



CABINET

Monday 17 October 2022

10.00 a.m.

**Council Chamber, Rotherham Town Hall,
Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH**

Cabinet Members:-

Leader of the Council
Deputy Leader of the Council,
Neighbourhood Working Portfolio
Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio
Children and Young People Portfolio
Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance Portfolio
Housing Portfolio
Jobs and the Local Economy Portfolio
Social Inclusion Portfolio
Transport and Environment Portfolio

Councillor Chris Read
Councillor Sarah Allen

Councillor David Roche
Councillor Victoria Cusworth
Councillor Saghir Alam
Councillor Amy Brookes
Councillor Denise Lelliott
Councillor Dave Sheppard
Councillor Dominic Beck



CABINET

Venue: Council Chamber - Rotherham Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S60 2TH

Date and Time: Monday 17 October 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

Agenda Contact Governance Unit – governance@rotherham.gov.uk

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.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Declarations of Interest

To invite Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests they may have in any matter which is to be considered at this meeting, to confirm the nature of those interests and whether they intend to leave the meeting for the consideration of the item.

3. Questions from Members of the Public

To receive questions from members of the public who wish to ask a general question in respect of matters within the Council's area of responsibility or influence.

Subject to the Chair's discretion, members of the public may ask one question and one supplementary question, which should relate to the original question and answered received.

Councillors may also ask questions under this agenda item.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 9 - 23)

To receive the record of proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 September 2022.

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Agenda Items 10, 12 and 14 have exempt appendices. Therefore, if necessary when considering those items, the Chair will move the following resolution:-

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

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

6. Proposals Regarding Day Opportunities for People with High Support Needs (Pages 25 - 97)

Report from the Strategic Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

Recommendations:

1. Cabinet acknowledges the outcome of the 90-day consultation exercise which established the views and needs of users of the current learning disability day service, their families, and carers and younger people preparing for adulthood, regarding the future service offer for people with high support needs.
2. Cabinet agrees the recommended proposals for a new service offer as detailed in sections 1 and 3 of this report, including a new building at Warden Street in Canklow, complemented by community outreach.

7. Commissioning Mental Health Recovery Focussed Community Services (Pages 99 - 142)

Report from the Strategic Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet approves a procurement process to establish a Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) and procure a range of community services which reflect the principles of mental health recovery model and at its conclusion successful bidders are appointed by the Strategic Director ACHPH for a period of 5 years.

8. Housing Related Support Pathway - Proposal for Future Commissioning (Pages 143 - 185)

Report from the Strategic Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet approves the remodelling of existing Adult Housing Related Support services to create one single pathway which will support a 'no wrong door' approach into services.
2. That Cabinet approves the procurement of the pathway using a 5 year Flexible Purchasing System which will be reviewed to ensure it remains fits for purpose and a progress report prepared for Cabinet.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**9. Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2023 - 2028 (Pages 187 - 233)**

Report from the Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services.

Recommendations:

1. To approve the new Strategy.
2. To approve the monitoring and oversight of progress against the delivery plan, and annual review of the aspirations, be undertaken by Corporate Parenting Board.

10. Operational Delivery of LAC Sufficiency Strategy - New Residential Provision Progress Report (Pages 235 - 265)

Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services.

Recommendations:

1. To approve the following changes to the children's residential development plan across phases one to three:
 - a) Register one bed emergency accommodation children's home with flexible Statement of Purpose (SOP) to meet a variety of current and future sufficiency need.
 - b) Change phase three from 2 x 4-bed homes to 4 x 2-bed homes to better meet current demand, improve occupancy rate and cost efficiency.

To agree to receive a further report regarding, a potential fourth phase of the children's residential development, which incorporates:

- c) A potential further 2 x 2-bed homes (Subject to Open Children's Homes DfE funding bid – Decision due Mid-October 22).

2. That the Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport be authorised to negotiate the remaining acquisitions required and complete necessary transactions, in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer, Strategic Director Children's and Young Peoples Services, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, and the Assistant Director of Legal Services.

11. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Special Education Needs and Disability Sufficiency (SEND) Phase 4 (Pages 267 - 290)

Report from the Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services.

Recommendations:

1. That approval be granted for the proposal to create 10 additional SEND resource bases in mainstream education and thus creating a minimum of 100 additional SEND places across this phase of SEND sufficiency.
2. That approval be granted for the proposal to enhance both mainstream and specialist SEND accessibility, through targeted investment in schools to enhance their ability to meet a wider level of SEND needs within their individual education settings.
3. That the 2022/23 High Needs Capital Allocation be used to fund these proposals in line with Safety Valve Capital Application submitted to the DfE.

12. Fostering Fees and Allowances 2022 (Pages 291 - 339)

Report from the Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services.

Recommendations:

That approval be given to make the following changes to improve the financial offer for Foster Carers to support retention and recruitment of Foster Carers:

1. To change the service model to provide a financial package for foster carers based on the needs of the child/ young person as well as the skills of the foster carer
2. To make the following changes to the fees and allowances that foster carers receive:
 - a) 100% of skills payment to be paid for all children placed.
 - b) Increase to foster carer mileage rate from 40p per mile to align to employee rates, currently 45 pence per mile.
 - c) Agreement to the revised Day Care payment.

- d) Uplift of the skills payments aligned to the annual inflationary uplift in the national fostering maintenance allowance.
- e) Agreement to the complex care payment allowance e.g., for Step down to Foster Care and Emergency Foster Care for Teenagers in crisis.
- f) Agreement to the Enhanced payment allowance e.g., Children with complex behaviour and/ or health needs.

JOBS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

13. Rotherham Local Heritage List (Pages 341 - 365)

Report from the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet notes the production of a local heritage list for the whole of South Yorkshire in general and Rotherham in particular.
2. That, in order to compile the full Rotherham Local Heritage List, Cabinet approves the proposed process for local listing as set out in the report.
3. That Cabinet approves delegation to the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, to include, amend or delete heritage assets on the Rotherham Local Heritage List.

14. Forge Island Final Delivery Arrangements (Pages 367 - 402)

Report from the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet: -

1. Approves an increase in the Council's Capital Programme to allow Forge Island to be funded by the Council.
2. Approves the award of the contract for the delivery of the Forge Island Development to Muse Developments Limited.
3. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director of Regeneration of Environment, in consultation with the S151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Local Economy, to enter into the agreements necessary to give effect to the Forge Island Scheme.

15. Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23 (Pages 403 - 435)

Report from the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet approve the Climate Emergency Action Plan in Appendix 1.

16. Outcomes from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board relating to the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge - Climate Change (Pages 437 - 453)

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

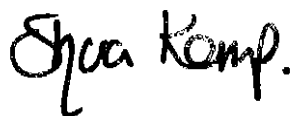
1. That the Cabinet response to the Children's Commissioners Takeover Challenge on Climate Change be approved.

17. Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

To receive a report detailing the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in respect of the above items that were subject to pre-decision scrutiny on 12 October 2022.

18. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Monday 21 November 2022 commencing at 10am in Rotherham Town Hall.



SHARON KEMP,
Chief Executive.

This page is intentionally left blank

THE CABINET
Tuesday 20 September 2022

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Allen, Beck, Brookes, Cusworth and Roche.

Also in attendance Councillor Clark (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lelliott and Sheppard.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

36. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A question was received from Mr Smith who referred Cabinet to the minutes of 11 July 2022, in particular the section on questions from members of the public. He indicated that Councillor Bennett-Sylvester raised a question in relation to the Council's Housing Strategy regarding the loss of green space and section 6, in particular and what would be done in his area which had very little with regard to community facilities. That area had very much the same problems as his own, Dinnington, what was the intention of strategic housing and development to help address the imbalance in the loss of facilities and green space from house building in Dinnington.

The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment explained that in terms of the adopted local plan, there were sites that were available for development, a number of which were on former greenfield sites, including in Dinnington, which then come forward into planning applications. In terms of mitigations, there were lots of policies both nationally and locally in terms of looking at protecting and mitigating against development. One of the new ones coming through was the biodiversity nett gain that was national, that the Council was bringing forward for that in terms of Rotherham. It looked at developments, protecting biodiversity and if that couldn't be done within the site consideration was given to how it could be offset elsewhere.

Mr Smith asked a supplementary question indicating Dinnington was one of the most deprived areas in the country with major health problems with both adults and children, with no sports and leisure facilities readily available to those who need them the most. In light of this, would the Council support Dinnington, St Johns Town Council's bid for S106 funding?

The Leader explained that the Council was not able to comment regarding bids for S106 funding, but the Strategic Director for Regeneration and

Environment explained that there were mitigations in place within the planning rules, however these challenges were faced everywhere. The Council could not comment on the S106 other than it would meet its legal responsibilities and its planning requirements.

