for 2020/21.

**Resolved: -**

- 1) That the Work Programme be updated as discussed.
- 2) That the Work Programme for 2020/21 be approved.

**136. IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION - MONITORING REPORT**

The Committee considered the outstanding actions on the Monitoring Report.

**Resolved: -** That Monitoring Report be noted.

**137. IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION - SUB AND PROJECT GROUP UPDATES**

The Chair provided a progress report on sub and project group activity.

**Resolved:** - That the update be noted.

**138. URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

**139. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:** - That the next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on Tuesday 9 March 2021 at 5:30pm as a Microsoft Teams meeting.

# Improving Lives Select Commission

## Education - Covid-19 Response and Forward Planning

March 2020 – March 2021

# Introductions

- Nathan Heath, Interim Assistant Director Education.
- Aileen Chambers, Head of Service, Early Years and Childcare.
- Dean Fenton, Head of Access Services.
- Vicky Helliwell, Head of School Improvement



# Key areas of discussion

- Educational response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Updates across service areas and key areas of consideration.
- Forward planning and future areas of focus.
- Areas of concern and steps to address these.
- Post pandemic and a Rotherham response.





# Our Covid-19 response

- Our Education services have been at forefront of the Rotherham Covid response and the co-productive work with schools across pandemic has been a strength of this response.
- Work across key areas of challenge including Free School Meals, digital poverty, supporting schools to interpret multiple updates to statutory guidance, and Incident Management Team meetings (IMTs) have supported schools to have an expedient response to emerging critical issues.
- Education Services have adapted their offers to align new ways of working to make sure statutory responsibilities have been delivered effectively. This includes a strong offer recognised by Ofsted from the Virtual School
- RMBC has provided a strong leadership across all stages of the Covid-19 pandemic. This includes collaboration with DfE, Ofsted, and regional LA to address emerging challenges and support schools with future implementations of defined 'catch up' funding from central government.

# Areas of concern

- Increased numbers of EHE students at the start of this academic year raises concern around vulnerable students.
- Concerns are distinct around the wider impact that the Covid- 19 pandemic is having on the education of our children & young people. This includes significant gaps in missed education through school closures or reoccurring periods of self isolation.
- School staff wellbeing is a key challenge as response approach to pandemic has led to fatigue against fast moving pace of change or pressures on schools to continually adapt their offer against pandemic.
- Long term impact of pandemic on the education of vulnerable groups of students is still to be fully understood.
- Lack of assessment of students academic progress across all key stages in the period of the pandemic and into summer 2021 will inhibit understanding of the educational progression at key stages of educational transition.

# Early Years

- Early years and childcare sector have been fundamentally essential to the whole system approach across Rotherham in the pandemic.
- Resilience of sector remains challenging due to funding, take up of places, viability of businesses and Covid related pressures including parental anxieties, Covid testing processes & fatigue across sector from impact of pandemic.
- Support has been provided to sector through adaptations/enhancement of funding, ongoing LA led support approach, and collaboration across education phase.
- Medium term impact of the pandemic will need considered support to support improved take up of places especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Work across Early Years and Childcare sector to improve Speech and Language outcomes has continued across last year, this remains a key strategic priority.



# Primary

- Pandemic has significant impact across phase with low levels of attendance and disruption to educational progress across key stages.
- Schools have had key role in leading community response to pandemic and pivotal role in safeguarding system.
- Schools have adapted and moved quickly to a strong remote learning offer in the most recent national lockdown.
- Primary attendance is significantly higher in January 21 national lockdown across all vulnerable groups/critical workers.
- No assessment across primary key stages in 2020 or 2021.

# Secondary

- Significant impact on school attendance across Rotherham from challenges of the pandemic. This includes low attendance during 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown, impact of pandemic on school attendance in Autumn term reopening and lower than primary level attendance in January 21 national lockdown.
- Secondary school curriculum able to support move to remote learning in a more succinct way.
- No GCSE examinations in 2020 or 2021, centre assessed grades will determine academic progression.
- Schools have had significant role in leading community response to pandemic and pivotal role in safeguarding system.
- School leaders have offered strong levels of support to most vulnerable families across pandemic, working distinctly outside their educational remit to support emerging challenges including FSM, IT issues and manage the sustained impact of confirmed cases in school settings.



