

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

- Date and Time :-** Tuesday 26 October 2021 at 10.00 a.m.
- Venue:-** Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.
- Membership:-** Councillors Pitchley (Chair), Cooksey (Vice Chair), Andrews, Aveyard, Barley, Bacon, Browne, C Carter, Collingham, Elliott, Griffin, Haleem, Hughes, Khan, Monk, Singleton, Thompson and Wilson

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 9:15am**

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Minutes of the meetings held on 21 September and 5 October 2021 (Pages 3 - 20)

To consider and approve the minutes of the meetings held on 21 September 5 October 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. Proposal to amend the start time of meetings to 5pm

To vote on the proposal made by Councillor Barley that the start time of meetings of the Improving Lives Select Commission should be moved to 5pm.

8. SEND (Special Education Needs and Disability) Sufficiency Progress Report (Pages 21 - 27)

9. Children's Mental Health

Documents to follow

10. Work Programme (Pages 29 - 39)

To consider and approve the Commission's Work Programme.

11. Improving Lives Select Commission - Sub and Project Group Updates (Page 41)

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.

12. Urgent Business

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

13. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on Tuesday 7 December 2021 commencing at 10am in Rotherham Town Hall.



Sharon Kemp,
Chief Executive.

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday 21 September 2021

Present:- Councillor Pitchley (in the Chair); Councillors Cooksey, The Mayor (Councillor Jenny Andrews), Aveyard, Barley, Browne, C Carter, Collingham, R. Elliott, Haleem, Hughes, Khan, Monk, Singleton, Thompson and Wilson.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Burnett and Griffin.

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

21. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27 JULY 2021

Resolved: - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission, held on 27 July 2021 be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

23. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items that required the exclusion of the public or press.

24. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

25. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

26. YOT HMIP INSPECTION ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, the Assistant Director - Early Help and Business Support and the Service Manager - Youth Offending Team and Evidence Based Hub attended the meeting to provide a progress report on the Youth Offending Team (YOT) Inspection Action Plan that had been put into place following the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) inspection of the Rotherham Youth Offending Team that had taken place in September 2020.

The report stated 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. The Inspection report had been published on 17 December 2020 with the Overall judgement being "Requires Improvement". The inspection report had made five recommendations that were:

The Chair of the YOT Management Board should:

1. 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:

2. 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.
3. Undertake a comprehensive health needs analysis of YOT children to better understand the health provision being delivered and what needs to be developed.
4. 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:

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

In response to the outcome of the inspection report an action plan had been put into place to address the areas of concern. It was noted that of the 46 identified actions contained in the plan that 43 had been completed. The full action plan was attached as an appendix to the officer's report.

In introducing the report, the Service Manager - Youth Offending Team and Evidence Based Hub noted the significant progress that had been made against the objectives contained in the plan to address the five recommendations that had been made in the inspection report including the development of the role of the YOT Board and its members, and the training that had been provided for YOT Board members and YOT staff. It was noted that this development work would be continued and developed moving forwards.

The Service Manager provided information around the activity that had been carried out to develop and improve management oversight and risk management processes in the YOT. The Service Manager advised that the recording processes used by the YOT had been overhauled so as to

enable information and data related to cases to be recorded in such a way that all actions could be clearly seen, and assurance could be given on the work that was being carried out with each individual. The Service Manager emphasised that the concerns of the inspectors was that the activity being carried out across the YOT service was not being adequately recorded, and not that quality of activity that the service was providing was inadequate itself.

Members noted that while the inspection report had highlighted areas for improvement across the three areas that had been inspected, the improvement action plan only appeared to address issues related to Domain Three (Out of Court Disposals). The Service Manager advised that the inspection that had been carried out had only examined 10 cases across the YOT cohort and that the main concern of the inspectors had been around the recording of activity being carried out with young people, and not in regard to actual activity being out. The Service Manager advised that she was confident that if the service were to be reinspected that the changes to processes that had been made would mean that the service would be able to clearly evidence the work that was being carried out by the YOT across the cohort.

Members noted the high proportion of Looked After Children (LAC) in the current YOT cohort and asked for further information on the work that was being carried out to reduce the numbers of LAC entering the criminal justice system.

The Service Manager advised that significant work had been carried out by the YOT in order to gain an increased understanding of the experiences and needs of LAC in the YOT cohort. The Service Manager noted that in many cases that the offending behaviour carried out by young people who entered the criminal justice system was directly related to the trauma surrounding their entry into the care system, and that in other cases a young person had entered the care system due to issues surrounding their offending behaviour. The Service Manager assured members that work was continuing with the YOT Board and the Corporate Parenting Panel in order to ensure that the needs of LAC were adequately addressed and that the numbers of LAC across the YOT cohort were reduced. The Assistant Director - Early Help and Business Support assured members that of the current YOT cohort of 177 only 17 were LAC. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services noted that this issue was an area of focus and was on the work programme of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Members sought assurance that the activities surrounding information sharing with the YOT Board, as detailed in the action plan, were ongoing activities. The Service Manager advised that presentations that detailed case studies, cohort information and learning opportunities were, and would continue to be shared with the YOT Board via a quarterly performance report.