A question was received from Councillor Tinsley who said earlier in the year the Council unanimously agreed to back a motion regarding lifesaving equipment and to write to the Secretary of State to make it an offence for any to tamper with that equipment, could an update be provided.

The Assistant Director, Community Safety & Street Scene explained that no response had yet been received, however the Council continued to work with various partners to improve open water safety across the borough. The Leader asked that a response be chased up from the Secretary of State regarding the original letter.

A question was received from Councillor Ball who mentioned that around 600 new houses were being built in Maltby however a decision on the traffic lights on Cumwell Lane regarding the planning application was still outstanding. It was queried if the extra traffic as a result of the additional housing had been factored into the decision on Cumwell Lane.

The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment explained that any planning application submitted for consideration had to take account of traffic implications as part of its approval process.

For his supplementary question, Councillor Ball noted that the building work had now begun however the waste was unable to be removed because there were no traffic lights in place. He queried how long would it be before planning was considered and there was concern that the additional housing would not be included in the consideration.

The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment offered to hold a meeting with Councillor Ball to discuss the specifics regarding Cumwell Lane.

37. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was noted that the minutes of the previous meeting should have included apologies from Councillor Clark rather than confirmation of attendance.

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet held on 11 July 2022, as amended, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

38. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that Appendix 1 and 2 to Minute 46 contained exempt information, however, the meeting remained open to the public and press throughout.

39. MY OWN PLACE: SUPPORTED LIVING FOR AUTISTIC PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

Consideration was given to the report which proposed that Rotherham developed a Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) for supported living. The aim of the FPS was to achieve high quality supported living provision across the borough; flexibility for suppliers to be added to the FPS at any stage of its lifetime; cost saving through increased competition; opportunity to stimulate development in the Supported Living Market; and potential to increase access for Rotherham's small to medium enterprises and support the delivery of Rotherham Council's social value ambition.

There were currently 206 people living in supported living funded by the Council with most (198) living in within Rotherham and 8 outside. The Council currently commissioned supported living for people with learning disabilities and autistic people, most of which was shared accommodation.

Section 2.10 of the report set out observations on Rotherham's current Support Living Market. It was noted that most development had been ad-hoc due to a market led approach, but it was felt that market management and engagement were required to better shape the future of supported living in Rotherham. Choice could have been being restricted by a dominance of national provides in Rotherham's externally commissioned providers. In accordance with the Social Value Policy, there were aspirations to develop locally sourced solutions. There was also a dominance on the shared model of support living. There was a risk that this form of model could lead to housing being allocated based on availability rather than need. A lack of core and cluster accommodation in Rotherham was also reported along with no dedicated supported living units in the area for autistic people. There was a concentration of supported living in Maltby and Wath-upon-Deane. Learning disability providers had raised that there was a difficulty in meeting the demand for supported living services, particularly the challenge of identifying suitable accommodation.

When consulted, people with a learning disability, autistic people and their families stated that they wanted supported living which was flexible, offered a choice and would enable them to support them to further develop their independence.

The options available were set out in section 3 of the report. The option of a Market Led Approach was not recommended as developments were led and determined by the market and not the needs of residents. It would

also create a mixed and uneven supply. The second option was to bring the future provision of supported living 'in-house.' This was not recommended as it would involve the procurement of suitable parcels of land and would require the Council to provide capital and staffing investment for developing 12 units for the next 10 years. This was not currently factored into the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Further, the Council could not be both a landlord or care provider. The traditional framework of commissioning supported living services through a framework agreement was not recommended as this was seen as a closed system that did not allow new suppliers to join until the next agreement was awarded.

The recommended option was the Flexible Purchasing System as set out in section 3.4 of the report.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet approve the creation of a Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) to ensure that for the development of future Supported Living contracts, providers are aligned to Rotherham's vision of providing housing for people with learning disabilities and autistic people. This will be based on the principles contained in 'Building the Right Home'.

40. SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, MENTAL HEALTH FREE SCHOOL (ELEMENTS ACADEMY - DINNINGTON) PROGRESS REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on progress towards the opening of a specialist Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) Free School in Rotherham. In November 2020, Cabinet had approved the proposal to develop the school and re-build Newman Upper School. In 2021, the Regional School Commissioner made the decision to award the Free School to a preferred Multi-Academy Trust. However, following the due diligence process, the decision was taken not to proceed. Following work between the Council and Department for Education, the decision was made in February 2022 to award the Free School to Ethos Academy Trust with a view to opening in September 2022.

In June 2022, a pre-opening inspection was held at the Dinnington site and assessed the site suitability against the statutory school building requirements, health and safety and Ofsted assessed that all statutory policies and key curriculum requirement were in place. All requirements were successfully met. The new school is to be named Elements Academy.

There had been a number of refurbishments to the site and costs identified have created a budget pressure and increase of capital investment to £3.043m from the original identified budget of £2.2m. This was due to increase in the costs of materials and labour due to external

market conditions; increase in adaptation works needed to the building due to Ethos Academy Trust requests to deliver their specific SEMH educational model; building issues; and increase in programme costs caused by moving to an alternative academy provider.

The Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion explained the first group of students had begun to access the school.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet note the progress and additional capital funding provided to support the opening of the specialist Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) Free School in the Borough.

41. JULY FINANCIAL MONITORING 22/23

Consideration was given to the report which set out the financial position as at the end of July 2022 and was based on the actual costs and income for the first 4 months of 2022/23 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year.

Members noted that financial performance was a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework and was essential to achievement of the objectives within the Council's Policy Agenda. The report was the second in a series of monitoring reports for the 2022/23 financial year which would continue to be brought forward to Cabinet on a regular basis.

As at July 2022, the Council currently estimated an overspend of £11.4m for the financial year 2022/23. Whilst the core directorates services have a forecast year-end overspend of £7.4m on the General Fund, there was £4.0m of estimated unbudgeted cost resulting from the wider financial impact of the war in Ukraine, inflation, energy price increases excluding the estimated impact of the 2022/23 pay award. This additional financial challenge had been factored into the current forecast following a review of the impact of the pressures on the current year and Medium-Term Financial Planning.

Whilst the energy price rises and inflation would impact the Council's costs in the provision of services, there would be some mitigation in future years by increased core funding as business rates income was indexed to the rate of inflation. It was currently expected that the period of high inflation would last for around two years before returning to a more normal level but the cost increase being experienced would raise the base cost of services on which future inflation was applied meaning a compounding impact.

As such the Council faced significant financial pressures that would need to be managed and mitigated through the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and through significant use of the Council's reserves. There was

no indication as to whether additional funding would be provided to local authorities as part of the financial settlement for 2023/24.

Along with most Council's across the UK, the Council had assumed a 2% pay award for staff for 2022/23. However, the current estimated pay potentially provided staff at the bottom of the pay scale with a 10.4% pay award, reduced to 1.1% for the top salary point. The financial impact of the pay aware would be £6.5m greater than the budget assumed. Additional pressures included placement pressures within Children and Young People's Services, Home to School Transport pressures within Regeneration and Environment and pressures relating to longer term recovery from COVID-19 on income generation within Regeneration and Environment.

The Homes for Ukraine Funding Scheme had been launched in March 2022. The government was providing funding at a rate of £10,500 per person to Councils to enable them to provide support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities. Initially, the Council had to incur costs in advance of funding being provided but Government had now begun to make the required funding allocations. If all applications were approved (140 potential), the total grant would be £1,470,000. Numbers were being monitored closely, and for prudence, the grant was currently estimated at £1,249,500, being the value of the 119 approved guests. An officer decision would be taken by the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to set out how the fund had been used to date, to meet specific emergency requirements as well as setting out how the Council would provide ongoing wrap around support moving forwards.

The HRA was currently forecast to overspend by £1.8m. The budget had included a contribution to the HRA reserve of £2.037m. The transfer was now forecast at £0.277m to reflect the forecast overspend which would bring the HRA back to a balanced position.

The Capital Programme 2022/23 totalled £188.138m split between the General Fund (£135.310m) and HRA (£52.828m.) This was a decrease of £97.145m to the position as at the end of May reported to Cabinet on 11 July 2022. The majority of this related to the reprofiling of schemes due to delays caused mainly from COVID-19, inflationary pressures on the programme and the high volume of capital activity taking place nationally that was straining resources from an internal and external delivery point. The movement was based on the latest profiles of expenditure against schemes, both new and revised grant allocations (£1.777m) and slippage and re-profiles (£98.922m).

The Council is progressing to deliver the redevelopment of Forge Island in line with the Town Centre Masterplan, with negotiations with private sector partners now reaching the final stages ahead of construction.