# Further Education/Higher Education

- Significant disruption across education and move away from face to face learning has been more defined and for longer periods in these educational areas.
- Practical learning subjects have had a clear impact and adjustments to courses will need to be made to support student education.
- A Levels and BTEC qualifications impacted in both 2020 and 2021.
- Transition for students into FE/HE education has had a clear impact and uncertainty across education areas raises continued concern around mental health and wellbeing of young people.
- Opportunities for young people driven by the skills agenda and Sheffield City Region workstreams will support future developments across these phases of education.



# Future areas of focus

- The mental health and wellbeing of our children, young people and those working in education settings, is essential to any response to Covid. Underpinning this needs to be a strong understanding of child and young person's experience of the pandemic which will support our recovery planning.
- Measurements of academic progress are yet to be determined for a number of cohorts, it is key that as a school community we support our most vulnerable students to overcome any barriers that the pandemic poses to future education progression .
- Role of key mechanisms including Rotherham Education Strategic Partnership and the SEND Board in driving a collaborative approach to Covid response is essential in holding strong support across system.
- A continued development of the co-productive partnership with parents and carers across any Covid recovery needs to be apparent. This will support work to address challenges around electively home education, anxieties impacting on attendance in school due to the pandemic and challenges embedded by the highly disruptive period in the education of our children and young people.
- Key work across Inclusion in Rotherham including the recent ISOS review have continued across the pandemic, and the implementation of the findings of this report will support further developments in enhancing inclusive practice in our schools.



# Any Questions?





**Work programme – Improving Lives Select Commission UPDATED: 26 February 2021**

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
16 June	Response to Domestic Abuse during the pandemic	To receive an update on the Council's work regarding domestic abuse during the pandemic.	<b>Resolved: -</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the report be noted.</li> <li>2) That up to date figures on Domestic Abuse Incidents, Domestic Abuse Response (referrals) and Domestic Abuse Commissioned Service Caseloads be circulated to the members of the Improving Lives Select Commission in four weeks' time.</li> <li>3) That information on the number of Domestic Abuse incidents and referrals for support services relating to male victims of Domestic Abuse during the pandemic. be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.</li> </ol>
	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>	<b>Resolved: -</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the report be noted.</li> <li>2) That the Children and Young People's Services Vision Tracker continues to be circulated on a monthly basis.</li> <li>3) That the Children and Young People's Services Vision Tracker, along with the monthly scorecards be circulated to all members of the Council.</li> <li>4) That after receiving the Children and Young People's Services Vision Tracker and the monthly scorecards, members of the Improving Lives Select Commission should, if required, request a meeting with lead officers to undertake a performance clinic type discussion based on the particular measures or interest or concern.</li> <li>5) That the revised methods of monitoring performance be reviewed at the June 2021 meeting of the</li> </ol>

			Improving Lives Select Commission.
	Re-referrals and repeat child protection planning - Progress report	To provide a progress report on actions that had been taken regarding re-referrals and repeat child protection planning	<b>Resolved -</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the report be noted.</li> <li>2) That a progress report on re-referrals and repeat child protection planning be provided at the December 2020 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission.</li> <li>3) That information on the outputs and development opportunities highlighted by the audit work completed in relation to re-referrals be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.</li> </ol>
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme	<b>Resolved: -</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the Work Programme be updated as discussed.</li> <li>2) That the Work Programme for 2020/21 be approved.</li> </ol>
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	<b>Resolved: -</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the update be noted.</li> <li>2) That the scope for the review of Early Help be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission once completed.</li> </ol>