Members asked how the analysis of health needs across the cohort and the development of the service pathway had improved outcomes across the cohort. The Service Manager detailed an example where a young person had entered the criminal justice system as a result of behaviour linked to their difficulties in expressing themselves and how the initial highlighting of these needs through a thorough screening process had enabled the delivery of speech and language support. The Service Manager advised that with the right questions being asked at the outset that this had ensured that the correct services and interventions that were needed to support the young person had been able to be delivered in a timely manner.

Members asked if there was an agreement in place with foster carers in the Borough that they would not involve the police with regard to certain minor incidents involving LAC. The Assistant Director – Children’s Social Care, who was in attendance at the meeting advised that discussions took place with foster carers and residential homes regarding the circumstances where it may not provide the best outcome for a child or young person if the police were involved in a relatively minor incident. The Assistant Director – Children’s Social Care noted however than as incidents could happen outside of the residential setting that the involvement of the police could not always be avoided. Members were assured that work was carried out with the police in order to ensure that incidents regarding LAC were always dealt with in an appropriate and proportionate manner. The Service Manager noted the National Protocol and the 10 Point Plan that was in place to reduce offending behaviour by LAC.

Members welcomed the improvements that had been put into place across the YOT as a result of the outcome of the inspection and asked how the improvements in performance would be maintained. The Service Manager detailed the numerous methods of performance monitoring and management that were used including reporting to the YOT Board, the CYPS Performance Monitoring Scorecard and the regular performance meetings held with the Assistant Director - Early Help and Business Support and the Strategic Director – Children and Young People’s Services. The Service Manager noted however that the broader outcomes from YOT work, where the service had prevented offending or made a positive difference to a young person’s life were harder to measure and record.

The Assistant Director noted the 43 completed actions out of the 46 actions that were contained in the action plan and assured members that the YOT Board were rigorous in their role of ensuring that all actions were completed to the required high standard. The Cabinet Member noted previous activity conducted by the Improving Lives Select Commission that had involved members getting beneath the figures in order to hear first-hand how the YOT had delivered services and made a positive impact on young people’s lives.

Members sought further information on the early intervention and preventative work that was carried out by the YOT and asked what work was conducted with schools who may identify children who were demonstrating potential behaviours that may put them at risk of entering the criminal justice system. The Cabinet Member noted the significant increase in partnership working and how by working with the Early Help team and South Yorkshire Police that the YOT was able to ensure an effective and coordinated delivery of preventative and early intervention activity.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, the Assistant Director - Early Help and Business Support and the Service Manager - Youth Offending Team and Evidence Based Hub for attending the meeting and answering member questions.

Resolved: -

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That a further report be brought to the March 2022 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission to provide a progress report on the implementation of the YOT Inspection Action Plan.
- 3) That a briefing for members of the Improving Lives Select Commission be arranged in order to provide an overview of the work of the YOT and to detail how it has positively impacted on the lives of the children and young people that it has worked with.

27. ONE ADOPTION SOUTH YORKSHIRE - IMPACT REPORT

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services and the Assistant Director – Children's Social Care attended meeting to provide a report on the impact of the One Adoption South Yorkshire regional adoption agency since its launch on 1 January 2021.

In introducing the report, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services noted that the launch of the new regional adoption agency involved a significant amount of planning and development as it had been essential that the new agency continued to deliver the high levels of service for children and adoptive families that had been provided by the Rotherham adoption agency.

The Assistant Director – Children's Social Care advised that One Adoption South Yorkshire was a 'partnership' model Regional Adoption Agency where the majority staff, apart from a small hub of administrative and strategic staff, remained employed by their original local authority. It was noted that this approach both enabled staff to retain their terms and conditions, and for each local authority involved to gain the benefits and efficiencies of pooled resources in order to maximize outcomes for children and adopters. The Assistant Director advised that the Regional

Adoption Agency approach was now widespread across the country.

The Assistant Director noted that a set of targets and performance indicators to measure the performance of the new regional agency over its first year of operation had been agreed. The Assistant Director advised further that as the new agency had only been in operation for eight months, and as a full year of data wasn't available, early analysis of available data had shown that the new agency was on track to meet its performance targets across all of its key performance targets.

It was noted that targets had been set around the following objectives.

- the recruitment of adopters.
- the number of children placed for adoption.
- the reduction of the number of interagency placements.
- the delivery of post-adoption support.

The Assistant Director advised that despite the challenges created by the pandemic, that the key area of activity surrounding the recruitment of adopters had continued throughout the period with indicators showing that the new agency was on track to meet its target of recruiting 92 new adoptive families during the year. The Assistant Director advised that with regard to interagency placements that the trends were looking positive with fewer interagency placements for children from Rotherham than in the comparable period during 2020. The Assistant Director noted that while it was important to reduce the number of costly interagency placements and to keep as many children as possible in the local area, interagency placements would always be needed in order to ensure that each child was placed with the most suitable family for their needs.