The Council's development partners have become aware of issues

relating to the funding of the Scheme given the very recent volatility of the financial markets and the challenges this may now pose to private funders providing up-front capital within the requirements previously agreed by the Council. As a consequence, before finalising the funding arrangements, the Council is in conversation with the Developer, the Council's Finance Team and Legal Team to ensure that the changes to the financial market do not negatively impact on the delivery of the Project or unnecessarily increase the Council's liabilities.

A report will be presented to Cabinet on 17th October 2022 that will present the options available to facilitate delivery. The proposed additional recommendation discussed during meeting empowers Cabinet to choose from the full range of options for delivery including further supplementing or replacing what was expected to be privately raised capital with the Council's own borrowing and capital resources.

Such changes could only be agreed by Cabinet if doing so would ensure that the Council can fulfil its best value duty by financing the scheme through the most cost-effective mechanism.

The Cabinet decision is highly time sensitive due to external factors not within the control of the Council, and there are likely to be significant additional cost pressures should Cabinet not be in a position to decide on 17th October.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process. The Board fully supported the recommendations but asked that Scrutiny be provided with a further update on the fleet management vehicle purchase project.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £11.4m.
2. Note that actions will continue to be taken to reduce the overspend position but that it is expected that the Council will need to draw on its reserves to balance the 2022/23 financial position.
3. Note the Council's approach to use of the Homes for Ukraine funding, as detailed in section 2.42.
4. Cabinet recommends to Council that: Cabinet have authority to approve amendments to the Council's Capital Programme in relation to the Forge Island leisure development, should this be necessary in order to secure best value for the taxpayer.

5. Note the updated Capital Programme.
6. That a further update be provided to scrutiny on the fleet management vehicle purchase project.

42. NEW APPLICATION FOR BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF FOR ROTHERHAM ABUSE COUNSELLING SERVICE

The Council had received an application for the award of Business Rates Discretionary Relief for Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service. In line with the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy, having regard to the financial cost of the proposed relief, the charitable use of premise and the contribution that the organisation makes to the local community, it was recommended that the award of discretionary relief be granted to Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service.

Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service is a registered charity which provided free counselling for women, men and young people who had experienced any form of sexual violence, sexual abuse, domestic abuse or harassment including survivors of child sexual exploitation. The organisation benefitted from an award of discretionary relief at their existing premises which had been awarded continuously from 2019 to date. The property for which the application had been made was used to deliver the Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy (ISVA) service supporting the people of Rotherham who had experienced sexual violence and were pursuing a criminal justice process and included victims identified by Operation Stovewood. The organisation already benefitted from several grants including from RMBC to deliver their service and the continuation of the modest additional assistance was considered in line with the criteria within the Council's policy.

The total cost of granting the relief for the financial year 2022/23 was set out in section 6.3 of the report. The total cost was £496.64 with the cost to RMBC being £243.35

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approve the application for Discretionary Business Rate Relief for Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service in accordance with the details set out in Section 6 to the report for the 2022/23 financial year.

43. SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2022-25

Consideration was given to the report which sought Cabinet endorsement of the Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan. The Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) had agreed the Plan, setting out priorities and commitments for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025. The Council was a key statutory partner of the SRP.

The previous Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2018-21 was extended for an additional year to 31 March 2022 due to Covid pandemic pressures and impacts on crime and community safety. The plan guided the Partnership in delivering significant work to protect vulnerable children and adults, build safer and more cohesive communities and tackle domestic abuse and serious and organised crime. An evidence-based approach had been used to agree new priorities along with a comprehensive consultation to capture the views of key stakeholders, including people who live, visit or work in Rotherham.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan and priorities for 2022-2025 were agreed by the SRP Board in April 2022 in accordance with the outcomes of the Use of the Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) thematic tool and the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA.) The priorities, objective area and commitments agreed were:

1. **Protecting Vulnerable Children** (Child Abuse, Child Crime Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation)
2. **Protecting Vulnerable Adults** (Substance Misuse, Mental Health and Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking)
3. **Safer and Stronger Communities** (Tackling Community Safety Priority Locations, Preventing Hate Crime and Online Crime)
4. **Protecting People from Violence and Organised Crime** (Domestic Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Male Violence Against Women and Girls, Serious Violence, Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism)

Quarterly performance reports would be monitored by the SRP Board with annual reports being provided to wider stakeholders. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, when formally sitting as the Crime and Disorder Committee, will review the annual report of the Partnership in accordance with the legislation.

Following Cabinet endorsement, the Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25 (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) would be presented to Council for approval in October 2022.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process. The Board fully supported the recommendations but requested that wider engagement takes place to inform future and refreshed plans, including rural communities, disabled people, minority ethnic communities and those with other protected characteristics.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet endorse the Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan and recommend it to Council for approval.
2. That Cabinet notes the requirement for scrutiny of the Safer

Rotherham Partnership Annual Report, which is discharged by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

3. That wider engagement takes place to inform future and refreshed plans, including rural communities, disabled people, minority ethnic communities and those with other protected characteristics.

44. HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the revised Health and Safety Policy. The report also summarised the statutory requirement placed on the Council to ensure a Health and Safety Policy was in place that articulated the Council's approach to managing health and safety.

The aims of the Policy were to keep staff and services users safe; document compliance with legal requirements; offer clarity of expectations across the Council; provide a framework for setting and reviewing Health and Safety objectives; ensure employees understand their obligations; ensure all in a managerial or supervisory role understand their obligation; enable participation, consultation and communication with officers and stakeholders; and to set the framework for continual improvement of health and safety across the Council.

The revised Policy (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) contained a number of changes as a result of the review and consultation. These were set out in the report at section 2.2. If agreed, the revised Policy would be communicated to the workforce and all employees would be made aware of the Policy and its intentions. Section 4 of the report set out how the objectives within the Health and Safety Policy would be delivered.

If approved, the Health and Safety Policy would be reviewed at intervals not exceeding two years. Any revisions would be subject to consultation with officers, Trade Union representatives and Elected Members.

As the production of a Council wide Health and Safety Policy was a statutory requirement under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulation 1999, there were no alternative options. The revised Policy had been widely consulted on by a number of services and groups. The Council's Health and Safety Policy approach was also the subject of an internal audit. A draft report from the audit showed substantial compliance in the area considered with no recommendations for improvement. Quarterly statistics and the performance dashboard would be presented to the Health, Welfare and Safety Board and the Resilience, Health, Safety and Welfare Governance Group.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approve the revised Health and Safety Policy (attached as Appendix 1).

45. STRATEGIC ACQUISITIONS

Consideration was given to the report which set out the proposed use of £1 million Strategic Acquisitions Fund that had been approved by Council in March 2021 for the Capital Programme and spend within the Towns Fund. This was reported to Cabinet in March 2022.

The report addressed the need for public sector intervention to acquire land and property owned by the private sector which was required for the regeneration of Rotherham by delegating powers where necessary to negotiate and acquire key strategic sites. In March 2022, a report was presented to Cabinet seeking approval to acquire a number of properties to facilitate Rotherham's ongoing regeneration programme. A further two properties were now required for the implementation of the Town Deal programme. Those properties were identified as 1a and 1b in exempt Appendix 1.

The March report sought approval to negotiate acquisition of sites 3 and 4 in exempt Appendix 1 but did not specify a funding source. Since March, successful negotiations on surrounding land had led to the proposal to allocate the Council's £1m Strategic Acquisition Fund to the acquisition of these properties. A further property, identified as 2, in exempt Appendix 1 was also proposed for acquisition with the Strategic Acquisition Fund. Should negotiation on properties 2,3 or 4 prove to be unsuccessful, alternative sites for acquisition were identified in exempt Appendix 1 and would be considered for the Strategic Acquisition Fund in consultation with the Strategic Director for Regeneration & Environment, the Council's Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy.

The properties identified as Site 1a and 1b in Appendix 1 were required for the continued development of an improved leisure offer in the town centre. Site 2 was a building which had lacked a secure future for many years. Sites 3 and 4 had previously been identified for acquisition and would continue development at the Riverside Residential Quarter and Leisure & Culture Quarter. Doing nothing was not a recommended option considering the Council's ambitious plans for economic growth and regeneration in the borough.

Resolved:

1. That the Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport be authorised to negotiate the acquisition by agreement of the property interests at sites 1a, 1b and 2 at exempt Appendix 1 (principally through Government grants and the Council's Strategic

Acquisitions Fund), in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, and the Assistant Director of Legal Services be authorised to complete the necessary transactions.