	ILSC Monitoring Report	To monitor the progress of recommendations made by ILSC.	<b>Resolved: -</b>  That the Governance Advisor makes the required follow up activity as required for the outstanding actions.
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28 July	Update on LAC Sufficiency	To monitor progress and to assess any impact on capacity due to Covid-19.	<b>Resolved: -</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the progress made in delivery of the LAC Sufficiency Strategy be noted.</li> <li>2) That the risk that demand for placements will increase as lockdown eases be noted, and, that in addition to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission monitoring performance in this area using the established performance monitoring procedures, that managers proactively raise any concerns that they have with the Improving Lives Select Commission if they arise.</li> <li>3) That a summary of the meeting with the National House Project be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.</li> </ol>
	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 this reduced cohort of young offenders.</p>	<b>Resolved: -</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the report be noted.</li> <li>2) That a further report be brought to the 22 September 2020 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission to provide assurances around changing demand for Youth Offending Services 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.</li> <li>3) That further information on the Mentors in Violence programme be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.</li> <li>4) That a more detailed narrative in regard to table 13a of the Youth Offending Performance Report, as included in the agenda pack, be circulated to the members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.</li> </ol>

	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.	<b>Resolved: -</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the Work Programme be updated as discussed.</li> <li>2) That the Work Programme for 2020/21 be approved.</li> </ol>
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	<b>Resolved: -</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the update be noted.</li> <li>2) That the scope for the review of Early Help be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission and that members of the commission contact the Governance Advisor with expressions of interest for taking part in the review.</li> </ol>
	ILSC Monitoring Report	To monitor the progress of recommendations made by ILSC.	<b>Resolved: -</b> <p>That the Governance Advisor makes the required follow up activity as required for the outstanding actions.</p>

<b>22 September</b>	Youth Offending Team	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.	<b>Resolved: -</b>  1) That the report be noted.
	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.	<b>Resolved: -</b>  2) That the report be noted.  3) That a further progress report be brought to the December 2020 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission.
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.	<b>Resolved: -</b>  1) That the Work Programme be updated as discussed.  2) That the Work Programme for 2020/21 be approved.
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	<b>Resolved: -</b>  That the update be noted.
	ILSC Monitoring Report	To monitor the progress of recommendations made by ILSC.	<b>Resolved: -</b>  That the Governance Advisor makes the required follow up activity as required for the outstanding actions.

27 October	Rotherham Education Strategic Partnership	<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>	<p><b>Resolved: -</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the report be noted.</li> <li>2) That it be recommended that Elective Home Education be a priority area for the Rotherham Education Partnership.</li> <li>3) That information on the revised priorities for the Rotherham Education Partnership and the timeline for their implementation be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.</li> </ol>
	Elective Home Education	To seek assurance that children who are elective home educated are being effectively safeguarded/educated	<p><b>Resolved: -</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the report be noted.</li> <li>2) That the recent Department for Education briefing on Elective Home Education be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.</li> <li>3) That the structure chart and the procedural process document for the Elective Home Education Service be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.</li> <li>4) That once completed, the detailed analysis of the current cohort of children in Elective Home Education in Rotherham be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.</li> <li>5) That the most up to date information on exam entry and progression to further education of children who have received Elective Home Education be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.</li> </ol>

	Domestic Abuse Strategy – Progress Report	To provide a progress report of the strategy and assurance around procedures around stalking and harassment.	<b>Resolved: -</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the report be noted</li> <li>2) That information on the number of non-molestation orders issued in 2020 be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission</li> <li>3) That members of the Improving Lives Select Commission are involved in the development of the new Domestic Abuse Strategy.</li> </ol>
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme	<b>Resolved: -</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the Work Programme be updated as discussed.</li> <li>2) That the Work Programme for 2020/21 be approved.</li> </ol>
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	<b>Resolved: -</b> That the update be noted.
	ILSC Monitoring Report	To monitor the progress of recommendations made by ILSC.	<b>Resolved: -</b> That the Governance Advisor makes the required follow up activity as required for the outstanding actions.