The Assistant Director provided information around the provision of, and development of effective post-adoption support, noting that it was essential that potential adopters knew that support was available to them whenever they may require it in the future. The Assistant Director advised that the completion of the legal adoption process was never the end of the adoption process, and as each child would always retain a connection with their birth family it was essential that tailored and effective post-adoption support was in always place in order to ensure that each child's and family's needs were effectively met.

The Assistant Director detailed the key areas of focus for the new agency moving forwards including the recruitment of a diverse range of adoptive families and the further development of post-adoption support for children, adoptive families and birth families.

Members asked for further information on the activity that was being carried out to recruit a more diverse and representative range of adoptive families. The Assistant Director advised that this activity was a work in

progress but noted that activity included having literature available in a range of languages, promotion via social media, radio and bus advertising, as well as utilising the knowledge and connections of agency staff. The Cabinet Member advised that elected members could help with the recruitment of adopters by sharing social media posts with their followers in their local communities.

Members asked how the type of support provided post-adoption compared to the support provided to foster carers. The Assistant Director stated that once the legal adoption process had been completed there would no longer be a social worker involved with the family as the adopter had taken on all legal responsibility for a child, and as such had the same rights and responsibilities as any parent and their birth child. The Assistant Director advised that all adopters were able to access post-adoption support, including access to therapeutic support at any time up until child was aged 18. The Assistant Director noted that post-adoption support was provided for the first three years after adoption by the local authority who had managed the original adoption process, and after three years support was provided by the local authority where the child lived. It was noted that adoptive parents, like all parents could access support via Early Help or Social Care if required.

Members noted that the report had stated that post-adoption support in Rotherham had a smaller resource due to a different approach to delivery than in other local authority areas and asked for further information on how this approach differed. The Assistant Director advised that in Rotherham post-adoption support had been managed by purchasing bespoke services from providers for each child and family, whereas the approach taken in other areas had been to employ staff directly to provide the post-adoption support.

Members noted that the new model of delivery for One Adoption South Yorkshire appeared to be complex and sought assurance that the new regional adoption agency was working effectively. The Assistant Director advised that while the operation of the new agency could appear complex, assured members that in reality it was much simpler than it appeared and was performing and functioning well. The Assistant Director advised that the new regional agency created greater resilience across the service, enabled the sharing of best practice over a wider area and created more opportunities to recruit potential adopters.

Members sought further information regarding how the performance targets for One Adoption South Yorkshire had been arrived at an agreed. The Assistant Director advised that the agreed performance targets had been established by looking at the past performance of the four agencies that made up One Adoption South Yorkshire and by predicting what improvements in performance could be expected by the creation of the new agency. The Assistant Director advised that these targets would be amended for future years to in order to reflect the actual performance of the regional agency. The Assistant Director also noted that it had been

difficult to set targets due to the impact of the pandemic. For example, that while the recruitment of adopters had continued throughout the pandemic, the processes involved had taken longer to complete than would have normally been expected.

The Chair asked if there were particular groups in society where it was more challenging to recruit potential adopters from. The Assistant Director noted that there was a national shortage of adoptive families from BAME backgrounds and that this was also a problem across South Yorkshire. The Assistant Director advised that the recruitment of all types of adopters was constantly challenging and that it was essential that there was a clear message that all types of families and individuals could adopt and could come forward as potential adopters.

Members asked that as One Adoption South Yorkshire was a shared service across Rotherham, Sheffield, Doncaster and Barnsley, whether there would be any joint scrutiny of the service. The Cabinet Member advised that she would discuss how procedures around the monitoring of work of the new agency was monitored could be facilitated most effectively with her counterparts in the other authorities

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, the Assistant Director – Children's Social Care for attending the meeting and answering member questions.

Resolved: -

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That a report on the performance of the One Adoption South Yorkshire regional adoption agency be brought to the September 2022 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission.
- 3) That consideration be given to how all elected members can be involved in promoting the work of One Adoption South Yorkshire in their wards and in encouraging potential adoptive parents to come forward.

28. HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME EASTER AND SUMMER 2021 UPDATE

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, the Assistant Director - Early Help and Business Support, the Outreach and Engagement Manager and the Outreach and Engagement Senior Practitioner attended the meeting to provide a report on the operation of the activities provided by the Council's Healthy Holidays programme that had been funded by the Government's Holiday Activities Fund Grant over the Easter and Summer holidays. The report stated that the purpose of the grant was for local authorities to make free places at holiday clubs available in the Easter, Summer, and Christmas school holidays in 2021

for children who were eligible for, and received benefits-related free school meals.

In introducing the report, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services noted the success of the Healthy Holidays programme and how the offer provided by Rotherham that had been funded by the Government's Holiday Activities Fund Grant had been a much more comprehensive offer by than similar schemes offered by other local authorities. The Cabinet Member noted the successful visit from the Department for Education that had taken place during August where officials had been shown the Healthy Holidays programme in Rotherham and who had given excellent feedback on the scheme.