2. Should negotiation on any site in exempt Appendix 1 prove to be unsuccessful, the purchase of the alternative sites as identified in Appendix 1 will be progressed as approved by Cabinet in March 2022. That the Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport be authorised to negotiate the acquisition by agreement of the property interests at sites in Appendix 1, in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, and the Assistant Director of Legal Services be authorised to complete the necessary transactions.

46. SECOND COUNCIL PLAN 2022-2025 AND YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which was the second progress report on the Council Plan 2022-25 and the Year Ahead Delivery Plan. As of 25 August 2022, the activities within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan were rated as follows:

- 32% (29) complete
- 51% (47) were on track to be delivered by original target date
- 11% (10) were delayed by less than 3 months
- 5% (5) would not be met within 3 months of original target date
- 1% (1) was not yet due to start.

In agreement with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, there had been an extension to the bus, tram and cycle improvement schemes which formed part of the Transforming Cities Fund Programme until March 2024 (Year Ahead Delivery Plan Tracker 5.5). This action was currently marked as 'known delays', however it was recommended that the dates in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan were amended to reflect the revised dates.

The in-depth progress report on the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The next update was due to be provided to Cabinet in December 2022.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process. The Board fully supported the recommendations but made a number of recommendations that were accepted by Cabinet and included in the resolution.

Resolved:

That Cabinet note:

1. The overall position in relation to the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities.
2. The data for the Council Plan performance measures for the first quarter of 2022-2023.
3. The agreed extended competition dates, as outlined in paragraph 2.13, for the bus, tram and cycle improvement schemes which form part of the Transforming Cities Fund Programme until March 2024.
4. The performance reporting timetable for the remainder of the 2022-2023.

That Cabinet approve the following recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

5. That consideration be given to the format of future reports to provide an infographic overview of progress and challenges as part of an executive summary.
6. That the Improving Lives Select Commission consider the measures relating to domestic abuse referrals.
7. That a briefing be circulated to Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Improving Lives Select Commission on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children placed in Rotherham.
8. That further work be undertaken to address the issues raised by members in relation to improving call-handling.

47. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND OCTOBER 2022 - MARCH 2023

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the Household Support fund which had been extended again to the end of March 2023 following a government announcement. Draft grant guidance had been provided but no details of the grant amount were yet available. However, based on the method for calculation of the grant by population weighted by a function of the English Index of Multiple Deprivation, a best estimate suggested that Rotherham would be allocated £2.489m, being the same as provided for the first half of the year.

The report provided an overview of the eligible uses, together with recommendations for a proposed allocation of the estimated grant. Any variations arising from details of the final grant guidance or final grant allocation were proposed to be managed through adjusting the allocation

made towards the Energy Crisis Support Scheme.

The Household Support Fund was made available by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need. This funding initially covered the period October 2021 to the end of March 2022 and was then extended to the end of September 2022. Local Authorities were given discretion about exactly how this funding was used within the scope set out in guidance. The expectation was that it should primarily be used to support households in the most need with food, energy and water bills. It could also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, it could additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need.

For the period October 2022 to March 2023, the ring fencing of allocation to benefit specific age groups had been removed. New criteria for the grant set out in particular that Authorities could target the most vulnerable households; that Authorities must operate an application-based service for support; and that Authorities can proactively identify households who would benefit from support.

Resolved:

1. That subject to the receipt of final grant guidance and allocation of grant, that provisional allocations of the Household Support Fund Grant of £2.489m be made as follows:
 - a. £899k for food vouchers to children eligible for free school meals for school holidays up to and including Easter 2023.
 - b. £1.4m to support applications from households for assistance with cost-of living increases through the Council's Energy Crisis Support Scheme.
 - c. £45k allocation to support care leavers, being young people leaving foster or local authority care and living independently in their own accommodation who are responsible for paying their own utility bills, providing additional financial support through the cost-of-living increases.
 - d. £30k to support local VCS organisations to support vulnerable households over Christmas / New year through a supplement to the Crisis Support service level agreement.
 - e. £90k to provide additional tinned food to supplement that available for crisis food parcels provided by local food banks and Community Food Members alongside assisting with supplies to social supermarkets, a supplement to the Crisis Support service level agreement.
 - f. £25k to provide additional non-food products for inclusion in crisis food parcels covering personal hygiene, sanitary and household products.

2. Unless the final grant is substantially different from the estimate, to delegate authority to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, to determine revised and final allocations for the Household Support Grant to include provision for other eligible actions within the use of Household Support Fund should it not be possible to achieve full spend of the grant through the approved options.

**48. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Consideration was given to the circulated report, the contents of which were included as part of the relevant items and the details included accordingly.

49. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on Monday 17 October 2022, commencing at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

This page is intentionally left blank

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 17 October 2022

Report Title

Proposals regarding day opportunities for people with high support needs

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)

Julie Moore, Head of Service – Provider Services

Julie.moore@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Council's ongoing commitment to the transformation of Learning Disability Services continues with this report, which proposes a new service model regarding 'day opportunities for people with high support needs' including the building of a new day centre facility in Canklow to replace the existing Learning Disability Day Service.

Outlining the outcome of the 90-day public consultation - this report takes into account the views and comments of all those who have taken part in the consultation process. This includes the people who are directly affected by any potential changes.

Ongoing engagement will continue throughout the build and service design process with co-production being at the heart of a successful new model.

The Council has already committed £2.1m in capital funding to ensure the best possible facilities can be provided.

Recommendations

1. Cabinet acknowledges the outcome of the 90-day consultation exercise which established the views and needs of users of the current learning disability day service, their families, and carers and younger people preparing for adulthood, regarding the future service offer for people with high support needs.

2. Cabinet agrees the recommended proposals for a new service offer as detailed in sections 1 and 3 of this report, including a new building at Warden Street in Canklow, complemented by community outreach

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Report: Consultation Findings
Appendix 2 Service Options Appraisal
Appendix 3 Site Options Appraisal
Appendix 4 Part A - Equality Analysis Screening
Appendix 5 Part B - Equality Analysis Form
Appendix 6 Carbon Impact Assessment Form

Background Papers

The Transformation of Services and Support for People with a Learning Disability - Cabinet and Commissioner's Decision-Making Meeting 21 May 2018

Proposals for the REACH Service and approval to undertake 90-day consultation exercise - Cabinet – 20 December 2021

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Proposals regarding day opportunities for people with high support needs

1. Background

- 1.1 A consultation exercise carried out in 2017 laid the foundations for a Learning Disability Transformation Programme, (The Transformation of Services and Support for People with a Learning Disability - Cabinet and Commissioner's Decision-Making Meeting 21 May 2018).

Cabinet committed to the following vision for those with a learning disability:

- Have the opportunity to get a job and contribute to their community
- Have the opportunity to choose where they live
- Have access to a good quality health service
- Be kept safe and protected from all forms of exploitation
- Access services of the highest quality which make a difference in assisting people to be as independent as possible
- Offer services that are affordable, are personalised and are what people would want to choose.

The objectives of the transformation programme:

- Will provide high quality care and support to people with a learning disability and their families
- Will actively promote people's wellbeing, helping them have a good life and be as independent, healthy, and well as possible
- Will be more diverse so all people with a learning disability in Rotherham, whatever their age, background, or level of need, will have more choice in their support
- Will move away from traditional building based or institutional form of support and will focus on support, which is personalised, flexible and meets people's individual needs
- Will help people work together and pool their personal funds so they can share their support and sustain meaningful and rewarding relationships
- Will provide the best value for the people of Rotherham

Included within the transformation programme was the replacement of the existing high support day service provision with a new service offering modern accessible day opportunities with multifunctional fit for purpose facilities, promoting independence, wellbeing and social inclusion.

The current day service comprises of 2 buildings – Maple Avenue (Maltby) is Council owned whilst the Elliott Centre (Herringthorpe) is located on a large NHS owned site and is leased.

Maple Avenue

- The building is a previous Children's Residential Home property over two floors.

- It does not meet accessibility requirements due to no lifts, narrow corridors, and direct access issues.
- The building severely limits the service that could be offered.

The Elliott Centre

- The lease is high risk for the Council and service users due to a lack of security of tenure due to 3-year term and “no-fault” 9-month break for both parties which could mean notice being served and alternative temporary accommodation needing to be found.
- NHS is selling land on the same site for re-development – The site risks becoming a building site – Some buildings are derelict and subject to vandalism.
- This is creating concerns for access and safety.
- Equipment is coming to the end of its life e.g., heating system is unreliable.

In December 2021 Cabinet approved a 90-day Consultation Exercise to establish the views and needs of users of the current learning disability day service, their families, and carers and younger people preparing for adulthood, regarding the new service offer.

Agreement was given that following the consultation, a further report would be presented including an options appraisal, recommendations for location; building design principles; capital spend requirements; initial delivery plan and revised service offer.

