

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

Date and Time :- Tuesday 21 December 2021 at 5.00 p.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 4:15pm**

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 October 2021 (Pages 3 - 11)

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 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. Education recovery - Education review - 2020/21 Academic year (Pages 13 - 44)

8. Improving Lives Select Commission Project Group Report on Post CSE Support Services (Pages 45 - 65)

9. Work Programme (Pages 67 - 78)

To consider and approve the Commission's Work Programme.

10. Urgent Business

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

11. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on Tuesday 25 January 2022 commencing at 10am in Rotherham Town Hall.



Sharon Kemp,
Chief Executive.

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

Present:- Councillor Pitchley (in the Chair); Councillors Cooksey, Andrews, Aveyard, Bacon, Barley, C Carter, Collingham, Griffin, Hughes, Khan, Monk, Singleton and Thompson.

Apologies for absence: - Apologies were received from Councillors Browne, R. Elliott and Wilson.

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

39. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER AND 5 OCTOBER 2021

Resolved: - That the Minutes of the meetings of the Improving Lives Select Commission, held on 21 September and 5 October 2021 be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

41. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

42. COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair provided an update on activity from the recent meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel that she and Councillors Browne, Collingham and Griffin from the Improving Lives Select Commission had attended.

The Chair also advised that she had attended a briefing for members of the Health Select Commission on Young Carers.

43. PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE START TIME OF MEETINGS TO 5PM

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules, it had been proposed by Councillor Barley that the start time for meetings of the Improving Lives Commission be amended to 5pm.

On being put to the vote the proposal was declared as lost.

Resolved: - **That** the start time for meetings of the Improving Lives Select Commission remain as 10am.

44. SEND (SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITY) SUFFICIENCY PROGRESS REPORT

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, the Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion, the Head of the SEND Service and the Head of Children and Young People's Services Commissioning and Transformation attended the meeting to provide a progress report the implementation of the SEND (Special Education Need and Disability) Sufficiency Strategy in Rotherham. including updates with regard to the implementation of the SEND Sufficiency Phases 1, 2 and 3.

In introducing the report, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services noted that 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 with the three phases of SEND Sufficiency Strategy aiming to address key areas of need against a context of increasing demand for SEND services across the Borough.

The Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion made a presentation to the meeting that provided information on:

- The definition of SEND and the requirement that was placed on the Council to ensure sufficient provision of suitable educational provision for children and young people with SEND needs.
- How SEND Sufficiency was managed in Rotherham by the SEND Sufficiency Strategy.
- The progress that had been made in delivering the three phases of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy noting that Phase 1 had been completed and that Phase 2 was 80% complete.
- The objectives and activity included in Phase 3 including its focus on:
 - creating a specialist SEND campus in Dinnington.
 - combines rebuild of Newman Special, movement of upper part of Newman to Dinnington.
 - developing a Social, Emotional, Health Specialist setting in Rotherham.
- Future phases and potential objectives for the strategy.
- The recent Ofsted/CQC inspection of SEND services across Rotherham

Members expressed their concern regarding the amount of time that Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) were taking to be completed noting that in order to ensure that every child could access the correct support that these should be completed in a timely manner. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services noted that whilst the timely completion on EHCP's was very important, it was more important that each child got the right support, in the right setting and at the right time. The Cabinet Member noted that as a result of the actions carried out as part of the SEND review support could be delivered to children and young people without an EHCP being in place. The Assistant Director detailed the processes involved in establishing an EHCP for a child and noted that whilst there was a 20-week target for completing an EHCP that this timescale could be very challenging due to the number of stakeholders involved in the process. The Assistant Director assured members that whilst an EHCP brought together a single document to support a child's needs, support was accessible and would be provided before an EHCP was in place.

Members noted the importance of a safe and secure environment for all children, and especially for children with additional needs when accessing education and asked what plans were in place to support the children and families who would be impacted by the move of the Newman School to the site at Dinnington. The Assistant Director advised that this aspect of the move had been given thorough consideration throughout the planning processes involved in the school move. The Assistant Director assured members that parents and carers had been fully consulted with and involved in the plans that would ensure that each child could transfer smoothly and settle in at the new site. The Assistant Director noted that whilst the move would be challenging for some children he was confident that the right support was in place, and that ultimately the new building would better meet the needs of those attending.

The Chair asked whether the children and young people who would be moving to the new school site had been involved in the design and layout of the new school. The Head of Children and Young People's Services Commissioning and Transformation advised that the design of the new school had been carried out in a collaborative way and had involved students in co-production activities that had been facilitated via members of school staff.

Members asked for further information on the number of out of area placements that were made. The Assistant Director advised that he would obtain this information and circulate to members. Members asked whether the current SEND provision across the Borough was sufficient to cope with the increasing number of children with EHCP's or whether further provision would need to be developed. The Assistant Director confirmed that the growth in the number of children with additional needs and EHCP's was increasing and advised that a further needs analysis was scheduled to be carried out in 2022 that would ensure that the provision of services would continue to match demand. The Cabinet Member noted

the 2019 Government Review that had been carried out around SEND provision had emphasised the need to focus on providing wraparound holistic support locally as required, rather than solely focussing on EHCP's as a means to then deliver support.

The Chair asked how long the current SEND provision would be able to meet demand for. The Assistant Director advised that discussions were being carried out with the Department for Education regarding extra funding to alleviate any immediate pressures being felt in the system. The Assistant Director advised that it was important when considering SEND provision and the needs of children with additional needs that consideration was given to enabling provision across the entire education system. The Assistant Director advised that there would need to be further investment in providing the highest level of provision but that it was essential to look how children with less severe needs could be supported in mainstream education. The Assistant Director confirmed that Phase 4 of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy would look to deliver more SEND provision on mainstream schools. The Chair welcomed the plans to increase SEND support in mainstream schools.

Members asked whether there were any plans to relocate Hilltop School at Maltby as whilst the school provided an excellent level of education and support for its students the site it was located on was not ideal. The Assistant Director advised that the upcoming needs analysis that would be carried out in 2022 would consider the suitability of the buildings on the site and that discussions would be held with all stakeholders on potential future options.

Members asked when the Written Statement of Action that was being created in response to the joint Ofsted/CQC inspection of SEND services would be available. The Assistant Director advised that Written Statement of Action would be published in January 2022. The Cabinet Member noted the result of the recent joint Ofsted/CQC inspection of SEND services across Rotherham that had raised concerns about the effectiveness of processes in Rotherham with regards to SEND provision related to the provision of all SEND services that were delivered by other bodies as well as the Council with regards to SEND. The Cabinet Member noted the many positive parts of SEND provision noted in the inspection report including the Parents and Carer's Forum. The Cabinet Member assured members that the Council and all stakeholders were fully committed to developing services and delivering the best possible outcomes for all children and their families. The Assistant Director assured members that they would be kept informed with regard to the planned activity to address the areas of weakness that had been highlighted in inspection report.

Members asked for further information on the selection process that had resulted in the Wellspring Academy Trust being chosen to be the provider of the new Newman School. The Assistant Director advised that a rigorous and transparent selection process had been followed that had

been led by the Regional Schools Commissioner. The Assistant Director advised that this process had resulted in the recommendation being made to the Council that the Wellspring Academy Trust was the most suitable provider and should be appointed. Members sought assurance around the experience of the Wellspring Academy Trust in delivering SEND provision. The Assistant Director advised that the Wellspring Academy Trust had significant experience in delivering SEND provision and assured members that rigorous processes were in place to ensure that the Wellspring Academy Trust met and continued to meet the needs students and the school.

The Cabinet Member noted the role that the Improving Lives Select Commission had played in the monitoring and delivery of SEND provision over recent years and she welcomed members enthusiasm to involved in development of the revised SEND Strategy and needs analysis. The Cabinet Member suggested that members may like to invite representatives of the Parents and Carers Forum to the meeting when SEND was next considered by the Improving Lives Select Commission as it would add an extra dimension to the discussion.

Members asked whether there ever would be a situation where the SEND provision across the Borough would be able to a meet the needs of all children and young people with additional needs who lived in the Borough without the need to use out of area placements. The Assistant Director advised that whilst demand for and provision of SEND Services was constantly evolving there would always be a need for some out of area placements in situations where such a placement would best meet the needs of an individual child. The Cabinet Member noted that successful SEND provision across the Borough would be when all parents could be fully confident that the needs of their child would be assessed and catered for in an appropriate and timely manner.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, the Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion, the Head of the SEND Service and the Head of Children and Young People's Services Commissioning and Transformation for attending the meeting and answering members questions.

Resolved: -

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That a further progress report on the implementation of Phase Three of the SEND Sufficiency and other activity surrounding SEND Sufficiency in Rotherham be brought to the March 2021 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission.
- 3) That a written update regarding the opening of the Newman Special School at the Dinnington SEND Campus be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission by the end of

2021.

- 4) That the Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion liaises with Chair of the Improving Lives Select Commission to arrange visits for members of the Commission to the Newman Special School at the Dinnington SEND Campus.
- 5) That a briefing be provided to the members of the Improving Lives Select Commission on the written statement of action drafted in response to Ofsted/CQC SEND Local Area Inspection once it is available.

45. CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, the Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion and the Head of the SEND Service attended the meeting to provide a report on the role of the Council in supporting the Social, Emotional and Mental Health of Children and Young People.

In introducing the report, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services noted that information that would be provided in the presentation that would be made by the Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion would be focussed on the role of the Council in the context of the provision of education in supporting the Social, Emotional and Mental Health of Children and Young People. The Cabinet Member noted that the issue was being considered at the meeting in response to concerns that members of the Improving Lives Select Commission had expressed regarding the impact of the pandemic on the Social, Emotional and Mental Health of Children and Young People.

The Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion noted that services for the support of the Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) of Children and Young People was delivered by a wide range of agencies and delivery partners such as the local Clinical Commissioning Group and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. The Assistant Director advised that due to the number of partners involved, all who had different roles and responsibilities in addressing SEMH effectively was challenging, it was essential that all activity was coordinated in order to support children and young people with their SEMH post-pandemic.

The Assistant Director advised that the number of children who required support with their SEMH continued to increase at steady rate and noted the impact of the pandemic and the related restrictions that had resulted in an increase in children with these needs, especially at around transition points in the education system. The Assistant Director noted many of the issues of SEMH in children and young people were a result of the lack of socialisation during the pandemic.