15 December	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 22 September 2020.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the report be noted.</li> <li>2. That a further report be circulated to the members of the Improving Lives Select Commission by the Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services if any significant concerns or challenges arise surrounding children's social care service in the light of Covid-19 pandemic.</li> <li>3. That the service development plan created as a result of the OFSTED Focused Assurance Visit be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission</li> </ol>
	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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the report be noted.</li> <li>2. That a progress report on the actions arising from the SEND Peer Challenge be presented at the December 2021 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission.</li> <li>3. That the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Improving Lives Select Commission discuss the content, format and frequency of future reports on SEND with the Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion, Children and Young People's Services.</li> <li>4. That the SEND service plan be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.</li> </ol>
	Rotherham Children's Safeguarding Partnership – Annual Report	To receive and consider the annual report.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership - Annual Report 2019-20 be received and noted.</li> <li>2. That the format of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership - Annual Report 2020-21 be reviewed in order to make the content clearer and more accessible for a wider audience.</li> <li>3. That the submission of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership - Annual Report 2020-21 to the Improving Lives Select Commission in December 2021 be supplemented with a presentation.</li> </ol>

			<p>4. That the refreshed Neglect Strategy be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission when it is completed.</p> <p>5. That the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership's response to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel national thematic review into non-accidental injury into children aged under one be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission once completed.</p>
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.	<b>Resolved: -</b> 1) That the Work Programme be updated as discussed. 2) That the Work Programme for 2020/21 be approved.
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	<b>Resolved: -</b>  That the update be noted.
	ILSC Monitoring Report	To monitor the progress of recommendations made by ILSC	<b>Resolved: -</b>  That the Governance Advisor makes the required follow up activity as required for the outstanding actions.

26 January	YOT Inspection Report	To provide information on the recent inspection of the YOT and to advise of the Council's response to the recommendations. Representatives of delivery partners to be invited to the meeting.	<b>Resolved: -</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the report be noted.</li> <li>2) That a progress report on the implementation of the Youth Offending Team Improvement Plan be brought to the July 2021 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission.</li> <li>3) That the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Improving Lives Select Commission be consulted as part of the activities included in any future peer reviews conducted by the Youth Offending Service.</li> </ol>
	Adult Safeguarding Annual Report	To receive and consider the annual report.	<b>Resolved: -</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the report be noted.</li> <li>2) That the Independent Chair of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adult's Board attends the July 2021 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission to present a report on how the Board is working to identify and support hidden female victims of violence.</li> <li>3) That the report presented at the July 2021 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission also includes an analysis of cases that resulted in no further action being taken.</li> </ol>
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.	<b>Resolved: -</b> That the Work Programme be updated as discussed. That the Work Programme for 2020/21 be approved.
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	<b>Resolved: -</b> That the update be noted.
	ILSC Monitoring Report	To monitor the progress of recommendations made by ILSC.	<b>Resolved: -</b> That the Governance Advisor makes the required follow up activity as required for the outstanding actions

9 March	School Performance	Annual item – Focus to be discussed with Assistant Director.  Invitation to Regional Schools Commissioner to attend meeting	
	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.	

22 March	CYPS Performance Monitoring	To receive an overview of performance against key performance indicators across CYPS.	
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## Items pending scheduling or removal

Item	Details	Status
Missing from Home/Education (Update from Strategic Missing Group)	Progress report	To be scheduled
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.</p> <p>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>	To be scheduled
Youth Offending Team – Service Provision	To look at the processes and journey that young people go through who are accessing YOT services	To be scheduled
CYPS Directorate workforce strategy	Progress report	Focus to be discussed before scheduling
Re-referrals and repeat child protection planning – Progress report	<p>Resolved at June 2020 meeting to receive a progress report at December 2020 meeting.</p> <p>Nov 2020 – Rescheduled to March 2021</p> <p>Feb 2021 – Chair deferred item as data on this was not highlighting an areas of additional concern.</p>	To be scheduled
Mental Health and Digital Exclusion amongst young people.	Resolved at December 2020 HSC “That the Improving Lives Select Commission investigate young patients’ access to technology with a view to preventing their digital exclusion from accessing mental health services.”	To be scheduled