It is intended that the current services based at Maltby and Herringthorpe will continue until the new service is open and people can begin to move across. The new service will be available to ALL current day service customers, with the expectation of becoming operational on a phased approach by winter 2024/25.

1.2 The Consultation Process

The public consultation commenced on 31st January 2022 and ended on 30th April 2022.

Methodology:

- **Online consultation questionnaire**
- An online consultation ran for the full duration and could be found on the Council website. The access details were widely publicised. Paper versions were also made available.
- Library and Neighbourhood Hubs provided help to complete online forms and displayed information about the consultation.
- **A series of formal public consultation meetings** were conducted, and feedback gathered from Carers, Relatives and People with Learning Disabilities.

- **A series of drop-in sessions** were attended across the borough by Carers, Relatives and People with Learning Disabilities.
- **Home visits** - The Head of Provider Services has also made a number of personal visits to Carers and Relatives to discuss the Consultation and gather further feedback.
- **Engagement activity** - Individual letters were sent to those attending current Council Day Services along with their carers and relatives regarding the 90-day consultation and means of engaging in the process.

Engagement Sessions/Workshops have been planned at current day services as a follow-up to the consultation.

The Head of Provider Services held a dedicated meeting with all day services staff on 26th January 2022, to go through the consultation pack, slides and all aspects of the consultation to ensure staff had a clear understanding to enable them to support and explain to service users. A supply of consultation packs was also left at the day centre premises on the same day.

Emails were sent and conversations had with over fifty social enterprises, network organisations, forums and groups across the borough, with follow-up offers to attend meetings to discuss the consultation proposals further. Some networks have taken up this offer and sessions arranged shaped around feedback from groups leads as to what would work best for each group.

CYPS Directorate have circulated information about the consultation to try and engage with young people, particularly those transitioning to Adult Care. This has included:

- Education Service colleagues (via CYPS)
- Providers (via Commissioning)

Ongoing Advocacy support and thorough representation was provided throughout **all** stages and methods of the consultation.

A members seminar was held on 11th April 2022.

- **Communication**

Communication has been wide-ranging, including:

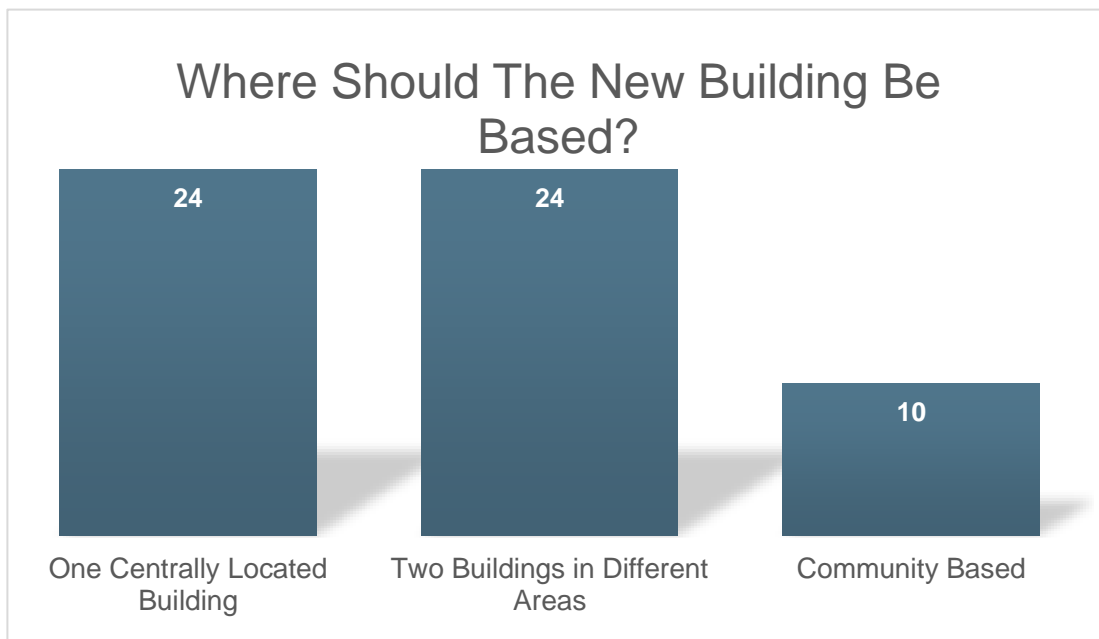
- Press releases
- Consultation packs
- Rotherham website information
- Internal to Council – Monday Roundup, Chief Executive Update, Member Briefings, Rotherham Round-up, VAR Email Bulletin, etc
- Cross-Directorate
- Cross-Council
- Social media used including FaceBook and Twitter
- Advertiser articles

- **Public Participation**

- Online Surveys completed: 58
- Attendees at public meetings: 21
- Attendees at drop-in sessions: 21
- People receiving home visits: 5
- Day services staff: 42
- Social enterprises, network organisations, forums and groups: 50

1.3 Consultation Outcome (full Consultees Responses can be found in **Appendix 1**)

1. *Preference about where the building should be based:*



One centrally located building - 24 people

Two buildings in different areas of the borough – 24 people

Community based – 10 people

Direct quotes from participants can be found in Appendix 1

Key Themes from consultation outcome

One Centrally Located Building:

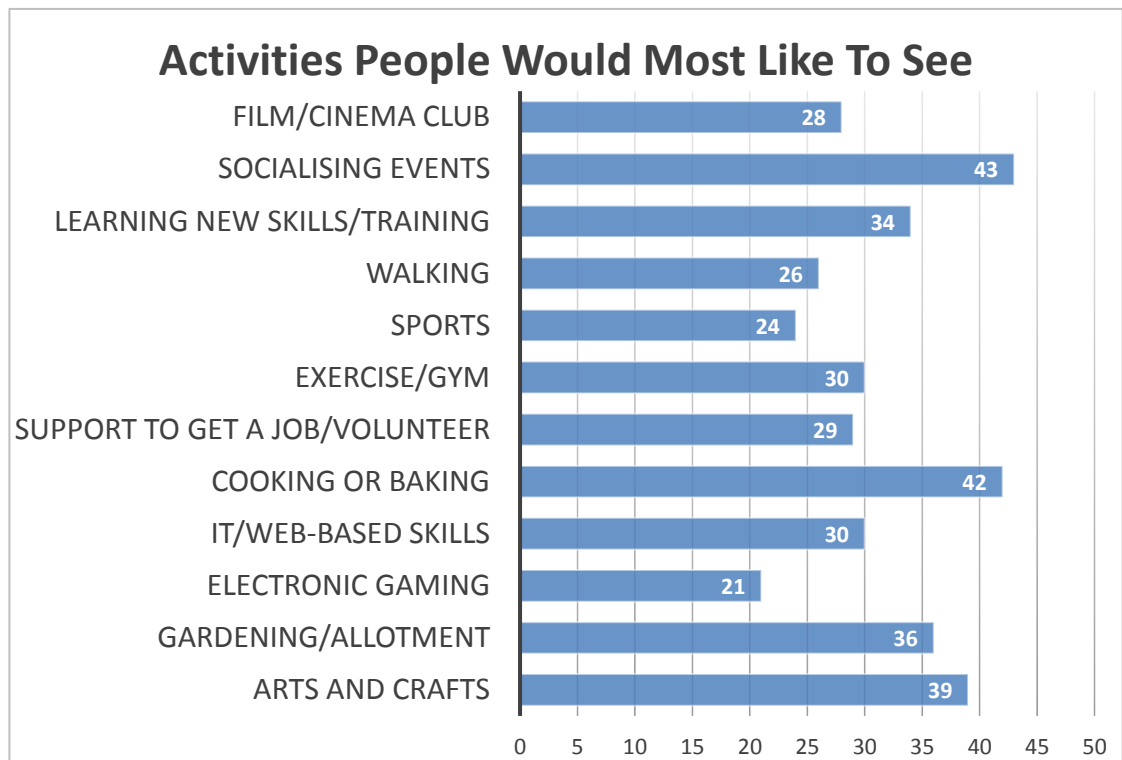
- Familiarity/Routine
- Safer base
- More space for one larger building to meet a wide range of needs and provide greater building accessibility
- Wider range of activities in one larger building

Two Buildings located in different areas of the borough:

- Travel concerns reduced with two buildings rather than one
- Two separate buildings could support varying need complexities

Community-Based service:

- Transportation issues would arise with just one or two buildings – a community-based service would eradicate these issues
- Focus should be on reaching the individual within the community, rather than on a building or multiple buildings