The Head of the SEND Service affirmed that the emotional wellbeing of

children was a growing issue amongst of children and young people of all ages and that this had been compacted by the impact of the pandemic. The Head of the SEND service noted that whilst during the pandemic children had engaged well with online learning that the return to school had been very challenging for some children.

The presentation provided information on:

- What Social, Emotional, Mental Health was and how it was defined in the SEND Code of Practice.
- SEMH in national, regional, and Rotherham context. It was noted the number of children with these needs had grown and was projected to increase further.
- The number of children and young people in Rotherham with SEMH needs and how this compared to other areas both locally and nationally.
- The number of children and young people with SEMH who also had an Education Health and Care Plan.
- Ongoing areas of focus with regard to SEMH including:
 - the challenges around the enhancement of outcomes and support for Children and Young people awaiting CAMHS or Neurodevelopmental support.
 - the introduction of mental Health Support teams in schools and the future extension of project.

Members sought further information on the provision of mental health teams in schools and whether this provision would be extended to more schools across the Borough. The Assistant Director advised that the mental health teams were led by a lead practitioner who could then access further support as required. The Assistant Director advised that having this resource available in all schools would be very beneficial but noted that the current provision and allocation of teams across the Borough was based maximising the outcomes from the resources that had initially been available. The Cabinet Member provided further information regarding the Mental Health Trailblazer and on the number of schools that had been involved in pilot, noting that the schools involved and engaged well with the scheme. The Cabinet Member assured members that whilst specialist mental health support may not be available in all schools that pastoral support in schools would identify children and young people who required support with their mental health needs.

Members noted that for future reports with regard to SEMH that it would be beneficial if representatives from partners such as CAHMS and RDaSH were present in order to provide a view of the situation regarding SEMH from their perspective.

Members sought assurance that processes were in place that would ensure that children and young people received appropriate support for their SEMH needs whilst specialist support services were being put in place. The Assistant Director advised that inclusion support services in schools were able to provide a good level of support whilst specialist services were being put in place and assured members that the level of support provided to children and young people would increase as required to meet their needs.

Members asked whether it was correct that if a child received a private diagnosis of a mental health condition such as autism that it may not be recognised by the Council and as such may not assist that child in gaining access to additional support for their SEMH needs. The Assistant Director noted that it was every parent's right to seek a diagnosis privately. The Assistant Director advised that the statutory processes around the assessment delivered by the Council involved a wide range of professionals who provided a wide-ranging assessment of a child's actual needs rather than just seeking put a label on their condition. The Chair noted that whilst a diagnosis may take time that she was confident that children and young people in Rotherham were receiving the support they required in advance of a diagnosis being made.

Members noted the limitations of the report that had been presented to the meeting in that it only provided information on SEMH from the perspective of how this was managed within the education service of the Council. Members noted that they would have found it beneficial to receive an overarching view of the issues surrounding children's mental health from all involved stakeholders. The Chair noted the limited scope of the report but stated that due to the importance of the issue and how children's SEMH had been impacted by the pandemic that it had been important to have the issue considered by the commission.

The Chair sought assurance that the findings from the wide-ranging survey that had been conducted by Children and Young People's Services with children and young people across the Borough on the impact of the pandemic on their wellbeing was being used to inform the development of services. The Assistant Director assured the Chair that the information that had been gathered was being used to inform to shape the delivery of activities related to education recovery across the Borough.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, the Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion and the Head of the SEND Service for attending the meeting and answering member questions.

Resolved: -

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That information on the Mental Health Trailblazer pilot scheme be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.
- 3) That the Chair of the Improving Lives Select Commission liaises with the Chair of the Health Select Commission regarding a joint piece of scrutiny work regarding children and young people's mental health issues and services in Rotherham.

46. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its Work Programme for 2021/22.

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

47. 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.

48. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

49. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

50. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on Tuesday 7 December 2021 at 10am at Rotherham Town Hall.

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Public Report
Improving Lives Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Commission – 21 December 2021

Report Title

Education recovery – Education review - 2020/21 Academic year.

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 overview of education recovery following 2020/21 Academic Year and a review of key areas of education across the Borough in this academic year including Elective Home Education. The report includes educational overview of across all phases of education and Looked After Children (LAC).

Recommendations

1. That the Committee note the presentation and associated updates to education recovery and academic overview from 2020/21 academic year are noted.
2. That ongoing updates are provided to the Committee in relation across all areas of education in the borough.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

1. <https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/documents/g15213/Public%20reports%20pack%20Monday%2022-Mar-2021%2017.30%20Improving%20Lives%20Select%20Commission.pdf?T=10>

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Education recovery – Education review - 2020/21 Academic year.

1. Background – Education overview of 2020/21 Academic year

- 1.1 The Covid-19 pandemic has continued to have significant impact on learning across the borough, in all phases of education.
- 1.2 Education data across a range of attainment measures, statutory assessments or accredited pathways, including GSCE/A Levels, has not been validated in the last academic year. As a consequence, school level performance measures and benchmarking will not be available again this year.
- 1.3 School attendance has fluctuated due to high volumes of cases in school age population.
- 1.4 Special schools, Pupil Referral units and Early Years settings remained open across whole of last academic year.
- 1.5 Impacts of the pandemic are now becoming apparent across a range of cohorts.
- 1.6 Remote learning became enshrined in legislation and was utilised for the first time in the January 21 lockdown.
- 1.7 Right across early years, school age, further education and higher education staff have consistently worked above beyond to support a very complex situation across education.
- 1.8 Reciprocally all RMBC Education and Inclusion teams continued to adapt and work hard to support the ongoing associated challenges.

2. Key Issues – overview of key areas across education

Early years and Childcare

- 2.1 Early years and childcare sector have been responsive to needs during the pandemic.
- 2.2 Ongoing sustainability of sector remains challenging particularly in light of increase to minimum wages to be introduced in April 2022.
- 2.3 Although 2-year Early Education take-up remains lower than pre-covid rates, Summer 21 take-up has increased on last term, and at 77%, is higher than the last published national average of 62% and is ranked 43rd out of 151 LA's.

Take-up is still varied across the borough with the Central areas remaining below 60%.

- 2.4 A number of awareness raising activities are taking place both borough wide and with additional focus in the Central area.
- 2.5 There has been increased demand for additional support with significantly higher numbers of children requesting Inclusion Support Grant to support low level/emerging needs with Communication and Interaction being the predominant need identified.
- 2.6 The local authority is in a strong position to support the sector to identify and support speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN) through the implementation of the government funded South Yorkshire SLCN project. To date 559 children's workforce professionals have received universal SLC training with further Enhanced SLC training being delivered in the Autumn term.

Primary Phase

- 2.7 The priority for schools this year is to support pupils catch up lost learning in Reading, Writing, Maths
- 2.8 Recovery funding is being targeted to support disadvantaged pupils through the national tutoring programme or through the use of existing school staff.
- 2.9 Rotherham has designated 2022 as the year of reading focusing on raising attainment in phonics and reading, developing fluency and comprehension skills, and raising engagement in reading both at school and for pleasure. Funding has been allocated to support the implementation of strategies to raise attainment.
- 2.10 In the Autumn term 2020 Y2 children took the phonics screening check. 75.9% passed compared to a national average of 78.3%. The percentage of pupils eligible for FSM achieving the standard mark is at 60.2% . This compares to the national average to 64%. The gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils in Rotherham is 19.9% Funding has been allocated to provide phonics training to all schools to close this gap.
- 2.11 Primary schools are also focusing on the development of their wider curriculum, staff subject knowledge, pupil and staff well-being and Ofsted readiness. This is being supported through RoSIS training and school to school support
- 2.12 From September 2021 the new EYFS curriculum will be implemented by all EYFS settings. This has a focus on language, communication and quality interaction between children and adults. Less time assessing is increasing the

time for quality interaction enabling early years practitioners to support identified children to close learning gaps.

2.13 No assessment across primary key stages in 2020 or 2021 but these will return in 2022.

2.14 Schools have and will continue to provide remote education to those pupils who are self-isolating.

Virtual School – Early Years and Primary

2.15 0–2-year plan is embedded and starting to show impact – Virtual Schools Advisers are regularly attending LAC reviews and complete Early Years Development Plans (EYDP) to enable early identification and supporting parents/carers to provide stimulating learning opportunities within the home. VSA are promoting community groups within local areas and are sharing information around child development. VSA are working with key professionals Early Years providers, Portage team, Social care, IROs and Health.

2.16 100% of Rotherham LAC 2,3- and 4-year-old are accessing in and out of authority education provisions.

2.17 Virtual School provide Parent are Expert's training to parents/carers, settings/schools, health professionals, social workers, IRO, edge of care.

2.18 Affinity 2020 have delivered Tiny Tots' college training to foster carers/parent (early learning and development skills).

2.19 New Designated Teachers' Network for Early Years– Target Early years and Early intervention.

2.20 Reading project – new to care packages delivered to children aged 2-11 to enhance shared reading opportunities and support attachments. Feedback is collected during PEP meetings to collect carers views.

2.21 Speech, Language and Communication therapist – Rapid response, assessments for all new LAC and closing the gaps of unidentified SPLC needs (offer in and outside borough).

2.22 Improving and developing SMART Targets with designated teachers to improve attainment and progress for LAC.

- 2.23 New SMART target guidance has been sent to all Primary Schools. All targets are quality assured and followed up with tailor-made training where extra support is required.

Secondary Phase

- 2.24 Provisional 2021 GCSE results indicated pupils achieving grades 4 (pass rate) or more in English GCSE was above the national average pass rate (grades 4+) in English in Rotherham.
- 2.25 Again, provisional data indicates Rotherham's pupils achieving grades 4 (pass rate) or more in Maths GCSE above the national average for Maths.
- 2.26 Secondary school curriculum continues to support remote learning for those students who have too self-isolate. Secondary leads for English and maths are being funded to support schools to focus on catch up.
- 2.27 The English lead has established a Literacy Leaders' Network for colleagues leading on reading in Rotherham secondary schools to raise the profile, importance, and subject knowledge in relation to reading.
- 2.28 There has been a focus on developing the understanding of secondary colleagues in basic early reading and synthetic phonics funded training has been provided.
- 2.29 In partnership with RoSIS and through sharing best secondary practice the English lead is identifying effective strategies and initiatives that develop reading for pleasure and independent reading in secondary contexts.
- 2.30 A Herts for Learning Reading Fluency Project has been launched to support students in participating schools read with increased accuracy, automaticity, prosody and understanding.