The Cabinet Member noted her thanks to Amy Woodhead the Outreach and Engagement Manager for ensuring the smooth running and successful delivery of the Healthy Holidays programme and to the Catering Service and volunteers from Rotherham Heroes for preparing and delivering the meals that had been an integral part of the successful delivery of the programme.

The Outreach and Engagement Manager and the Outreach and Engagement Senior Practitioner made a presentation to the meeting that provided information on:

- the Holiday Activities and Food Programme grant including eligibility criteria and the minimum requirements of what local authorities needed to provide.
- how delivery partners including Rotherham Heroes, the Early Help team, the school meals service and Voluntary Action Rotherham, amongst others had played an integral part in the delivery of the Healthy Holidays programme.
- how the programme had been delivered over the Easter and Summer holidays.
- the types of activities that had been offered as part of the programme.
- the positive feedback that had been received from both children and parents regarding the programme.
- the planning activity that was taking place in preparation of the delivery of the programme during the Christmas holidays.

The Chair and members welcomed the report noting the positive feedback that they had received regarding the Healthy Holidays programme from residents. Members noted that the scheme had given children a welcome opportunity to spend time away from screen, relax and to make new friends whilst participating in a wide variety of activities.

Members noted that the Council had not been given specific targets regarding the number of children who attended the holiday clubs but asked whether the monitoring of uptake that had been carried out had shown any areas of the Borough where attendance had been lower than had been hoped. The Outreach and Engagement Manager advised that the full analysis of attendance had not yet been completed but assured members that work would be done to increase attendance in areas where attendance had been lower. The Outreach and Engagement Manager advised that once complete the information on attendance and uptake would be circulated to the members of the committee.

Members asked if there had been any confirmation received from the Government regarding the continuation of the funding to deliver holiday activities after the current funding ended with the delivery of a programme over the Christmas holidays. The Outreach and Engagement Manager advised that no decision had yet been made by Government but that the Department for Education had advised that they were hopeful that a decision would be communicated with local authorities by mid-November 2021.

Members asked what procedures were in place regarding a child's attendance on the programme if their entitlement to Free School Meals ended part way through a holiday period. The Outreach and Engagement Manager advised that in such circumstances each case would be examined on a case-by-case basis, noting that it was always better for a child to continue their attendance on the programme if at possible. The Outreach and Engagement Manager advised that if members had any enquiries regarding continued eligibility for a child that they should contact the team directly for advice and guidance.

The Assistant Director - Early Help and Business Support noted the importance in the delivery of holiday activity schemes aimed towards a particular group to be delivered as part of a universal offer, with this approach supporting community cohesion and helping to avoid the risk of stigmatisation of those children attending. The Assistant Director noted that ideally the delivery of the activities offered through the Healthy Holidays scheme should be normal activity for local authorities and not be seen as a one-off provision made in exceptional circumstances. The Assistant Director noted his thanks to all of those who had been involved in the successful delivery of the programme.

The Cabinet Member assured members that work was being carried out to see what types of activities could be offered during school holidays in the future, noting that it was never acceptable for any child to go hungry during the school holidays.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, the Assistant Director - Early Help and Business Support the Outreach and Engagement Manager and the Senior Family Support

Worker for attending the meeting and answering member questions.

Resolved: -

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That the information collated regarding attendance and uptake around the programme of activities delivered via the Holiday Activities Fund Grant be circulated to the members of the Improving Lives Select Commission as soon as it is available.

29. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its Work Programme for 2021/22.

Resolved: - That the Work Programme for 2020/21 be approved.

30. 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.

31. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

32. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on Tuesday 5 October 2021 at 5pm at Rotherham Town Hall.

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IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday 5 October 2021

Present:- Councillor Pitchley (in the Chair); Councillors Cooksey, Aveyard, C Carter, Griffin, Haleem, Khan, Monk, Thompson and Wilson.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors The Mayor (Councillor Jenny Andrews), Barley, Bacon, Browne, Collingham, R. Elliott and Singleton.

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

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

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

34. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items that required the exclusion of the public or press.

35. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

36. SAFEGUARDING AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

The Strategic Director - Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and the Assistant Director - Adult Care and Integration attended the meeting to provide a report and make a presentation on the provision of Adult Safeguarding activity in Rotherham.

In introducing the presentation, the Strategic Director - Adult Care, Housing and Public Health advised that the presentation would provide an overview on the role of Adult Care in delivering positive Adult Safeguarding protection and prevention activities.

The Assistant Director - Adult Care and Integration delivered a presentation that provided information on:

- the definition of Safeguarding and how this related to the Care Act 2014.
- the objectives of Adult Safeguarding activity.
- the duties and responsibilities placed on Local Authorities with regard to Adult Safeguarding by the Care Act 2014.
- the statutory criteria that needed to be met for a “section 42” enquiry to be made under the Care Act 2014.
- the provision of non-statutory safeguarding enquires where the requirements under section 42 of the Care Act 2014 had not been

met.