2. Activities that people would most like to see in a new service

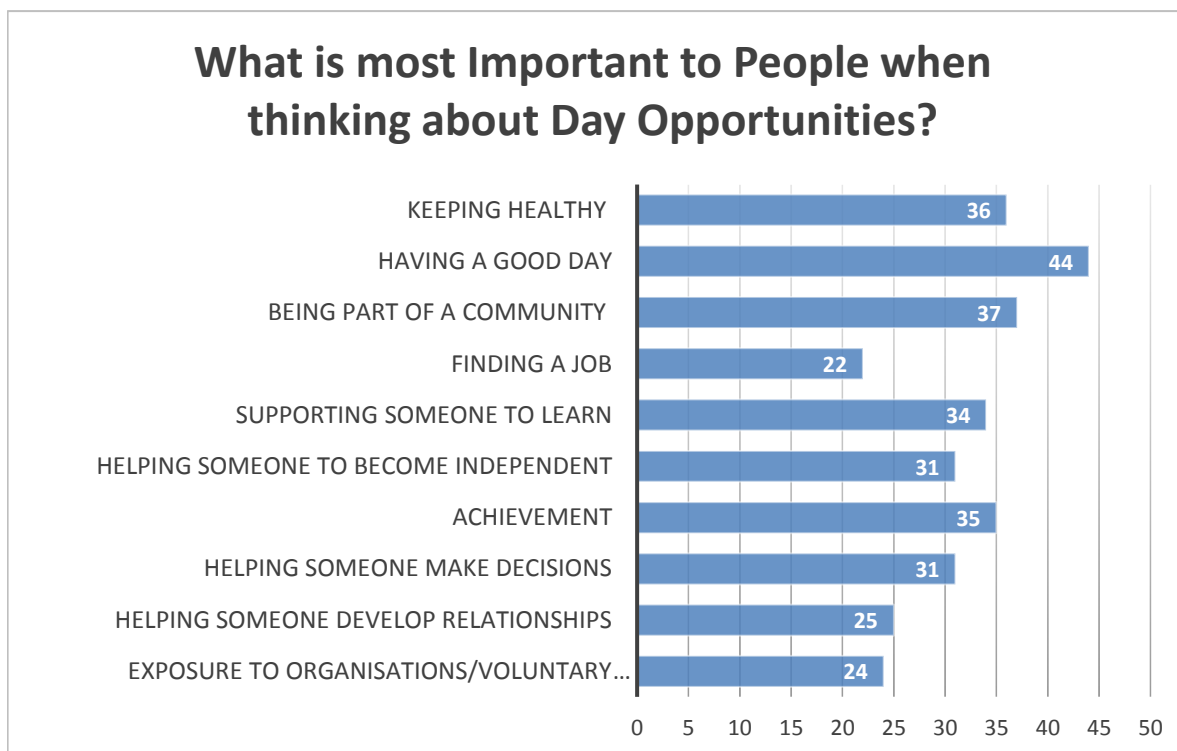
The most popular activities that people would like to see in a new service are:

- Socialising/events
- Cooking and baking
- Arts and crafts
- Gardening /allotment

Interest was shown in all the suggested activities (see **Appendix 1**) The intention of the selection was to encourage people to think about what activities they enjoyed or were interested in trying. The selection was not exhaustive, and participants were encouraged to think wider than this.

Direct quotes from participants can be found in Appendix 1

3. What is most important to people when thinking about day opportunities

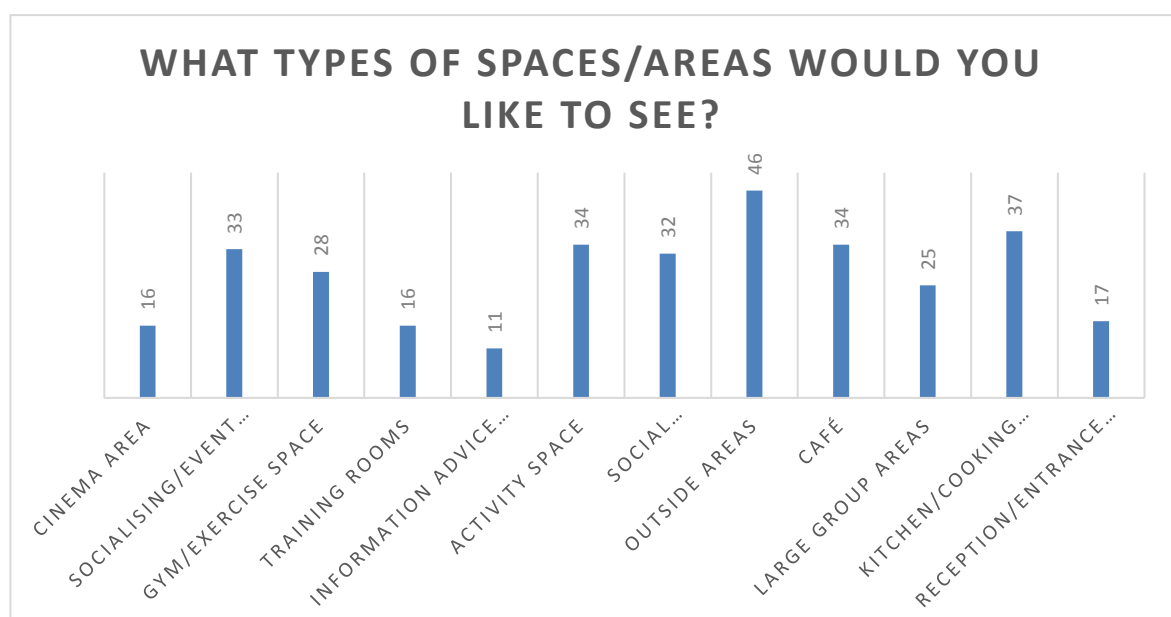


The most popular aspects that are important to people are:

- Having a good day
- Being part of a community
- Achievement
- Supporting people to learn

Direct quotes from participants can be found in Appendix 1

4. The type of spaces/areas people would like to see

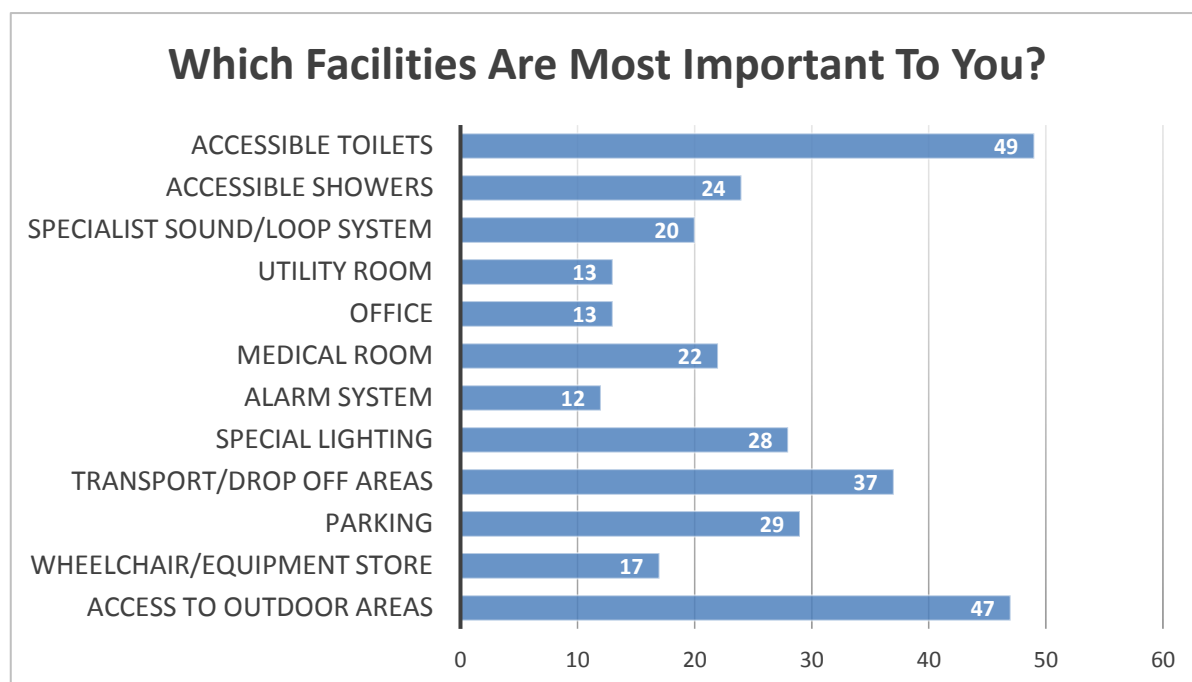


The most popular spaces/areas people would like to see are:

- Outside space
- Kitchen area
- Activity area
- Socialising/event space
- Café

Direct quotes from participants can be found in Appendix 1

5. Facilities that are most important to people.



The most popular facilities that people told us were important are:

- Access to outside areas
- Accessible toilets
- Transport/drop off areas/parking
- Specialist lighting

Direct quotes from participants can be found in appendix 1

6. Additional Qualitative Feedback/comments

A wealth of additional feedback has been collated during the duration of the consultation and is also documented in the consultation findings report (**Appendix 1**).