Virtual School – Secondary and Post 16

- 2.31 35% of the mainstream DfE cohort achieved GCSE level 4 passes in English and Maths, this is in line with last year's attainment.
- 2.32 Return to terminal assessment this academic year requires a greater focus on COVID recovery for years 10 and 11.
- 2.33 Recovery pupil premium, school-led tutor programme and Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) funding will to support academic and emotional health recovery

programmes to minimise the impact of assessment changes and the COVID pandemic.

2.34 In line with the Rotherham Year of reading, PP+ will be used to support improving reading skills across the secondary cohort, to enhance the love of reading and support access and understanding of terminal assessment examinations.

2.35 Rotherham Virtual School was one of the 30 successful LA applicants to be awarded the Post 16 Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) pilot. The outcomes of the pilot are to:

- Raise the profile of looked-after children and care leavers in FE.
- Improve the attendance of looked-after children and care leavers in FE.
- Better support the delivery of Personal Education Plans, pathway plans or equivalent at both an individual and cohort level.

Primary and Secondary developments

2.36 The Team Around the School is being developed to support children and young people with underlying social emotional mental health needs that have been impacted by the pandemic.

2.37 From the Autumn term, schools in England will be able to nominate one school colleague to access funded Senior Mental Health Lead Training.

2.38 A funded 'Making the Difference project' is being developed to enable primary and secondary colleagues to evaluate and share best practice and implement the most effective, research-based strategies, to raise attainment of disadvantaged.

2.39 Holiday and Food initiative. Funding from Department for Education of £1,267,000 for 2021 is being used to provide free holiday club places, including a meal, to children and young people eligible for free school meals. Funded holiday places Easter – 1 week Summer – 4 weeks Christmas – 1 week.

2.40 Weekly Covid updates linked to statutory guidance, key Covid updates and mental health and wellbeing sent out to all schools.

2.41 Free School Meals provided to all benefit's eligible students across school holidays and targeted uniform cost relief was also provided in last academic year.

Rotherham Education Strategic Partnership (RESP)

- 2.42 RESP is a mechanism where key partners within the borough education sector work collaboratively across priority focus areas or emerging challenges.
- 2.43 RESP reformed in last academic follow hiatus in previous academic year due to pandemic.
- 2.44 Focus of RESP linked to education recovery and key areas of pandemic response.
- 2.45 Post pandemic role of RESP is developing and links to school led system approach which is Department of Education direction of travel.
- 2.46 Examples include focus on Early Years take up, 2022 Year of Reading (Ofsted focus), academic attainment and school improvement.
- 2.47 Work to enhance membership is ongoing so RESP becomes fully representative of Rotherham education system and drive partnership approach in areas of challenge/improvement.

Engagement with school leaders

- 2.48 Monthly Covid meetings held with school and early years leaders.
- 2.49 Meetings involve Public Health England and RMBC Public Health, this is very collaborative and transparent.
- 2.50 Information is shared on Covid rates and transmission profiles, partnership approach to decision making, school leaders/early years leaders value the strong open element of this support mechanism. All questions are answered, and feedback is followed up.
- 2.51 RMBC education leaders meet unions weekly as part of pandemic response.
- 2.52 Support processes remain in place in this academic year.
- 2.53 Wider school and early years network meetings have restarted with a move back to in person meetings.

School attendance – 2020/21

- 2.54 School attendance has been directly impacted by the pandemic in 20/21 academic year.

- 2.55 We have seen large numbers of students in self isolation across the whole academic year.
- 2.56 Rotherham sits in profile with other LAs with similar profile of Covid transmission.
- 2.57 Concerns around disproportionate impact on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups against periods of school closure.
- 2.58 Secondary phase has shown wider impact on attendance.
- 2.59 PRU attendance also below normal levels of attendance.
- 2.60 Special schools have shown resilience as they have remained fully open.
- 2.61 Parent anxiety, extremely critical vulnerable cohorts, and those with unrecognised SEND needs are areas of focus for education settings to take a tailored approach to school attendance.
- 2.62 School attendance is an area of focus for education recovery cell and will remain a key focus across this academic year.

Rotherham Inclusion Pathway (ISOS).

- 2.63 Following review of Inclusion practice across Rotherham in 2020/21 academic year, a focused report was garnered and shared across school sector in the Borough.
- 2.64 First stage of implementation planning has move into actualisation with Primary and Secondary area wide Inclusion Panels sitting across the Autumn Term.
- 2.65 Operational guidance, referral forms and stakeholder processes are in place.
- 2.66 Steering group from ISOS review has remained in place and supported implementation.
- 2.67 Next phase includes development of secondary SEMH outreach offer.
- 2.68 Review and stocktake of implementation planned into this academic year involving stakeholders.

Elective Home Education

- 2.69 At the start of the of 2020/21 academic year there were 201 children on our caseload.
- 2.70 The academic year ended with 303 children on our caseload.
- 2.71 During the year: Involvements resulting in child remained in school – 156, Returned to school – 74 Transferred LA – 11, Referred as CME – 3.
- 2.72 There were over 500 children known to the EHE team at some point during the 2020/21 Academic Year.
- 2.73 Children open to Social Care -CP/ S 47 – 2 -CIN - 4, Children open to or previously E/Help – 14 ,Children with EHCP's in place – 12.
- 2.74 **Current 21/22 cohort** – 329 children are on our EHE caseload presently, 34 children have returned to school,37 Involvements have resulted in the child remaining in school where parents were considering withdrawal to EHE.
- 2.75 Recent reasons for children becoming EHE include: Bullying/peer relationships, Covid related anxieties, Social/Emotional linked to personal issues/behaviour/attendance etc. New to LA area and previously EHE/older sibling already EHE, Relationship with school, no reason stated (parents do not have to give a reason).
- 2.76 Highest numbers are in Key Stage 3 and 4 (Secondary aged children).
- 2.77 50/50 split between Male / Female in cohort.
- 2.78 The cohort is largely white British heritage.

Next Steps to support – EHE across Rotherham

- 2.79 2 EHE summits held in June / July 2021 bringing together multi-agency partners to ensure strong oversight and understanding.
- 2.80 Refreshed EHE policy – approved by DLT Sept 2021 following OSMB.
- 2.81 EHE Governance Group refreshed.
- 2.82 (Commitment to a collaborative approach from across the multi-agency partnership to support Safeguarding and Visibility of EHE cohort - Focus broader than a single education issue).

- 2.83 Work with schools to accelerate return to education if appropriate – through Admissions and Appeals statutory processes and Fair Access Protocol where necessary.
- 2.84 DFE and OFSTED increased focus.
- 2.85 Enhanced staffing through Covid recovery monies due to cohort rise.

Parent/carers engagement across 2020/21 academic year

- 2.86 Strong work to take a collaborative approach as last academic year again placed significant pressures of parent/carers.
- 2.87 SEND focused listening events in partnership with Rotherham Parent Carers Forum.
- 2.88 Education recovery funding distributed to parent/carers groups to support post Covid challenges with a focus on our Local Offer.
- 2.89 Regular co- productive dialogue between RMBC and parental groups.
- 2.90 Recognition around parental/carer anxiety around pandemic and this impacting on range of educational areas.
- 2.91 Focused communication plans have targeted return to school dates after lockdowns/ starts of terms/ as Rotherham went into tier 3.
- 2.92 Continued work to enhance engagement with parent/carers across a range of key areas including SEND, School Attendance, reduced education provision, and the ongoing challenges of the Covid pandemic.

Covid surveys

- 2.93 Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Rotherham we have undertaken 3 Covid surveys across secondary schools in Rotherham. Over eleven thousand responses were received from across 13 schools and 3 pupil referral units.
- 2.94 The responses showed an increase in students feeling more anxious, stressed, unhappy, worried, and angry during the Pandemic. With 8% of students reporting, they were too embarrassed to ask for help or support and 9% of students saying they did not feel there was any support that was suitable for them to access.

- 2.95 In response, 28% of students said they had either put their own strategies in place or accessed some support to help themselves. These included learning something new for example arts, crafts, baking, writing a journal/diary, or undertaking a new hobby examples included playing piano, guitar, boxing, and drawing.
- 2.96 A number of schools responded to advise they are implementing new practices to support children and young people including one school who has presented a detailed analysis of their own school findings to leaders. Schools who are reviewing and implementing new well-being strategies to support pupils and updating their websites to ensure they include support, advice, and information and how to access this.
- 2.97 Responses received from partners have included the sharing of NHS Guidance for children and young people's mental health by Health colleagues including how parents and carers, can access services, and self-care recommendations for young people. The VAR CYPS Consortium has commenced a 6 month 'Response' project which will include actions to address findings from the surveys.

Challenges as we move forward

- 2.98 Growing number of pupils and students with SEMH needs.
- 2.99 School leader and staff wellbeing as they face the daily uncertainty of staffing levels in schools.
- 2.100 The impact of staff absence on the delivery of catch-up interventions.
- 2.101 Avoid the narrowing of the curriculum for the most vulnerable pupils as they attend reading, writing or maths interventions.
- 2.102 To ensure that pupils and students who are self-isolating have the opportunity to keep up with academic learning.
- 2.103 Long term impact of the pandemic on the education of vulnerable groups.
- 2.104 Social interaction in early years as children learn to interact with others after long periods of isolation from children and adults outside of their immediate family.
- 2.105 Lack of assessment in primary has inhibited the understanding of the impact of the pandemic on educational attainment and progress.

2.106 Despite the impact of the pandemic on school improvement, there is a need to increase the number of schools judged by Ofsted as being good or better.

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 N/A

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 report and presentation.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Referenced within report and presentation.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Referenced within report and presentation.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Despite no directed associated impacts on CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change are noted in the report, consideration has been given to impact that restricted school attendance and reduction of education across 2020/21 academic year had on a range of areas including school transport, public transport, parental/carers transportation to school and reciprocal covid restrictions may have had a positive impact on carbon emissions.

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 Education Recovery is a key strand of RMBC recovery programme and regular updates, and actions plans are submitted to RMBC Recovery Gold and Local Outbreak Engagement Board.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Nathan Heath, Assistant Director, Education, and Inclusion,
nathan.heath@rotherham.gov.uk

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

Improving Lives Select Committee

December 2021

Education Recovery - Education Review - 2020/21 Academic year.