- how the Council worked with partners in the delivery of its adult safeguarding functions.
- the different types of Adult Abuse that may be part of safeguarding enquiry.
- how safeguarding activity was made personal to each individual's needs.
- the current Adult Safeguarding caseload being managed in Rotherham.
- other key pieces of legislation relevant to the delivery of effective Adult Safeguarding.
- the different pathways that a safeguarding enquiry could follow in the delivery of services and support.
- the role of the Rotherham Adult Safeguarding Board (RSAB).

Members asked for further information on how effective the services delivered at Rotherham were, how services delivered compared to those delivered by other local authorities and how services were inspected. The Assistant Director noted that all local authorities recorded information relating to Adult Safeguarding slightly differently, and as such benchmarking performance against other authorities was not always straightforward. The Assistant Director advised that the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) carried out benchmarking activity across the region and that this activity would highlight any areas of activity that required attention at Rotherham.

The Assistant Director advised that the most important measure of performance was in ensuring that each individual involved in a safeguarding enquiry reached an outcome that they felt was right for them. The Assistant Director noted that over 90% of individuals advised that they felt satisfied with the ultimate outcome of the safeguarding enquiry that had been carried out for them.

The Strategic Director noted that unlike Children's Services, Adult Care Services were not currently subject to formal inspections, but advised that more formal inspections were planned to be introduced in the future, with Adult Safeguarding provision being part of these inspections. The Strategic Director advised that ADASS did conduct sector led reviews that were similar in scope and approach to peer reviews, that provided opportunities for learning and reflection. The Strategic Director advised however that due to the subjectivity of what success was with regarding to an Adult Safeguarding enquiry, measuring the success of actions and comparing them against a set of criteria was particularly difficult given the differing approaches to Adult Safeguarding activity taken by different local authorities.

Members sought assurance regarding how the Council worked with partners and the Adult Safeguarding Board in order to ensure that the most effective safeguarding activity that was possible was delivered. The Strategic Director assured members that all partners involved in delivering

Adult Safeguarding activity were fully committed and worked well together. The Strategic Director advised that the Independent Chair of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board was very knowledgeable and experienced with regard to Adult Safeguarding matters, and as such was able to effectively challenge the Strategic Director and other partners on how services were being delivered across Rotherham.

Members asked for further information regarding activity surrounding the raising of awareness of Adult Safeguarding issues in the Borough. The Assistant Director detailed the activities that had taken place to raise awareness including the promotion of the annual safeguarding week and regular social media activity. The Assistant Director noted that effective, accessible awareness raising, was an area where the RSAB and the Council did need to increase activity further. Members asked if awareness raising advertising was displayed in GP's surgeries and hospitals. The Assistant Director confirmed that these locations were used, but that due to the volume of other advertising materials in these locations it was very difficult to make advertising regarding Adult Safeguarding stand out. The Strategic Director advised that in response to members questions that she would raise issue of communication and awareness raising with the Independent Chair of RSAB.

Members sought further information on the number of referrals from sources such as GP's and dentists. The Assistant Director advised that whilst not as numerous as referrals from GP's, who played an important role in making referrals, Adult Safeguarding referrals had been received via dentists. The Strategic Director advised that all referral routes were monitored and reviewed by the RSAB as part of its performance monitoring role.

The Chair noted the significant number of Adult Safeguarding referrals that were submitted by the Police via their Safeguarding app that were not suitable for a safeguarding enquiry that were subsequently closed down as safeguarding enquires and transferred to the relevant Adult Care team for action. The Chair asked whether the recording of these referrals could be managed differently in order to show where the referral was ultimately dealt with rather than been shown as resulting in "no further action". The Assistant Director advised that the options around how to record these outcomes more clearly would be investigated. The Strategic Director assured members that all referrals submitted via the Police app were dealt with by the appropriate Adult Care pathway and reaffirmed that it was important that only appropriate referrals followed the Adult Safeguarding pathway.

Members sought further information around the processes involved in working with individuals who demonstrated self-neglect or who had personality disorders. Members sought assurance that the processes involved were able to gather a full picture of an individual's needs in circumstances where they may not be able to express and understand their own needs clearly. The Assistant Director advised that the

information given to social workers by individuals in these instances was never taken at face value, for example an individual may have stated that they were caring for themselves adequately, but the fact that a referral had been made, taken alongside other evidence about how they were living may suggest otherwise. The Assistant Director assured members social workers would always use their professional skills to gain a clear and accurate picture on an individual's needs.

Members asked how data gathered through the Adult Safeguarding referrals and procedures was used to gain further understanding of how well the service was performing. The Strategic Director assured members that data was analysed by management and the RSAB in order to monitor performance. The Assistant Director advised that underreporting of Adult Safeguarding cases was a concern, noting that many people did not recognise when a situation was an Adult Safeguarding issue, and as such the delivery of positive and proactive communication in all of Rotherham's communities regarding Adult Safeguarding needed to be developed further.