## To be scheduled during 2021/22

Item	Details	Status
Rotherham Education Strategic Partnership	Resolved in June 2019 - That the evaluation of the Early Years Home Visiting Project be submitted to this Commission.	To be scheduled December 2021 meeting.
Pause Progress report	Resolved in March 2020 to bring a further report after May 2021.	To be scheduled after May 2021
Rotherham Children's Safeguarding Partnership – Annual Report	Annual item	To be scheduled December 2021 meeting
YOT Improvement Plan	Resolved at January 2021 meeting to receive a progress update.	To be scheduled for July 2021 meeting
Post-CSE Support	To receive the report from the sub-group of ILSC on Post-CSE Support.	To be scheduled for June 2021 meeting
Adult Safeguarding	<p>Resolved at January 2021 meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Independent Chair of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adult's Board attends the July 2021 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission to present a report on how the Board is working to identify and support hidden female victims of violence.</li> <li>2. That the report presented at the July 2021 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission also includes an analysis of cases that resulted in no further action being taken.</li> </ol>	<p>To be scheduled for July 2021 meeting</p> <p>To schedule Adult Safeguarding report December 2021 meeting.</p>
SEND	Resolved December 2020 to request an update	To be scheduled December 2021 meeting
Impact of School closures during the pandemic.	To use the survey results received from children and young people to inform topics for scrutiny during 2021/22	To feed into development of 2021/22 Work Programme.
Domestic Abuse Strategy	To follow up from the meeting held where ILSC members were invited to input into the refresh of the Domestic Abuse Strategy.	To be scheduled or linked into OSMB pre-decision work.

**IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS – IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING SCHEDULE**  
**UPDATED: 12 February 2021**

Decision Date	Item	Scrutiny Recommendation	Completion date for actions	Action/Response Completed	Further action required by Scrutiny
27 October 2020	Rotherham Education Strategic Partnership	That it be recommended that Elective Home Education be a priority area for the Rotherham Education Partnership.  That information on the revised priorities for the Rotherham Education Partnership and the timeline for their implementation be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.	<b>Completed</b>	Information circulated to members 12/02/21	
15 December 2020	Children's social care service in the light of Covid-19 pandemic – Progress Report	That the service development plan created as a result of the OFSTED Focused Assurance Visit be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission	<b>TBC</b>	Chased up 12/01 – Plan currently being updated – Will be circulated to members once completed in early February.	
15 December 2020	Progress report on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the SEND Peer Review conducted in March 2020	That the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Improving Lives Select Commission discuss the content, format and frequency of future reports on SEND with the Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion, Children and Young People's Services.  That the SEND service plan be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.	<b>TBC</b>	Chased up 12/01  The plan is currently being updated and will be circulated in February	



**IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS – IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING SCHEDULE**  
**UPDATED: 12 February 2021**

Decision Date	Item	Scrutiny Recommendation	Completion date for actions	Action/Response Completed	Further action required by Scrutiny
15 December 2020	Rotherham Children's Safeguarding Partnership – Annual Report	<p>That the refreshed Neglect Strategy be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission when it is completed.</p> <p>That the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership's response to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel national thematic review into non-accidental injury into children aged under one be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission once completed.</p>	TBC	<p>12/01/21</p> <p>Ready end April/early May.</p> <p>National report not out until Spring. To be circulated May 2021.</p>	

## Sub and Project Group Work

Updated: 26 February 2021

Project	Details	Status
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)	<b>January 2021</b> – Meetings with other local authorities have commenced,  Subgroup to be comprised of Councillors Cusworth, Clark and Andrews.
Liquid Logic	One off spotlight review to provide assurance to members on how the system is working in CYPs.	<b>February 2021</b> – Briefing will be scheduled before end of March 2021.
Domestic Abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic Homicide Review</li> <li>Stalking and Harassment</li> <li>Domestic Abuse Service Principles</li> </ul>	Referral from OSMB and January 2019 ILSC	To schedule (awaiting update from Home Office on domestic homicide).  To agree actions to complete the review.
Food Poverty/Holiday Hunger		<b>February 2021</b> - Briefing note received from Cabinet Member and Jackie Mould. Questions from members submitted. Next steps TBC once responses to questions have been received.
Early Help Offer	Resolved in October 2019  That a sub-group be established to undertake further scrutiny of the early help offer.	Scope completed
Court Procedures (pre-proceedings)	Resolved on 30/04/19 - To scrutinise if progress/milestones are being reached – follow on from earlier work	Spotlight review to be scheduled