Overview of 2020-2021 Academic year

- The Covid-19 pandemic has again had a significant impact on learning across the borough in all phases of education.
- Education data across a range of attainment measures, statutory assessments or accredited pathways including GSCE/ A Levels has not been benchmarked or validated in the last academic year and school level performance measures will not be available.
- School attendance has fluctuated due to high volumes of cases in school age population.
- Special schools, Pupil Referral units and Early years settings remained open across whole of last academic year.
- Impacts of the pandemic is now becoming apparent across a range of cohorts.
- Remote learning became enshrined in legislation and was utilised for the first time in the January 21 lockdown.
- Right across early years, school age, further education and higher education staff have consistently worked above beyond to support a very complex situation across education.
- Reciprocally all RMBC Education and Inclusion teams continued to adapt and work very hard to support the ongoing pandemic challenges.



Early Years

- Early years and childcare sector has been responsive to needs during the pandemic.
- Ongoing sustainability of sector remains challenging particularly in light of increase to minimum wages to be introduced in April 2022.
- Although 2 year Early Education take-up remains lower than pre-covid rates, Summer 21 take-up has increased on last term, and at 77%, is higher than the last published national average of 62% and is ranked 43rd out of 151 LA's. Take-up is still varied across the borough with the Central areas remaining below 60%.
- A number of awareness raising activities are taking place both borough wide and with additional focus in the Central area.
- There has been increased demand for additional support with significantly higher numbers of children requesting Inclusion Support Grant to support low level / emerging needs with Communication and Interaction being the predominant need identified.
- The local authority is in a strong position to support the sector to identify and support speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) through the implementation of the government funded South Yorkshire SLCN project. To date 559 children's workforce professionals have received universal SLC training with further Enhanced SLC training being delivered in the Autumn term.



Primary

- The priority schools this year is to support pupils catch up lost learning in Reading, Writing, Maths
- Recovery funding is being targeted to support disadvantaged pupils through the national tutoring programme or through the use of existing school staff.
- Rotherham has designated 2022 as the year of reading focusing on raising attainment in phonics and reading, developing fluency and comprehension skills and raising engagement in reading both at school and for pleasure. Funding has been allocated to support the implementation of strategies to raise attainment.
- In the Autumn term 2020 Y2 children took the phonics screening check. 75.9% passed compared to a national average of 78.3%. The percentage of pupils eligible for FSM achieving the standard mark is at 60.2% . This compares to the national average of 64%. The gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils in Rotherham is 19.9% Funding has been allocated to provide phonics training to all schools to close this gap.
- Primary schools are also focusing on the development of their wider curriculum, staff subject knowledge, pupil and staff well-being and Ofsted readiness. This is being supported through RoSIS training and school to school support
- From September 2021 the new EYFS curriculum will be implemented by all EYFS settings. This has a focus on language, communication and quality interaction between children and adults. Less time assessing is increasing the time for quality interaction enabling early years practitioners to support identified children to close learning gaps.
- No assessment across primary key stages in 2020 or 2021 but these will return in 2022.
- Schools have and will continue to provide remote education to those pupils who are self-isolating.



Virtual School – Early Years and Primary

- 0–2-year plan is embedded and starting to show impact – Virtual Schools Advisers are regularly attending LAC reviews and complete Early Years Development Plans (EYDP) to enable early identification and supporting parents/carers to provide stimulating learning opportunities within the home. VSA are promoting community groups within local areas and are sharing information around child development. VSA are working with key professionals Early Years providers, Portage team, Social care, IROs and Health
- 100% of Rotherham LAC 2,3- and 4-year-old are accessing in and out of authority education provisions
- Virtual School provide Parent are Expert's training to parents/carers, settings/schools, health professionals, social workers, IRO, edge of care.
- Affinity 2020 have delivered Tiny Tots' college training to foster carers/parent (early learning and development skills).
- New Designated Teachers' Network for Early Years– Target Early years and Early intervention
- Reading project – new to care packages delivered to children aged 2-11 to enhance shared reading opportunities and support attachments. Feedback is collected during PEP meetings to collect carers views.
- Speech, Language and Communication therapist – Rapid response, assessments for all new LAC and closing the gaps of unidentified SPLC needs (offer in IO/OOA)
- Improving and developing SMART Targets with designated teachers to improve attainment and progress for LAC.
- New SMART target guidance has been sent to all Primary Schools. All targets are quality assured and followed up with tailor-made training where extra support is required

Secondary

- Provisional 2021 GCSE results indicated pupils achieving grades 4 (pass rate) or more in English GCSE above the national average.
- Provisional data shared suggests Rotherham's pupils achieving grades 4 (pass rate) or more in Maths GCSE was above the national average for Maths.
- Secondary school curriculum continues to support remote learning for those students who have to self-isolate. Secondary leads for English and maths are being funded to support schools to focus on catch up.
- The English lead has established a Literacy Leaders' Network for colleagues leading on reading in Rotherham secondary schools to raise the profile, importance and subject knowledge in relation to reading.
- There has been a focus on developing the understanding of secondary colleagues in basic early reading and synthetic phonics funded training has been provided.
- In partnership with RoSIS and through sharing best secondary practice the English lead is identifying effective strategies and initiatives that develop reading for pleasure and independent reading in secondary contexts.
- A Herts for Learning Reading Fluency Project has been launched to support students in participating schools read with increased accuracy, automaticity, prosody and understanding.



Virtual School – Secondary and Post 16

- 35% of the mainstream DfE cohort achieved GCSE level 4 passes in English and Maths, this is in line with last year's attainment.
- Return to terminal assessment this academic year requires a greater focus on COVID recovery for years 10 and 11.
- Recovery pupil premium, school-led tutor programme and Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) funding will support academic and emotional health recovery programmes to minimise the impact of assessment changes and the COVID pandemic.
- In line with the Rotherham Year of reading, PP+ will be used to support improving reading skills across the secondary cohort, to enhance the love of reading and support access and understanding of terminal assessment examinations.
- Rotherham Virtual School was one of the 30 successful LA applicants to be awarded the Post 16 Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) pilot. The outcomes of the pilot are to:
 - i. Raise the profile of looked-after children and care leavers in FE.
 - ii. Improve the attendance of looked-after children and care leavers in FE.
 - iii. Better support the delivery of Personal Education Plans, pathway plans or equivalent at both an individual and cohort level.



Primary and Secondary developments

- The Team Around the School is being developed to support children and young people with underlying social emotional mental health needs that have been impacted by the pandemic .
- From the Autumn term, school's in England will be able to nominate one school colleague to access funded Senior Mental Health Lead Training.
- A funded 'Making the Difference project' is being developed to enable primary and secondary colleagues to evaluate and share best practice and implement the most effective, research based strategies, to raise attainment of disadvantaged pupils
- Holiday and Food initiative. Funding from Department for Education of £1,267,000 for 2021 is being used to provide free holiday club places, including a meal, to children and young people eligible for free school meals. Funded holiday places Easter – 1 week Summer – 4 weeks Christmas – 1 week.
- Weekly Covid updates linked to statutory guidance, key Covid updates and mental health and wellbeing sent out to all schools.
- Free School Meals provided to all benefits eligible students across school holidays and targeted uniform cost relief was also provided in last academic year.

Rotherham Education Strategic Partnership (RESP)

- RESP is a mechanism where key partners within the borough education sector work collaboratively across priority focus areas or emerging challenges.
- RESP reformed in last academic follow hiatus in previous academic year due to pandemic.
- Focus of RESP linked to education recovery and key areas of pandemic response .
- Post pandemic role of RESP is developing and links to school led system approach which is Department of Education direction of travel.
- Examples include focus on Early Years take up, 2022 Year of Reading (Ofsted focus), academic attainment and school improvement.
- Work to enhance membership is ongoing so RESP becomes fully representative of Rotherham education system and drive partnership approach in areas of challenge/improvement.



Engagement with school leaders

- Monthly Covid meetings held with school and early years leaders.
- Meetings involve Public Health England and RMBC Public Health, this is very collaborative and transparent.
- Information is shared on Covid rates and transmission profiles, partnership approach to decision making, school leaders/early years leaders value the strong open element of this support mechanism. All questions are answered and feedback is followed up.
- RMBC education leaders meet unions weekly as part of pandemic response.
- Support processes remain in place in this academic year.
- Wider school and early years network meetings have restarted with a move back to in person meetings.

School attendance – 2020/21

- School attendance has been directly impacted by the pandemic in 20/21 academic year.
- We have seen large numbers of students in self isolation across the whole academic year.
- Rotherham sits in profile with other LAs with similar profile of Covid transmission.
- Concerns around disproportionate impact on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups against periods of school closure.
- Secondary phase has shown wider impact on attendance.
- PRU attendance also below normal levels of attendance
- Special schools have shown resilience as they have remained fully open.
- Parent anxiety, extremely critical vulnerable cohorts, and those with unrecognised SEND needs are areas of focus for education settings to take a tailored approach to school attendance.
- School attendance is an area of focus for education recovery cell and will remain a key focus across this academic year.



Rotherham Inclusion Pathway (ISOS).

- Following review of Inclusion practice across Rotherham in 2020/21 academic year, a focused report was garnered and shared across school sector in the Borough.
- First stage of implementation planning has move into actualisation with Primary and Secondary area wide Inclusion Panels sitting across the Autumn Term.
- Operational guidance, referral forms and stakeholder processes are in place.
- Steering group from ISOS review has remained in place and supported implementation.
- Next phase includes development of secondary SEMH outreach offer.
- Review and stocktake of implementation planned into this academic year involving stakeholders.