Members asked for further information on the approach taken of empowering individuals to take control of how services were provided to them and how this enabled them to move forward with their lives and achieve better outcomes. The Assistant Director stated that if an individual was in control of the actions that were being taken in response to their needs then they would gain increased confidence in themselves and that they would feel that their thoughts and wishes were valued. The Assistant Director advised that this approach of empowerment and confidence building was essential as it enabled individuals to take control of their lives and to move forward in a positive way. The Strategic Director advised that any intervention taken in delivering Adult Care services should always be based on an individual's strengths and delivering what was right for them, noting that this positive approach delivered the best possible outcomes for individuals. The Strategic Director assured members that while this approach was more challenging to deliver, staff had received training on focussing on each individual's strengths and what they wanted as an outcome from the services that were being delivered.

Members asked that case studies surrounding Adult Safeguarding be shared with members of the Improving Lives Select Commission to enable them to see how the processes surrounding Adult Safeguarding had worked to support individuals to move forwards with their lives. Members also requested that future reports received by the Improving Lives Select Commission should be focussed more specifically on how Adult Safeguarding services were delivered, and on the particular challenges faced with regard to Adult Safeguarding in Rotherham.

Members asked the Strategic Director and the Assistant Director what they believed to be the biggest challenges to be with regard to the delivery of Adult Safeguarding activity in Rotherham. The Assistant Director advised that the biggest challenge in delivering effective

safeguarding activity was in delivering on each individual's expectations and requirements. The Assistant Director advised that as each individual had different needs it was essential that the service delivery model and the available pathways were flexible and agile enough to respond to these varied needs.

The Strategic Director agreed that the biggest challenge faced was in ensuring that service provision delivered on the commitment to "make safeguarding personal". The Strategic Director noted that it was vital that each individual's specific needs always remained at the centre of any activity and decision making regarding the provision of services. The Strategic Director advised that it was always challenging, but essential when working with individuals to take the time to get to fully understand their situation and not to jump to conclusions about their needs or the services that should be provided. The Strategic Director emphasised that as it was not possible, unless in very specific circumstances via the courts, to compel an adult to take a specific course of action, and as such it was essential that the working practices that were in place enabled services, staff and those with safeguarding needs to work together constructively.

The Chair asked for further information regarding the upcoming Safeguarding Week that aimed to raise awareness of Safeguarding issues across the Borough and sought assurance that its activities would be accessible across all communities. The Strategic Director assured members that the activity planned for the week would be focussed on the specific issues in Rotherham and that it would be accessible to the different communities across the Borough.

Members sought assurance around the monitoring processes that were in place regarding medication not be given and missed care visits relating to the care that was provided to individuals in their homes by home care providers. The Strategic Director advised that incidents regarding an individual not receiving their medication as part of package of homecare would be investigated as an Adult Safeguarding enquiry as well as by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The Strategic Director advised that missed visits would be recorded and monitored by the Commissioning Team. The Strategic Director assured members that while disciplinary issues relating to staff were the responsibility of the home care provider, Adult Care would become involved if there were multiple concerns regarding an individual member of a home care provider's staff.

The Chair thanked the Strategic Director - Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and the Assistant Director - Adult Care and Integration for attending the meeting and answering member's questions.

Resolved: -

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That a further report regarding Adult Safeguarding, with a focus on the approach and activity being carried out in Rotherham, be brought to the April 2022 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission.
- 3) That an all-member seminar be delivered in order to share information and case studies on how Adult Safeguarding activity in Rotherham had impacted on the lives of individuals.
- 4) That the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, in consultation with relevant delivery partners, give consideration to how elected members can work to raise awareness of Adult Safeguarding issues within their communities.

37. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

38. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on Tuesday 26 October 2021 at 10am at Rotherham Town Hall.

Public Report
Improving Lives Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Commission – 26 October 2021

Report Title

SEND (Special Education Needs and Disability) Sufficiency

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Suzanne Joyner, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

Nathan Heath, Assistant Director, Education, and Inclusion
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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This outlines an update in relation to the implementation of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy in Rotherham including updates with SEND Sufficiency Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3.

Recommendations

1. That the Improving Lives Select Commission note the presentation and associated updates to SEND Sufficiency are noted.
2. That ongoing updates are provided to the Improving Lives Select Commission in relation SEND Sufficiency.
3. That updates to SEND Sufficiency needs assessment and associated links to SEND Strategy, Ofsted/CQC SEND Local Area Inspection will be provided to the Improving Lives Select Commission.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

1. <http://www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk/downloads/file/102/specialist-provision-in-rotherham-revised-march-2018-2021-sufficiency-assessment>
2. [SEND Sufficiency Strategic up-date \(rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk\)](http://www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk/SEND-Sufficiency-Strategic-up-date)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

SEND (Special Education Needs and Disability) Sufficiency Error! Reference source not found.

1. Background – What is the SEND Sufficiency?

1.1 Special Education Needs are defined within the Code of Practice 2015 as:

“A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her”.