Key feedback to note:

The new service needs to be co-produced from the very beginning. It needs to be flexible and innovative, so that the people with lived experience are valued and surrounded with person-centred ethos.

Match transport as bus services are declining. Door to door services operate 10am - 2pm, so could we offer a service 10am - 6pm so people could access independently, or 9am - 6.30pm to also support working parents

Will the building be a disability confident employer, and can we have some people with disabilities working there?

The function rooms could also be rented out to produce additional revenue and could be used for social gatherings to welcome people into the centre. Can we link this with employment, voluntary work etc?

Separate complex needs area (and with the same dedicated staff group) as this group of people are extremely vulnerable, but an open area where people of all ranges of complexity can meet and mix when they want to.

1.4 **Service Options Appraisal**

The service options appraisal (**Appendix 2**) outlines the options for delivery of a new service. Section 3 of this report provides full detail and recommendations.

1.5 **Location(s)**

The outcome of the consultation regarding either one large building centrally located or two smaller buildings in different areas of the borough was an exact 50/50 split. In order to conclude the decision key relevant factors have been considered which include:

- Comments and opinions from the consultation outcome
- Availability, location and suitability of sites
- Best value and investment of the £2.1M to secure the highest quality facilities and service
- Delivery of the best possible outcomes for our customers

The Council Asset Management Team have been proactively supporting Adult Care Directorate to identify suitable sites across the borough. Size, location, and accessibility being key factors.

In total 29 potential sites were identified throughout the borough.

The site options appraisal (**Appendix 3**) details the outcome of findings and site visits and proposes the preferred option. Section 3 of this report provides full detail and recommendations.

1.6 **Building Design**

The new building design will ensure full compliance with accessibility standards in accordance with statutory regulations and take into consideration the specific requirements of the client group. Design will focus on providing a modern, state of the art facility whilst providing a welcoming, calming and exciting purpose-built environment.

Stakeholder engagement sessions will be held throughout the design process to ensure people's knowledge, ideas and opinions are taken into consideration

The build will comprise of carbon reduction technologies and meet all building regulation standards aimed at reducing carbon and running costs. This will be achieved by careful selection of materials, incorporating energy efficient building services and controls, and utilising energy efficient and sustainable building methodologies

1.7 **Cohort Mapping**

A recent cohort mapping exercise considered the geographical location of people with a learning disability who reside within the borough. The findings are as follows:

North 23%
South 12%
Central 24%
East 36%
Other 5%

Mapping of the geographical location of current day service clients is as follows:

North 16%
South 11%
Central 30%
East 43%

A definite correlation with the borough mapping and service mapping can be observed. This evidences that central and east areas of the borough have the largest numbers of people with a learning disability both residing in the area and also attending the current in-house day service provision.

1.8 **Build Delivery Plan**

A draft programme plan has been created and details estimated build delivery time following cabinet approval.

Estimated build completion and handover date 9th August 2024 with an expectation that the service will be operational on a phased approach by Winter 2024/25.

1.9 Capital Spend

The Council has already committed to a capital spend of £2.1M for the development of a new day opportunities service offer.

1.10 Service Offer

The future service offer takes into consideration the consultation outcome and feedback, the principles and objectives of the Council Learning Disability Transformation programme, legislation and legal frameworks.

Principles to support the new service include the following:

- Supports the 'my front door' principles of people having purposeful, ordinary lives and meaningful days
- Provides both a quality service and stability for those with the most complex needs, and a forward-thinking flexible approach for others which supports achievements of outcomes and long-term life changing goals
- Time limited pathway approach working on small steps towards greater independence and ordinary lives, with person centred plans and milestones
- Supports people with life skills, personal development, training, volunteering and work opportunities
- Provides a model of accessible enablement support around day-to-day life and in the workplace, irrespective of whether or not the person continues to access the service
- Supports people to access and remain in work and volunteering enjoying the positive lifestyle benefits that this brings
- Provides throughput and a pathway for young adults in transition leading onto 'mainstream' lifestyles rather than within services
- Meets a wide range of needs, not just in the building but also within the heart of the community and welcome support and involvement from local businesses, social enterprises, community groups and voluntary sector organisations
- Supports people to explore subsequent life enhancing elements of the 'my front door' project for example:

Outside my front door:

- My garden gate - accessing their community
- My work bag - employment opportunities
- My day/night out - engaging in events
- My things to do - regular activities
- My places to visit - interests / preferences

Inside my front door:

- My front room - friends and family (socialising)
- My night in - rest and recuperation
- My day off - relaxing at home Service delivery and purpose

The new service will be multi-functional within the heart of the community and welcome support and involvement from local businesses, community groups and voluntary sector organisations. The offer will focus on community connectivity.

The service model will support people with complex support needs delivered in a person-centred manner, also a hub for wider community activity, learning and skill development.

The hub will also act as a place for people with a learning disability to access general support with getting on with their lives', therefore reducing the need for formal contact with adult care for low level support thus supporting a prevention and early intervention model. This will be enhanced by a dedicated peripatetic hub team who would also provide enabling support and community links.

The service model will support people with complex support needs, and others who would be supported with a pathway to achieve longer term outcomes and goals, eventually not being reliant on the service other than for drop-in support from the hub as and when required.

The model will also support young adults in transition to achieve a life of their own.

Life skills, including managing money, travel training and domestic tasks would be provided to all those accessing the service.

Key activities currently accessed off site in the Maltby area will continue to be supported within the new model.

The service will support people with skills to enter the workplace, volunteering or pursue further interests both physically and digitally. People will be encouraged to volunteer within the wider community based on the skills and experience they have gained, with the final outcome being to secure and sustain meaningful employment.

The service will link with local colleges and adult education providers to support service users with a skills development plan and gain qualifications which they could use within a workplace.

It will support people with a learning disability to remain in the workplace and the employers to enable successful long-term employment. The service approach will also enable community development and therefore enhance and promote greater choice of options and life direction.

The service offer will consider extended opening times and also enable the use of the facilities during evenings and weekend for events and social gatherings as appropriate.

The service will be inclusive of the activities and interests referred to within the consultation outcome and will also ensure continuation of all activities that current service users are enjoying.

The model will support an outcome focused strength-based approach in accordance with good practice and the principles of the Care Act 2014.

Overall, the offer will support people to reach their aspirations and goals in life and provide an ongoing safety net to help with any hurdles along the way

The service model will continue to be developed in line with the needs of people who currently use our services, people who may use our services in the future, and informal carers.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The recommended proposals align with the ongoing transformation of learning disability services in Rotherham and the principles of 'my front door'. The report acknowledges and considers all the findings from the recent public consultation held 31st January 2022 to 30th April 2022.
- 2.2 A full engagement programme will be implemented with regard to the final service/build design with the input from peoples, relatives/carers and staff being of the utmost importance

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 Service Options

Option 1	Service to operate from one large <u>newbuild</u> centrally located building, complimented by community outreach support across the borough to support access to local communities.
	<div> <div>PRO's</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with consultation in that there is equal support for a centrally located single base along with additional support for community access. Existing Maltby relationships and key activities maintained, through outreach support. Larger building and space to meet a wider range of needs and activitites and provides greater accessibility Potential for access to town centre amentiiies and leisure depended upon location , to enhance day opportunity experiences More cost effective use of resources/funding to ensure customers get the best level of quality for the Rotherham £ Maximises use and impact of captial spend Supports socialising and existing wider friendship groups Centralised accessible support hub and changing space for the wider LD community Familliar service/routine is maintained Purpose buillt modern facilities Travel/transportation arrangments easier with one site Bringing people together builds stronger communities and communities of interest. </div> <div> <div>CON's</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional travel for some people Disruption and uncertainty for some families and people until new service offer implemented. Move to a new location to be very carefully managed. Need to ensure changing places are available to support safe use of local community faciiliites Greater footfall and noise levels, therefore would require quiet spaces </div>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimum use of workforce and staffing resource and flexibility to offer extended opening times • Every person will be reassessed to ensure their needs are met • Accessing universal services wherever possible in the community 	
Option 2	Service to operate from two new build bases, geographically split across the Borough.	
	PRO's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is in line with a significant response to the consultation supporting two bases. • Provides a safe place in two distinct locations. • Potential to retain the community strengths and profile that currently exists. • Maintains the current range of choice of two locations • Reduced travel arrangements for some people • Continues to support the independence that people have developed in the area. • Less disruption to routines and family life. 	CON's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of two buildings and service would be compromised compared with investing the available capital in one building • Resources are split across two bases limiting flexibility and opening times • Prevents wider Rotherham Borough offer re community outreach & access. • Changing places to be accessed/ established within local community facilities • Disruption and uncertainty for some families and people until new service offer implemented. • Move to a new location to be very carefully managed for people
OPTION 3	Community based service operating on an outreach basis and would not have a building base presence	
	PRO's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced operating costs • Reduces the need for council buildings • Flexible service delivery and support times • Supports particular interests and activities • Person centred 	CON's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support hub provision would be on a virtual basis and not in a physical building seen as a social space with routine • Issues with finding changing places/dignity • Lack of service identity

Appendix 2 – Service options appraisal details the consideration of the range of options available to the Council.