Elective Home Education

- At the start of the of 2020/21 academic year there were **201** children on our caseload
- The academic year ended with 303 children on our caseload

During the year:

- Involvements resulting in child remained in school – **156**
- Returned to school - **74**
- Transferred LA - **11**
- Referred as CME - **3**
- There were over **500** children known to the EHE team at some point during the 2020/21 Academic Year
- Children open to Social Care
 - CP/ S 47 – **2**
 - CIN - **4**
- Children open to or previously E/Help – **14**
- Children with EHCP's in place – **12**

EHE - As of now

2021/22 Academic Year

- **329** children are on our EHE caseload presently.
- **34** children have returned to school.
- **37** Involvements have resulted in the child remaining in school where parents were considering withdrawal to EHE.
- Recent reasons for children becoming EHE include: Bullying / peer relationships, Covid related anxieties, Social / Emotional linked to personal issues / behaviour / attendance etc ,New to LA area and previously EHE / older sibling already EHE, Relationship with school, No reason stated (parents do not have to give a reason) .
- Highest numbers are in Key Stage 3 and 4 (Secondary aged children)
- 50/50 split between Male / Female in cohort
- The cohort is largely white British heritage

Steps to support – EHE across Rotherham

- **2 EHE summits held in June / July 2021** bringing together multi agency partners to ensure strong oversight and understanding
- **Refreshed EHE policy – approved by DLT Sept 2021 following OSMB**
- **EHE Governance Group refreshed**
- (Commitment to a collaborative approach from across the multi-agency partnership to support Safeguarding and Visibility of EHE cohort - Focus broader than a single education issue).
- **Work with schools to accelerate return to education if appropriate – through Admissions and Appeals statutory processes and Fair Access Protocol where necessary.**
- **DFE and OFSTED increased focus.**
- **Enhanced staffing through Covid recovery monies due to cohort rise.**

Parent/carers engagement across 2020/21 academic year

- Strong work to take a collaborative approach as last academic year again placed significant pressures of parent/carers.
- SEND focused listening events in partnership with Rotherham Parent Carers Forum.
- Education recovery funding distributed to parent/carers groups to support post Covid challenges with a focus on our Local Offer.
- Regular co- productive dialogue between RMBC and parental groups.
- Recognition around parental/carers anxiety around pandemic and this impacting on range of educational areas.
- Focused communication plans have targeted return to school dates after lockdowns/ starts of terms/ as Rotherham went into tier 3.
- Continued work to enhance engagement with parent/carers across a range of key areas including SEND, School Attendance, reduced education provision, and the ongoing challenges of the Covid pandemic.

Covid surveys

- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Rotherham we have undertaken 3 Covid surveys across secondary schools in Rotherham. Over eleven thousand responses were received from across 13 schools and 3 pupil referral units.
- The responses showed an increase in students feeling more anxious, stressed, unhappy, worried and angry during the Pandemic. With 8% of students reporting, they were too embarrassed to ask for help or support and 9% of students saying they did not feel there was any support that was suitable for them to access.
- In response, 28% of students said they had either put their own strategies in place or accessed some support to help themselves. These included learning something new for example arts, crafts, baking, writing a journal/diary, or undertaking a new hobby examples included playing piano, guitar, boxing and drawing.
- A number of schools responded to advise they are implementing new practices to support children and young people including one school who has presented a detailed analysis of their own school findings to leaders. Schools who are reviewing and implementing new well-being strategies to support pupils and updating their websites to ensure they include support, advice and information and how to access this.
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Challenges as we move forward

- Growing number of pupils and students with SEMH needs.
- School leader and staff wellbeing as they face the daily uncertainty of staffing levels in schools .
- The impact of staff absence on the delivery of catch up interventions.
- Avoid the narrowing of the curriculum for the most vulnerable pupils as they attend reading, writing or maths interventions.
- To ensure that pupils and students who are self-isolating have the opportunity to keep up .
- Long term impact of the pandemic on the education of vulnerable groups.
- Social interaction in early years as children learn to interact with others after long periods of isolation from children and adults outside of their immediate family.
- Lack of assessment in primary has inhibited the understanding of the impact of the pandemic on educational attainment and progress.
- Despite the impact of the pandemic on school improvement, there is a need to increase the number of schools judged by Ofsted as being good or better.

Public Report
Improving Lives Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Commission – 21 December 2021

Report Title

Outcomes from the sub-group on Post-CSE Support

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Martin Elliott, Governance Advisor

01709 254407 or martin.elliott@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

To report on the findings and recommendations of the recent working group post-CSE support.

Recommendations

1. That the report be noted, and the following recommendations be submitted to OSMB and Cabinet for approval: -
 - a) *That post-CSE services are transferred to the Adult Social Care, Housing and Public Health directorate to enable the greater integration and coordination of support pathways that are available to adult victims of trauma as children.*
 - b) *That further work is undertaken with relevant partners and survivors to improve the ways in which survivors' voices are captured to inform future reviews of post-abuse services (for example drawing on the research from Sheffield Hallam University, the development of voice and influence groups or other survivor's forums).*
 - c) *That consideration is given to appropriate governance arrangements to enable elected members to provide a steer on the activity that is taking place within the Borough to stop CSE/CCE and support survivors.*
 - d) *That the Improving Lives Select Commission continue to monitor the provision of post-abuse support to survivors of CSE.*

- e) *In relation to recommendations c) and d), that consideration is given how survivors' voices to inform these processes.*
 - f) *To emphasise the shared responsibility of all elected members, that an annual training event/workshop is delivered. This is to ensure that all elected members are kept up to date with the activity within the Borough to protect young people from being at risk of harm from CSE/CCE and support adult survivors to move forwards in their lives.*
 - g) *That the relevant Strategic Directors explore options for sharing best practice with other local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.*
 - h) *Drawing on the good practice from Durham County Council, that consideration is given is given to the language used in the provision of post-CSE support to ensure that it is positive and inclusive of the needs of those accessing services.*
- 2 That the response of Cabinet to the recommendations be reported back to Council within two calendar months of its submission.

List of Appendices Included

Improving Lives Select Commission : Outcomes from the task and finish review group on Post-CSE Support

Background Papers

[Minutes of the Improving Lives Select Commission 3 March 2020](#)

[Cabinet Report – June 2020](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Outcomes from the sub-group on Post-CSE Support

1. Background

- 1.1 The Jay Report identified that high numbers of Rotherham residents were affected by child sexual exploitation between 1997 and 2013. The National Crime Agency continues to investigate historical child sexual exploitation as part of Operation Stovewood and the Trauma and Resilience Service will be in place for at least 3 more years. It is important that there are services to support all victims / survivors of child sexual exploitation regardless of whether they are part of active investigations. It is important that any services commissioned by the Council align with the services provided by its partners.
- 1.2 In summer 2016 the Council commissioned support services for young people and adults who had experienced child sexual exploitation (CSE). These additional services would supplement the core support offer to any adult who has ongoing support needs provided by the Council through its Adult Safeguarding provision. The contract arrangements ran from 1 July 2016 to 31 March 2019 with an option to extend for a further two years. The contract was extended until 31 December 2020.
- 1.3 To inform the imminent re-commissioning of services, members of the Improving Lives Select Commission conducted a short benchmarking exercise during August 2019 on the services provided by other local authorities to support survivors of CSE. The results of this exercise were fed into the development of a needs analysis to underpin the anticipated re-commissioning process.
- 1.4 Because of circumstances beyond the Council's control the process was delayed. With the extension to timescales, Members agreed that further work be undertaken to enhance its review. As such it was resolved at the meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission held on 3 March 2020 that the benchmarking work should be resumed, with the results detailed in standalone report on post-CSE support and the delivery of commissioned support services.
- 1.5 The sub-group met with senior officers, as well as the providers of the commissioned services in Rotherham. This work enabled the sub-group to establish a sound understanding of the services that were being delivered in Rotherham to support survivors of CSE. Members conducted desktop research and held a series of online meetings with officers and Cabinet Members at other local authorities to learn how they supported survivors of CSE.
- 1.6 The sub-group consisted of Cllr Victoria Cusworth, Cllr Maggi Clark and Cllr Jenny Andrews. Cllr Cusworth was chair of Improving Lives Select Commission at the time of the review.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The key issues are detailed in the attached sub-group report.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Members have made a series of recommendations on how the post-abuse support for CSE survivors could be enhanced in Rotherham on the basis of its benchmarking research with other local authorities.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The Strategic Director – Children and Young People’s Services and the Strategic Director – Adult Social Care, Housing and Health have been consulted with regarding the report and its recommendations.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The report will go to Cabinet for a formal response on the recommendations.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 Consideration should be given to the procurement and financial implications arising from the report’s recommendations as part of the Executive’s response.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Consideration should be given to the legal implications arising from the report’s recommendations as part of the Executive’s response.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 Consideration should be given to the human resources implications arising from the report’s recommendations as part of the Executive’s response.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The implications for children and young people and vulnerable adults are set forth in the main body of the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Members have had regard to equalities and human rights implications when developing recommendations.

11. Implications for Partners

- 11.1 The implications for partner organisations are set out in the previous sections of the report.

12. Risks and Mitigation

- 12.1** Members have had regard to potential risks and mitigation and undertaken scrutiny in order to make suggestions to enhance CSE post-abuse support in Rotherham.

13. Accountable Officer(s)

Emma Hill, Acting Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

*Report Author: Martin Elliott, Governance Advisor
01709 254407 or martin.elliott@rotherham.gov.uk*

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



Improving Lives Select Commission

Sub-Group Report on

Post-CSE Support

Date:

December

2021

Review Group Members

Lead	Councillor Victoria Cusworth
Group Members	Councillor Jenny Andrews
	Councillor Maggi Clark

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Jay Report identified that high numbers of Rotherham residents were affected by child sexual exploitation between 1997 and 2013. The National Crime Agency continues to investigate historical child sexual exploitation as part of Operation Stovewood¹ and the Trauma and Resilience Service will be in place for at least 3 more years. It is important that there are services to support all victims / survivors of child sexual exploitation regardless of whether they are part of active investigations. It is important that any services commissioned by the Council align with the services provided by its partners.

1.2 In summer 2016, the Council commissioned support services for young people and adults who had experienced child sexual exploitation (CSE).

The purpose of commissioning these services was to support victims, survivors and their families to achieve the following outcomes:

- Start to recover from their trauma of child sexual exploitation.
- Build resilience and develop coping strategies for everyday life.
- Improve their self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Improve their mental health and wellbeing.
- Be supported in fulfilling their maximum potential; and
- Reduce the risk of harm

These additional services would supplement the core support offer to any adult who has ongoing support needs provided by the Council through its Adult Safeguarding provision

1.3 Contracts were awarded to three local voluntary sector organisations, Rotherham Rise, GROW and Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service (Rothacs) following an open tender process. The contract arrangements ran from 1 July 2016 to 31 March 2019, with an option to extend for a further two years. The contract was extended until 31 December 2020. Service provision focussed on practical and emotional support and advocacy for young people up to the age of 25 and adults (provided by Rotherham Rise and GROW). Evidence-based therapeutic interventions were provided by Rotherham Rise and Rothacs.