“A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age or has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions”.

1.2 Rotherham Borough Council has a statutory duty under The Education Act 1996 Section 14(1) to ensure that it provides sufficient school places for all pupils who are resident within the Borough. It has specific duties to ensure that there is sufficient provision for pupils with SEND where an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan has determined that the provision should be met in designated specialist provision.

1.3 Our SEND Sufficiency Strategy set out a plan to look at meeting our emerging SEND provision needs against a structured profile of identified SEND needs in Rotherham.

1.4 Three phases of SEND Sufficiency aiming to address key areas of need against a context of increasing SEND demand.

1.5 Future phases of SEND Sufficiency will be informed by an updated needs analysis (January 2022) and ongoing allocations of SEND capital allocations from the DFE.

2. Key Issues – SEND Sufficiency Overview

2.1 Phase one completed: additional places in special schools.

2.2 Phase two 80% completed: resource units at mainstream schools, post-16 provision (and additional special school places based on identified need).

2.3 Phase three: Rebuild of Newman Upper School/ movement to Dinnington site. New SEMH Special School due for completion in 21/22 academic year (transferring students with EHCPs from AP).

2.4 Implementation for phase two is on track with places available from September 2021.

2.5 Phase three will:

- Enable the implementation of a new behaviour & inclusion pathway
- Reduce pressure created by deficits in Alternative Provision
- Reduce pressure created by children going out of authority in the medium term linked to SEMH needs.
- Support the system to recognise and respond to SEMH need effectively

2.6 SEND Sufficiency phase 1/2:

School / Setting and type of provision	Number of places created	Number of students in placements
Wales High School: Additional capacity within proposed Autism Unit	10 additional places	8 places
Milton School: Additional specialist places for children with Autism	10 additional places	10 places
Brinsworth School: Additional unit for children with MLD including 6th Form provision	15 places plus 5 sixth form	18 places
Thomas Rotherham College: Unit for post 16 Learners with Autism	20 places over 2 years	Due to open Spring term 22
Wickersley Partnership Trust: Primary SEMH unit	10 places	Due to open November 21
James Montgomery Academy Trust (Wath Victoria) : Primary Autism Unit	10 places	4
Aspire: Primary SEMH provision	10 places	10 places
Kelford: Highly Specialist Autism provision	5 places	5 places
Hilltop: Highly Specialist Autism provision	6 places	5 places
Willow Tree Academy: Primary SEMH 'turnaround' unit.	10 places	Due to open November 21

2.7 Dinnington SEND Campus – Newman Special School & SEMH Free School

- Phase 3 focused on creating a specialist SEND campus in Dinnington area of Rotherham combines rebuild of Newman Special, movement of upper part of Newman to Dinnington and developing Social, Emotional, Health Specialist setting in Rotherham.
- Newman special school move to Dinnington is on target for students to be onsite from November.
- Newman rebuild is in planning process and on schedule for 1 year programme linked to planning timescales. With proposed timeline of opening for spring term 2023.
- Free School provider process is ongoing with DFE.
- Timeline for Free School programme linked to building work is in Pre/Post opening process overseen by DFE.
- SEMH provision will address long term issue of children with EHCPs placed in PRU and support SEMH specialism been in available in Rotherham.
- Significant work with SEMH Free School provider to look at implementation work – key areas of current focus are building workstream, pupil funding, HR, and transition.
- Additional work actioned with DFE to support project implementation and this is aligned to clear process to support RMBC/Provider working toward a clear plan of delivery. .

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 N/A

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 N/A

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Ongoing work to refresh needs assessment and SEND strategy for early 2022 linked to key strategic elements:

- SEND Capital investment links to work around high needs budgets and this a developing area of national focus.
- Local Area SEND Ofsted/CQC inspection

- Opportunities to consider include further development of mainstream focused SEND provision and enhancement of provision to support pupils to have all needs met in Rotherham provision would inform any further rounds of SEND Sufficiency.
- National expectation of incoming DFE SEND Reforms and any impact this will have on SEND systems is to be noted and further updates to be provided to ILSC in due course.
- Key areas of development need to link to co-production and engagement with all stakeholders.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

6.1 N/A

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

7.1 N/A

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 Referenced within presentation.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Referenced within presentation.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Referenced within presentation.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 N/A

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Ongoing updates are provided to key stakeholders including Parent/carers forum, school leaders, Schools Forum, and other associated stakeholders.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 All areas of SEND Sufficiency report directly to SEND Sufficiency Board with all risks and mitigations accountable to the board.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Name, Job Title

*Report Author: Nathan Heath, Assistant Director, Education, and Inclusion,
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This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Glossary of terms

SEND – Special Education Need and Disability

EHC – Education Health and Care plan

DFE – Department for Education

AP/PRU – Alternative Education Provision and Pupil Referral Unit

CQC – Care Quality Commission

Resource Base – SEND specialist education unit setting within a mainstream school.

SEMH – Social, Emotional, Mental Health.