1.4 In summer 2019, work began on determining future service provision for adults experiencing trauma as children. To inform the imminent re-commissioning of services, members of the Improving Lives Select Commission were requested to conduct a short benchmarking exercise on the services provided by other local authorities to support survivors of CSE. The results of this exercise were fed into the

¹ Operation Stovewood is the single largest law enforcement investigation into non-familial child sexual exploitation and abuse in the UK. Led by the National Crime Agency, our officers are investigating allegations of abuse in Rotherham between 1997 and 2013. The request followed an independent review of the management of child sexual exploitation by agencies by Professor Alexis Jay.

development of a needs analysis to underpin the anticipated re-commissioning process.

- 1.5 Due to factors outside the Council's control and a decision to undertake further public consultation, the timescales for going out to tender were delayed. In June 2020, the Cabinet approved a process for re-commissioning services until 31 March 2023, with an option of a two-year extension. Based on the needs-analysis, the service specification would continue to focus on a mixture of practical and emotional support and advocacy and evidenced based therapeutic interventions.

The benchmarking exercise conducted by scrutiny member was aligned to the initial timescales for the re-commissioning of services and was therefore more limited in scope. With the extension to timescales, Members agreed that further work be undertaken. As such it was resolved at the meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission held on 3 March 2020 that the benchmarking work should be resumed, with the results detailed in a standalone report on post-CSE support and the delivery of commissioned support services.

2.0 Links to Year Ahead Plan Priorities

- 2.1 This review links into the following themes and outcomes as detailed in the Council's Year Ahead Plan (2020/21).

Thriving Neighbourhoods

- Putting communities at the heart of everything we do.

Better Health and Wellbeing

- Vulnerable adults are protected, and adult social care is able to adapt to the changing conditions.
- Children and young people are protected, safeguarded and able to achieve their potential

3.0 Review Approach

- 3.1 The sub-group met with senior officers, the Trauma and Resilience Service (NHS) and providers of the commissioned services in Rotherham. This work enabled the sub-group to establish a good understanding of the services that were being delivered in Rotherham to support adult survivors of CSE who had experienced trauma as children.

Members conducted desktop research and held a series of online meetings with officers and Cabinet Members at other local authorities to learn how they supported survivors of CSE.

In order to manage the benchmarking activity, the sub-group established key lines of enquiry in order to assess and evaluate service provision elsewhere compared with the Rotherham core offer and its commissioned services.

The key lines of enquiry focused on:

- How were support services designed (and how had this model been arrived at).
- How were service user experiences and feedback used to develop support

services?

- How were support services accessed and what pathways were there to access support? Did survivors need to be referred or can they self-refer?
- What type of support/therapy was offered, how was it provided and who provided it (in-house, health and other partners, specialist commissioned providers or other methods)?
- How many service users were accessing services? Was access to services time limited?
- How were support services paid for? What financial contributions were made by delivery partners?
- How were outcomes measured?
- Where did support services “sit” in each local authority? Were support services delivered by Adult Services, Children’s Services, Public Health or elsewhere, and how had this decision been arrived at?

3.2 Meetings were held with:

- Anne-Marie Lubanski - Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health – Rotherham MBC
- Andrew Wells - Head of Service - Safeguarding and Mental Health – Rotherham MBC
- Dr Janine Cherry-Swaine - Consultant Psychotherapist and Service Lead - NHS Trauma and Resilience Service.
- Joanna Jones – Operational Manager – GROW
- Sue Wynne – Chief Executive Officer – Rotherham Rise
- Angela Toulson – Executive Officer and Patricia McGrath - Counsellor - Rothacs
- Councillor Olwyn Gunn – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People’s Services – Durham County Council
- Councillor Mus Khan – Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member - Health and Social Care - Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council
- Councillor Shirley Reynolds Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education and Lifelong Learning, Telford and Wrekin Council
- Michael Crozier - Head of Adult Social Care - Sunderland City Council
- Caroline Page – Adult Care Team Manager – Rochdale Borough Council
- Jill Greenfield - Service Director Communities and Customers and Bish Sharif - Communities and Customers Improvement and Relationship Manager– Kirklees Council
- Yvonne Hailes - Practice Development Officer, Adult Social Care and Heide Gibson - Safeguarding Adults Board Business Manager – Durham County Council.

3.3 Councillors Cusworth, Andrews and Clark would like to note their sincere thanks to all those who participated in the review.

4.0 The Core service offer in Rotherham

- 4.1 In order to learn about the core offer of support provided for adult survivors of CSE, members met with the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and the Head of Service - Safeguarding and Professional Practice.

This meeting provided members with an overview and understanding of how support for adult survivors of CSE was delivered and managed through Adult Safeguarding and Adult Care pathways. It was noted that Adult Safeguarding applied to any adult who had ongoing support needs.

As with all vulnerable adults, agencies worked together with the aim to prevent the risk or experience of abuse or neglect, whilst considering the individual's well-being, wishes and feelings.

- 4.2 At the meeting information was provided regarding:

- How Safeguarding needs were assessed and channelled appropriately. Initial Adult Safeguarding concern could be signposted and directed to other teams such as the Complex Lives Team. The Council's Adult Care Assurance Team maintained an overview of the Safeguarding processes. Adult Safeguarding processes should last a maximum of three months, and that after this time, cases should either be resolved or referred to other support services
- How all partner agencies, including the Safer Rotherham Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board, were well engaged in adult safeguarding processes, and knew how to refer individuals for support.
- That there were multiple pathways and options available for the delivery of support and services. Services were person-centred and designed to deliver the outcomes specific to each service user. Advocates were available to ensure that support was accessed in a timely way. It was noted that each adult survivor of CSE would have different experiences, needs and expectations, and that these would impact on the type of support offered. It was also noted that individual need would change and evolve over time, along with their willingness (or not) to engage with services.
- That not all CSE survivors that were being supported were a part of an Operation Stovewood investigation.
- Adult Care had worked with the Trauma and Resilience Service in the design of support services.
- How the Vulnerable Adults Panel could commission services as well as acting to ensure that delivery partners were working together to best effect to support the specific needs.
- How Community Multiagency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) are used to ensure the correct support is being offered at the correct time.
- How Vulnerable Adults Risk Management meetings (VARM) were also used to assess if different or more intense methods of support were needed and how all partner agencies are represented at these meetings.

5. NHS Trauma and Resilience Service

- 5.1 Members of the group met with Dr Janine Cherry-Swaine - Consultant Psychotherapist and Service Lead - NHS Trauma and Resilience Service (NHS TRS). The ground-breaking service was set up by Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to commission specific services for survivors of child sexual exploitation. It works collaboratively across both voluntary and statutory services, including those agencies commissioned to provide post abuse support, to develop effective and timely pathways of support for survivors and their families.
- 5.2 This innovative service is leading on the development of trauma informed interventions across the voluntary sector and statutory services to develop pathways of CSE support across the borough. The local landscape to respond to historic child sexual exploitation in the borough has also been significantly shaped by the establishment of this service in 2018.

It was set up to meet the needs of adult survivors of CSE in Rotherham in a cohesive, systematic way.

During the meeting members learnt:

- Trauma-informed is a model of care that recognises the trauma caused by abuse and its impact across all aspects of a person's life. This method supports a person to recover from the trauma
- TRS works collaboratively across different local networks to develop skills, knowledge and good practice in an integrated trauma informed and trauma aware way.
- Services are provided on the basis of understanding the complexities of each survivor and the trauma experienced by them in the past or re-traumatising through triggers such as court procedures.
- TRS provide services in a way which builds resilience in a safe and secure way. Clients are empowered to process experiences and memories in a way that is tailored to their recovery.
- Clients could be referred via Operation Stovewood or via other routes
- There are opportunities for survivors to express their wishes and needs and so to have control in the decisions made regarding the content of their care. Work was also being undertaken with Sheffield Hallam University to better understand the experiences of survivors in accessing support services. It was noted that a survivor-led Project Advisory Group has been set up and a report was expected in 2022.

- 5.3 Its work has been independently evaluated by Sheffield Hallam University's Centre for Regional Economic Research (CRESR). The evaluation states:

"[The evaluation's findings] demonstrate significant progress and illustrate that the TRS is making a vital contribution to the confidence and ability of services across Rotherham to respond to survivors as individuals through bespoke, trauma informed practice. They are also responding to organisational and vicarious trauma within services. These achievements are the result of a multilevel embodiment of trauma informed practice".

"Services know that within the TRS they have a consistent, accountable resources for advice and guidance that understands local histories and needs. Furthermore,

the network of services created by the TRS builds familiarity and new working relationships (in contrast to the fragmentation prior) which creates accountability and clarity as everyone has a clear role in the delivery of collective care.²

6.0 Commissioned Services in Rotherham

6.1 Members of the sub-group looked to establish how commissioned providers were working to deliver additional support services in Rotherham.

6.2 Rotherham Rise

Members of the group met with Sue Wynne, Chief Executive Officer at Rotherham Rise to discuss and learn more about the commissioned services that they delivered to survivors of CSE.

Rise employed different methods to identify and engage with CSE survivors to encourage them to come forward for support. These included a website, printed literature and wide use of social media as well as working with a broad range of agencies who could signpost to their services. Flexibility was built into the service specification for the commissioned post-CSE provision, and through individual assessments Rise was able to effectively support those who may not fit a typical survivor profile or had other complexities (for example acute mental health needs).

Sub-Group members were keen to learn what how Rise measured success in the way it provided support. They were advised that this relied on identifying individual's (unique) needs and ensure that the right services were in place. Most importantly however, success was about enabling survivors to engage with the service positively, and achieve their personal objectives, to help stabilise their life and support them to move forward with confidence.

Feedback from survivors who accessed services was captured and was used to inform improvements. In addition, an exit survey was completed at the end of each support plan. This feedback was then used as an integral part of performance management and quality control as it identified gaps in provision or where services could be improved or developed.

Members learnt that there was no waiting list for survivors to access support services at Rise and processes were in place to ensure that demand was met.

6.3 GROW

Members of the group met with Joanna Jones – Operational Manager at GROW to discuss the commissioned services that they deliver to survivors of CSE.

Members learnt about the extensive experience that GROW had in delivering support to CSE survivors. A service had been in place prior to the Jay Report and there were well-established and comprehensive referral pathways for clients to access the service.

Prior to the pandemic, GROW had not needed to maintain waiting lists for those accessing support, although a decision was taken to open one temporarily to

² Hamer, R (2020) Travelling through trauma: The Trauma and Resilience Service Year 2 Evaluation, Sheffield Hallam University

maintain services. It was noted that this waiting list had now cleared and GROW worked proactively with referring agencies in order to manage demand.

GROW outlined how it worked with the other providers of commissioned services in Rotherham and the NHS Trauma and Resilience Service to ensure the appropriate level of support was offered to survivors of CSE. Members were advised on how the model of support offered was centred around individual specific needs and would continue for as long as required. The aim underpinning its services was to build client resilience in way which did not create dependency on services. From the initial session, clients were supported to identify what success meant for them, how progress would be assessed through their journey and what exit strategies would be in place once their objectives were achieved.

Members discussed how the voice of survivors was captured and used to inform service delivery. At each step of the support journey, clients were asked for their views about the service and if it was addressing their specific needs in the right way. Surveys and questionnaires were also used to gather feedback. Service users had set up a voice and influence group, using trauma informed approaches. The service users were happy to participate in this group in the knowledge that they were improving services and helping other women.

Members were advised that success for a client could be seen in many ways including being open to accessing services, increased confidence, a reduction in incidents of self-harming, recognition of the trauma that they have been through or by moving into training, education or employment. Members were advised that success was measured for each individual separately as each one was on a different journey.

6.4 Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service (Rothacs)

Members of the group met with Angela Toulson - Executive Officer and Patricia McGrath – Counsellor at Rothacs.

As with other providers of support services, Rothacs outlined that many survivors of CSE did not recognise or identify themselves as victims of CSE. Initial assessments would draw out the issues that had led to the trauma that had been experienced. Any clients who were not eligible for support, were signposted to alternative support services in Rotherham. It was noted that clients who were eligible for support, but who were not able to access services were kept on a waiting list.

Members learnt that Rothacs currently had long waiting lists of clients waiting to access support but were advised that a separate waiting list was maintained in respect of the services commissioned by Rotherham MBC for CSE survivors. It was noted that there were no clients currently on this waiting list.

Rothacs defined and measured the success of their interventions with clients through a set of key performance indicators and analysing case studies of clients' individual journeys. Through this, Members were assured to learn that the voice of the survivor was front and centre in the design and delivery of services

Flexible approaches were offered by Rothacs to enable clients to access counselling support. This included online content that could be accessed at any time by clients as well as face-to-face, telephone and online counselling. Access to online support materials was maintained even when support to clients has ended. Clients are

advised that they can re-engage with counselling support at any time.

Members were pleased to note how much effort the team at Rothacs made to ensure that the experience of accessing services for clients was a welcoming and positive one.

6.5 Conclusions from the meetings with the providers of commissioned services.

6.5.1 The strengths of the services in Rotherham lie in the breadth of provision. Recognising that there is no typical profile of a survivor and survivors are not a homogenous group, there is a choice of practical and emotional support and advocacy or evidence-based therapeutic interventions dependant on the client's needs and wishes. Services are working hard to create a compassionate welcoming and responsive base for clients and have moved to more flexible provision such as online sessions, telephone counselling as well as face-to-face work, as a result of the pandemic. Services look to engage with service users creatively, including using social media.

Waiting lists are managed well (there are currently no delays in accessing commissioned services) and survivors can re-engage with support if they decide to pause support. Each of the commissioned services had performance measures in place to measure the success of the interventions based on case studies, exit surveys and monitoring outcomes and objectives for each survivor. Each agency had developed clear exit strategies for clients based on personal objectives being achieved.

Recognising the complexities attached to measuring success, each agency looked creatively to capture survivors' voices to inform service developments. The voice and influence group set up by GROW was a particularly good example of this.

There is good evidence of multi-agency working and signposting between different agencies, including Adult Social Care and other safeguarding partnerships to deliver their work sensitively and effectively. Links with the Trauma and Resilience Service ensures that therapeutic interventions have clinical oversight and access to current innovative trauma-informed practice.

7.0 Benchmarking activity: other local authorities

Members met with officers and members from five other local authorities. The findings are summarised below. The authorities were selected because they had developed innovative practice in key areas such as prevention or post abuse support.

7.1 Durham County Council

7.1.1 Service provision for survivors of CSE sits within the Adult Social Care directorate although there is no specific post-CSE support service commissioned by the Council. Survivors of CSE are usually well into their adult lives when they make a disclosure of CSE. Having service provision under Adult Social Care ensures clear and unambiguous ownership, prevents duplication, and also helps toward multi-agency partner buy-in. Officers at Durham advised that transitions between children's and adult services in Post-CSE support were carefully managed to ensure seamless transitions.

- 7.1.2 The Council has numerous access points for survivors to be referred to services for support and depending on how the initial disclosure is received the most appropriate pathway into support is determined. Following a referral, a multi-agency meeting consisting of Adult Social Care, Health, Police and GP Services takes place. Officers also noted other services linked into support networks including domestic abuse support services, mental health services, services providing therapeutic social work support to children with trauma, Barnardo's and Edge of Care services.
- 7.1.3 Durham has a multi-agency Child Exploitation Group, chaired by a senior police officer who is able to link into the National Crime Agency to support intelligence gathering. The group reports through the governance structure of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and also to the council's overview and scrutiny function on a thematic basis. The Police and Crime Commissioner also has a good oversight and had commissioned services to support survivors.
- 7.1.4 Understanding of adverse trauma is crucial in providing support to survivors and there is a commitment to quality trauma informed training for any trusted adult connected to a child. Durham also participates in regional activities that enable learning and the sharing of good practice. There is a strong focus on training and awareness raising
- 7.1.5 Durham has developed a CSE risk matrix, this was co-produced with partners to ensure joint ownership and consistent and robust application. Support workers are allocated to anyone viewed as at risk or who is hard to reach. The offer of support is not time limited (the matrix is reviewed regularly, and support remains in place until the risk is assessed as low by the multi-agency team).

The risk matrix and an "Outcome Star" are used to measure the success of interventions. The tools measures risk before and after interventions and progress against a range of well-being indicators.

Case audits are undertaken periodically to provide assurances that high standards are maintained and to obtain an increased understanding of the issues related to post-CSE support. It is, yet, unclear as to how much service users have been able to contribute to the design of the support services delivered.

- 7.1.6 Members noted that careful consideration was given to the way language was used across services to counter negative associations and minimise blame and stigma. With regard to CSE, the sub-group welcomed the authority's desire to move towards inclusive language to acknowledge survivors in their own right with unique needs. Members were also impressed at the efforts that had been made around the use of language by services, noting that how this was a really important factor in how services were perceived by service users

7.2 Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council

- 7.2.1 Support services for vulnerable adults sit within the Communities Service which is part of Kirklees Council's Adult Care Directorate.

The services are designed to be delivered at a local level to facilitate easy access for service users. Kirklees commissions a range of core services with an aim to enhance what is already available in the voluntary sector. This approach avoids any duplication of service provision. The wrap around support provided a holistic way,

having evolved in response to the needs of survivors and their feedback and experiences of services.

Kirklees Better Outcomes Partnership (KBOP) is one avenue to accessing help and person-centred support. The services under KBOP umbrella are outcome focussed and allow for a holistic approach to be taken to a survivor's recovery with key worker support, support planning and reviews

The Council provides funding for support services with additional resources being made available from the local CCG and Police. Services are also commissioned from the third sector including provision for outreach and accommodation-based services. The Council also provides funding towards relationship education as the importance of this in addressing the causes of CSE and other abusive and controlling relationships.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care stressed the importance that services reach all parts of the community and their approach had a strong emphasis of equalities and diversity.

- 7.2.2 The Council's approach is trauma informed and recognises that survivors have diverse paths in their journey to recovery. The delivery of support is centred upon what the survivor needs (rather than what services think survivors need) or what specific services can offer.

The offer enables the delivery of support services according to different levels of need. As an example, a survivor may have immediate housing or financial needs and an offer of psychological therapy may not be the right time for that person but may be required at a later point when other more immediate needs have been met.

The Kirklees approach also recognises the stigma that is often attached to sexual offences and how these may impact on survivors. This allows a person to be in control of when and how they may want to disclose their experiences, if at all. Access to support services is not dependent upon a disclosure of child sexual exploitation or abuse or an active police investigation. Referrals for support are received by a care plan or self-referral.

- 7.2.3 Kirklees have an overarching and strategic commission that looks broadly at issues relating to mental health, community safeguarding and perpetrators which link into the support offered for CSE survivors. This approach ensures that a full understanding of the current pathway for a service user according to needs can be made and a successful transition for CSE survivors into a successful and stable adult life is possible.

- 7.2.4 Kirklees have recently begun to map objectives and actions to specific workstreams. These are:

- Development of a new Child Sexual Exploitation Commission which will include a redesign of the current survivor pathway building on the learning and successes already developed by others.
- Preventing future exploitation by piloting a community safeguarding approach.

- Carrying out a research-based piece of work, to gain an understanding of the profile of a perpetrator and the impact of the abuse on their direct families, with specific focus on gender.

With this approach it is envisaged that each objective will have a tangible outcome measure. This is still in development and further research is planned with survivors to establish how these measures will build on lived experiences and expectations. This approach aims to ensure that the accountability framework reflects the survivor's voice.

7.3 Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council

- 7.3.1 Rochdale is committed to supporting adult victims of CSE to address identified needs that have resulted from their childhood abuse. Rochdale has worked to remove many barriers that have previously prevented survivors accessing support services.

Rochdale are keen to work with other authorities to share best practice. The Council is committed to offering a holistic approach to the support that is offered to survivors. Elected members and scrutiny are keen to keep abreast of the support offer and the monitoring of services.

- 7.3.2 Post-CSE support in Rochdale sits within the Adult Social Care directorate and there is a long-term commitment to fund services. Funding for support services is also received from the Housing and Children and Young People's Service Directorates, as well as from the Police. As a consequence, CSE survivors receive services as any other vulnerable adult would. There is no dedicated service or pathway for CSE survivors.

The Adult Social Care offer is enhanced by contributions from Rochdale Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for mental health provision. Due to mainstream funding the Council can offer a full-time social worker engaged on CSE only who is supported by two other social workers, as required. The full-time social worker can access support and services via the wider Adult Social Care offer as well as from mental health provision commissioned by the local CCG.

- 7.3.4 Adult Social Care assesses the needs of individuals referred to them from Children and Young People's Services and/or the Police using an agreed referral form. Consultation has also taken place in the past with relevant groups and individuals on what support services should look like. However, as the services delivered are totally bespoke, feedback is used on a case-by-case basis to ensure the individual offer continues to meet individual needs.