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Work programme – Improving Lives Select Commission – Updated 6 October 2021

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
15 June 2021	Pause Progress report	Resolved in March 2020 to bring a further report after May 2021.	That the report be noted.
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme	That the Work Programme be noted and updated as discussed.
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	That the report be noted.

27 July 2021	Adult Safeguarding	<p>Resolved at January 2021 meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That members of the Improving Lives Select Commission be further consulted on the development of the revised Domestic Abuse Strategy. 3. That further information on the number of incidents and their outcomes related to female genital mutilation and so called "honour based" violence be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission. 4. That further information on work conducted with perpetrators of domestic abuse be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission. 5. That consideration be given to providing all elected members the opportunity to access an appropriate training session on domestic abuse.
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.	That the work programme be approved
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	That the report be noted.

21 September 2021	YOT Improvement Plan	Resolved at January 2021 meeting to receive a progress update.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That a further report be brought to the March 2022 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission to provide a progress report on the implementation of the YOT Inspection Action Plan. 3. That a briefing for members of the Improving Lives Select Commission be arranged in order to provide an overview of the work of the YOT and to detail how it has positively impacted on the lives of the children and young people that it has worked with.
	One Adoption South Yorkshire	To scrutinise how the new arrangements are working.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That a report on the performance of the One Adoption South Yorkshire regional adoption agency be brought to the September 2022 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission. 3. That consideration be given to how all elected members can be involved in promoting the work of One Adoption South Yorkshire in their wards and in encouraging potential adoptive parents to come forward.
	Food Poverty/Holiday Activity Programme	To receive a report on previous activities and plans for the future.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the information collated regarding attendance and uptake around the programme of activities delivered via the Holiday Activities Fund Grant be circulated to the members of the Improving Lives Select Commission as soon as it is available.
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.	That the work programme be approved
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	That the report be noted.

5 October 2021	Adult Safeguarding	Follow up report on Adult Safeguarding issues.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That a further report regarding Adult Safeguarding, with a focus on the approach and activity being carried out in Rotherham, be brought to the April 2022 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission. 3. That an all member seminar be delivered in order to share information and case studies on how Adult Safeguarding activity in Rotherham had impacted on the lives of individuals. 4. That the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, in consultation with relevant delivery partners, give consideration to how elected members can work to raise awareness of Adult Safeguarding issues within their communities.
26 October	SEN	Resolved December 2020 to request an update	

2021	Strategy/Sufficiency	Agreed as an area of focus in July 2021 Work Programming session.	
	Children's Mental Health	Agreed as an area of focus in July 2021 Work Programming session.	
	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.	
7 December	Education Recovery	Agreed as an area of focus in July 2021 Work	

2021	(including Elective Home Education)	Programming session.	
	Post-CSE Support	To receive the report from the sub-group of ILSC on Post-CSE Support.	
	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.	
25 January 2022	Adult Safeguarding 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.	
8 March 2022	YOT Improvement Plan	Resolved at the September 2021 meeting to bring a	

		further report in 6 months' time.	
	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.	
26 April 2022	Adult Safeguarding	Resolved 5 October 2021:	

		That a further report regarding Adult Safeguarding, with a focus on the approach and activity being carried out in Rotherham, be brought to the April 2022 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission.	
	Work Programme	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.
	Project group updates	ILSC Monitoring Report	To monitor the progress of recommendations made by ILSC.
	ILSC Monitoring Report	To monitor the progress of recommendations made by ILSC.	

Items pending scheduling or removal

Item	Details	Status
Support for Young Carers	Raised as an area of interest by members following a report on Carers at HSC.	To be scheduled/considered for a sub-group project.
Counter extremism in schools/ Radicalisation of young people and extremism	<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> <p>Referred to ILSC from OSMB</p>	<p>To be scheduled</p> <p>July 2021 – Chair and Vice Chair will be receiving a briefing in order to consider the focus of the subsequent report to the committee.</p>
Youth Offending Team – Service Provision	To look at the processes and journey that young people go through who are accessing YOT services	Agreed September 2021 to provide a briefing for members.
CYPS Directorate workforce strategy	Progress report	Focus to be discussed before scheduling
Re-referrals and repeat child protection planning –	Resolved at June 2020 meeting to receive a progress	To be scheduled

Progress report	<p>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>	
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
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.	<p>To be scheduled or linked into OSMB pre-decision work.</p> <p>April 2020 – “Following the end of the Market engagement process Officers can attend and update Scrutiny to allow for feed into the service specification development. This will likely be July/August 2021”</p>
One Adoption South Yorkshire	Resolved September 2021 to bring a further report in 12 months’ time.	To be scheduled for September 2022

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Sub and Project Group Work

Updated: 18 October 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)	Report drafting in final stages. To be presented at ILSC 7 December 2021.
Domestic Abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none">Domestic Homicide ReviewStalking and HarassmentDomestic 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.
Early Help Offer	Resolved in October 2019 That a sub-group be established to undertake further scrutiny of the early help offer.	In progress.

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