Services are delivered by Adult Social Care and a network of other providers and partners including the CCG funded therapeutic services. There is no requirement for a service user to be involved with current or past police investigation in order to access services.

There is also no requirement for a re-referral if a survivor disengages then wishes to re-engage after an initial assessment has been made. Access to services is not time limited.

- 7.3.5 It was also noted that there was also a voluntary organisation in Rochdale, Parents

Against Grooming (PAG) that had been formed in 2012 to give survivors of child sexual abuse a voice. PAG offers counselling referrals, drug and alcohol help, suicide awareness, internet awareness and homelessness awareness services. PAG also offers peer to peer sessions for male and female survivors of abuse and sexual assault that are accessed by survivors from both Rochdale and the wider area.

Officers at Rochdale recognised victims and survivors were not a homogenous group and as such, group dynamics had to be addressed sensitively when delivering services and engaging with survivors.

- 7.3.6 Rochdale recognises the challenges involved in measuring outcomes specifically for CSE victims/survivors. Officers at Rochdale were confident that as all services are delivered in house or with existing partners, that services are well-structured and are supported by guidance that assists their effective delivery. Performance is measured within normal performance monitoring processes.

7.4 **Sunderland Council**

- 7.4.1 The sub-group were advised of the approach taken by Sunderland which treats survivors as adults who have suffered a trauma and need support, rather than focusing on the events that initially led to the trauma. This approach means that support services are flexible and can be tailored to suit individual needs by accessing the most relevant support pathway.

Similarly, to Durham and Rochdale, Sunderland's Post CSE Abuse Support services are delivered from within Adult Social Care.

- 7.4.2 Referrals at Sunderland can be made through social workers, safeguarding teams, Police, and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. There is also a regional victim's hub managed with the police that can also make referrals. Referrals initially go to Adult Social Care or to Children and Young People's Services depending on age. Service users who have been referred to Children's Services will transition to Adult Services at the appropriate time in a planned and managed way that ensures consistent delivery of services for the individual involved.
- 7.4.3 Services in Sunderland are provided directly by the Council and bespoke services can be commissioned externally if required.
- 7.4.4 Sunderland has no specific measures of success as they recognise that each case is individual and unique. Performance monitoring is managed through normal performance monitoring procedures.

7.5 **Telford and Wrekin Council**

- 7.5.1 In report to Telford and Wrekin Cabinet on 17 November 2016 it was noted that

"Ofsted reported that: "Work with children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation is very strong. The local authority has been a champion for tackling this issue. It provides leadership to partner agencies, with who this work is well co-ordinated..."³

³ Telford and Wrekin Cabinet Report "Ensuring Children are Fully Protected in Telford And Wrekin – Getting to Good" 17 November 2016

The most recent Ofsted report, states that their work in this field is still an area of excellent practice⁴.

As in Rotherham, support services for adult survivors of CSE sits in Children and Young People's Directorate.

- 7.5.2 The Children Abused Through Exploitation (CATE) service at Telford and Wrekin are a small team within Telford and Wrekin Council, Family, Cohesion and Commissioning Services that support young people aged 13 -19 who are at risk of CSE or have been a victim of CSE. The team also provide education and advise on issues surrounding CSE and on further support pathways.
- 7.5.3 Telford and Wrekin have a Survivor Committee "experts by experience" which is separate from the Holly Project but run by 'Holly workers' (people from the Holly Project) It was acknowledged that historically, it had been difficult to build trust with survivors, who believed they had not been listened to by the Council. Engaging survivors through forums such as this ensures survivors have a voice and can help shape the delivery of the services they may need to access. It was felt that this method of working has helped to rebuild trust between survivors and Telford and Wrekin Council. The survivors have been seen as central to shaping services and provision and have significant influence.
- 7.5.4 The Holly Project is the only post-CSE abuse service run by survivors that the sub-group discovered during its work. The service is run in conjunction with the YMCA. It was initially set up for a period of six months but was extended to two years with an optional one-year extension. It offers information and advice, guidance, peer support/mentoring, and signposting. Funding for this service comes from CYPS at the Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Telford and Wrekin CCG also provided input on emotional trauma in order to support survivors.
- 7.5.5 A Members Advisory Group has been set up to receive reports and monitor outcomes. It was felt that the Advisory provided assurance to survivors that the issues surrounding CSE and post-abuse support are taken seriously by members.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 The process of speaking to officers and elected members at other local authorities was invaluable in assessing how services delivered in Rotherham to support survivors of CSE compared to those delivered elsewhere.

Members of the group would again like to note their sincere thanks to all who took the time to support the group with their research.

- 8.2 Members agreed that each authority were delivering agile and responsive services to meet the varied and evolving needs of CSE survivors in the context of their local circumstances. However, was difficult to make direct comparisons with services elsewhere because work to support post-abuse recovery differed widely.

Members agreed that there were notable strengths identified in the methods of delivering post-CSE support services across other local authorities that could be

⁴ Telford and Wrekin Council Inspection of children's social care services January 2020, <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50147381>

considered for implementation in Rotherham to further strengthen the delivery of post-CSE support.

These included:

- Processes to enable the voice of survivors to be heard and input into how support services are delivered (including member forums).
- The delivery and coordination of all post-CSE support services being managed by Adult Care Services.
- The merits of having dedicated Adult Care Social workers who can coordinate the delivery of post-CSE support services.
- Coordinating the delivery of services with those offered in the voluntary sector to avoid duplication and to maximise the reach of services that are delivered with the available funding.
- How services delivered by voluntary groups on practical issues, such as housing and benefits were used to complement the services related to trauma.
- Having the flexibility to commission either directly, or via partners such as a CCG, specific support services to meet individual's needs which sit outside current provision.
- Ensuring that there are different referral points for survivors to access support and these are shared publicly and with partners.
- Processes that facilitated the sharing of best practice regarding post-CSE support at a regional level.

- 8.3 Taking into account, the evidence received and desktop research, we conclude that there is a comprehensive level of post-abuse support for adult survivors of CSE in Rotherham.

The breadth of the service offer in Rotherham, and its trauma informed approach, was held to be an exemplar of good practice by many of the authorities we spoke to. This includes commissioned services delivered by Rotherham Rise, GROW and Rothacs; the Trauma and Resilience Service and the core offer provided by Adult Social Care.

However, drawing on its research, the sub-group identified areas where processes could be streamlined, enhanced and accountability improved.

9.0 Recommendations

- 9.1. That post-CSE services are transferred to the Adult Social Care, Housing and Public Health directorate to enable the greater integration and coordination of support pathways that are available to adult victims of trauma as children.
- 9.2 That further work is undertaken with relevant partners and survivors to improve the ways in which survivors' voices are captured to inform future reviews of post-abuse services (for example drawing on the research from Sheffield Hallam University, the development of voice and influence groups or other survivor's forums).
- 9.3 That consideration is given to appropriate governance arrangements to enable elected members to provide a steer on the activity that is taking place within the

Borough to stop CSE/CCE and support survivors.

- 9.4 That the Improving Lives Select Commission continue to monitor the provision of post-abuse support to survivors of CSE.
- 9.5 In relation to 9.3 and 9,4, that consideration is given to capturing survivors' voices to inform these processes.
- 9.6 To emphasise the shared responsibility of all elected members, that an annual training event/workshop is delivered. This is to ensure that all elected members are kept up to date with the activity within the Borough to protect young people from being at risk of harm from CSE/CCE and support adult survivors to move forwards in their lives.
- 9.7 That the relevant Strategic Directors explore options for sharing best practice with other local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber Region
- 9.8 Drawing on good practice from Durham County Council, that consideration is given is given to the language used in the provision of post-CSE support to ensure that it is positive and inclusive of the needs of those accessing services.

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Work programme – Improving Lives Select Commission – Updated 27 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	1) That the report be noted.

2021	Strategy/Sufficiency	Agreed as an area of focus in July 2021 Work Programming session.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) That a further progress report on the implementation of Phase Three of the SEND Sufficiency and other activity surrounding SEND Sufficiency in Rotherham be brought to the March 2021 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission. 3) That a written update regarding the opening of the Newman Special School at the Dinnington SEND Campus be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission by the end of 2021. 4) That the Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion liaises with Chair of the Improving Lives Select Commission to arrange visits for members of the Commission to the Newman Special School at the Dinnington SEND Campus. 5) That a briefing be provided to the members of the Improving Lives Select Commission on the written statement of action drafted in response to Ofsted/CQC SEND Local Area Inspection once it is available.
	Children's Mental Health	Agreed as an area of focus in July 2021 Work Programming session.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That the report be noted. 2) That information on the Mental Health Trailblazer pilot scheme be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission. 3) That the Chair of the Improving Lives Select Commission liaises with the Chair of the Health Select Commission regarding a joint piece of scrutiny work regarding children and young people's mental health issues and services in Rotherham.
	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 update be noted.
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.	
	SEND Sufficiency	<p>Resolved at the 26 October 2021 that</p> <p>That a further progress report on the implementation of Phase Three of the SEND Sufficiency and other activity surrounding SEND Sufficiency in Rotherham be brought to the March 2021 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission.</p> <p>Representatives of the Parent and Carer's forum to be invited.</p>	
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.	
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	
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.	

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 – 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’	To be scheduled

	access to technology with a view to preventing their digital exclusion from accessing mental health services.”	
Children’s Mental Health	That the Chair of the Improving Lives Select Commission liaises with the Chair of the Health Select Commission regarding a joint piece of scrutiny work regarding children and young people’s mental health issues and services in Rotherham.	To discuss with HSC Chair and KH
One Adoption South Yorkshire	Resolved September 2021 to bring a further report in 12 months’ time.	To be scheduled for September 2022
CYPS - High Needs Block Update and Recovery Plan	<p>Scrutiny acknowledged that it was early days in the recovery plan process with steps outlined to reduce the deficit. Overall position.</p> <p>OSMB had other updates on this particular issue and other services within CYPS, but Chair confirmed continuation at work planning meeting on 27 May 2020.</p> <p>June 2021 – Strategic Director Children’s and Young Peoples Services/Assistant Director – Education/Chair and Vice-Chair to meet to discuss focus of the report.</p> <p>Moved from OSMB Work Programme December 2021</p>	To be scheduled