3.2 Site Options

A total of 29 potential sites were identified in the borough, full details of which can be viewed in **Appendix 3**.

23 sites were under the Council's ownership and 6 were for sale in the private market

Key considerations relating to suitability included:

- Location within the borough and alignment with cohort mapping
- Overall size of the site
- Community based
- Accessibility
- Proximity to local services and community facilities
- Transport links and networks

- Outdoor space
- Land levels
- Likelihood of planning objections

3.3 The recommended proposals are as follows:

Service Proposal

Option 1 is the preferred option.

Service to operate from one large new build centrally located building, complimented by community outreach support across the borough to support access to local communities.

The rationale for this decision is that it offers all the benefits that the investment into one large modern building would realise whilst retaining a community presence and outreach support in the east and across the wider borough in response to demand and need. This supports increased choice and control, strengthens local communities and considers the impact of people who currently use the REACH service in Maltby who may have developed a particular local interest, or wish to remain or become involved with their local community.

It provides an inclusive approach, building strong community connections, focusing on support which is personalised, flexible and meets people's individual needs both building and community based, is person centred and ensures people are receiving the right flexible support in the right place at the right time.

Together with the preferred site option and community outreach, this option will enable us to deliver a central base alongside a community outreach resource to meet localised demand for support.

The current sites at Elliot Centre and Maple Avenue would be decommissioned

Everyone will be offered a new assessment of care and support needs to ensure the new service model meets their needs.

The new service would be called 'Living my best life', with the preferred site option called 'Castle View'

This option aligns with:

- The 2018 Cabinet report 'Transformation of services and support for people with a learning disability.
- The 2021 Cabinet report 'Proposals for the reach service' with particular reference to point 3.2 – location of the service.
- The findings from both the 2017 and 2022 consultation exercises.

It provides an inclusive approach, building strong community connections, focusing on support which is personalised, flexible and meets people's individual needs both building and community based, is person centred and ensures people are receiving the right flexible support in the right place at the right time.

Together with the preferred site options (**Appendix 3**) and alignment with cohort mapping exercises, this option will enable us to deliver a central base alongside a community outreach resource in the east of the borough to meet more localised demand for support.

Site proposal

Warden Street, Canklow is the preferred site option (please see Appendix 3)

The rationale for this decision is that: meeting all required specifications, the site offers a wide scope for development potential and opportunities for innovation, is of a very good size and is in a community location known to have a strong community spirit. There are transport links within 100m of the site and the area is within walking distance of the town centre. The surroundings are pleasant and off the main road with local facilities nearby including a recreation area, shop, GP surgery. Being close to the bypass supports accessibility to travel to the site from all areas of the borough. The site to be called 'Castle View Day Opportunities'

The Housing Service is developing proposals to deliver council homes for rent on this site, and the Annual Housing Development Report to Cabinet in July 2022 obtained approval for using the site for residential development. The day opportunities proposals set out in this report will not affect the number of council homes proposed (25), and Adult Care and Housing teams will work together to ensure a coordinated approach. Further details on the housing proposal will be included in a housing development Cabinet report in December 2022.

4. Consultation On Proposal

- 4.1 This proposal is based on the outcome of a 90-day public consultation exercise carried out between 31st January 2022 and 30th April 2022.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Implementation of this decision will commence in accordance with the delivery plan detailed in section 1.8.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There is no proposal to alter the capacity of the staffing resource required to continue to run the new service, however there may need to be some amendments to job roles and staffing structures to meet the ambitions of the service and as highlighted in the consultation. There will be a formal consultation with staff as appropriate, to meet the needs of the service and Human Resource guidance. Staff have continued to be engaged with the consultation throughout and their enthusiasm and commitment to a new service are key to the delivery.

The preferred option is likely to have minimal impact on transport costs but until the location and participation of each person is known this remains a risk to the council. The Capital Programme includes £2.1 million for the development of a new building and any associated miscellaneous costs. However, it should be noted that this relates to build costs only (at 2020 prices) and does not factor in the foregoing of a potential

capital receipt if a Council site is agreed. Building running costs will also be impacted but it is expected that the cost can be contained within the current lease and running costs of the existing service.

Any potential grant funding opportunities which may serve to enhance the specification to be delivered or support the financial viability of the scheme will be pursued including relating to the above leasehold titles.

- 6.2 Any procurement requirements associated with the recommendation for the new build facility and the delivery of services must be undertaken in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The duty to consult consists of four key elements, known as the Gunning criteria, that are designed to make consultation a fair and worthwhile exercise: -

- (1) Any lawful consultation must be undertaken at a time when proposals are at a formative stage.
- (2) There must be sufficient reasons advanced for any particular proposal to allow those consulted to give intelligent consideration and an intelligent response.
- (3) Adequate time must be given for that purpose.
- (4) The results of that consultation must be conscientiously taken into account before any decision is taken.

There are two further points of law that the Council has followed, and these are particularly relevant in the consultation given that the customers using the service will have varying degrees of cognitive impairment as they will have a diagnosis of a Learning Disability or Autism:

1. The degree of specificity with which the Council should conduct the consultation exercise may be influenced by the identity of those whom it is consulting; and
2. The demands of fairness are likely to be higher when an authority contemplates depriving someone of an existing benefit or advantage than when the claimant is a bare applicant for a future benefit.

While the outcome of the consultation is summarised at 1.3 of this report, the consultation findings are reported in full at **Appendix 1**.

- 7.2 The proposals in this report support the Council to comply with legal obligations encompassed in the:
- Human Rights Act (1998), to treat everyone equally with fairness dignity and respect with a focus on those who are disadvantaged as a result of disability; and
 - Equality Act (2010) to legally protect people from discrimination in the wider society
 - Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 establishes the public sector equality duty ("PSED") – which requires that the Council, as a public body, in carrying out its functions must have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics referred to in the Equality Act are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation. Public authorities also need to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination against someone because of their marriage or civil partnership status.

There is a duty on the Council to keep a record to demonstrate that it has genuinely and consciously had due regard to the PSED.

Equality Analysis attached: **Appendix 4** Part A - Equality Analysis Screening and **Appendix 5** Part B - Equality Analysis Form.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no Human Resources implications which will result in job losses arising from this report. However, due process will be followed in relation to any structural changes or changes to job profiles. To date HR are satisfied that relevant engagement and consultation has taken place with staff regarding the proposals for day services.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The new delivery models for Learning Disability and Autism services outlined in this report, and the co-produced service specification, will improve the service offer for all the adult cohorts supported by the Council.

The proposals contained within this report support positive steps to meet objectives in the Council Plan to develop alternatives to traditional care, maximise independence and stimulate the market requirement in terms of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (Priority 2 - Promoting independence and self-management and increasing independence of care for all people).

Young People who are in Rotherham's Preparing for Adulthood Cohort are in scope, though the impacts will be for people aged 18 and over.

The Strategic Preparing for Adulthood Planning Group will have oversight of new delivery models which will ensure better outcomes for young people who have SEND, mental health, physical and complex needs.

For all young people to:

- Grow up prepared for the future.
- Have improved health and wellbeing.
- Be able to exercise control over the support they receive.

- Be able to receive support locally from a range of services that everyone values.
- For all young people to have an opportunity have their own 'front door' - Ensure the right support is in place based on where the young person lives.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The proposals in this report support the Council to comply with legal obligations encompassed in the:

- Human Rights Act (1998), to treat everyone equally with fairness dignity and respect with a focus on those who are disadvantaged as a result of disability and Page 12 of 13.
- Equality Act (2010) to legally protect people from discrimination in the wider society.

The Equality Analysis provides further detail, though the primary focus of the proposal will be to support the organisations who provide services to people with Disabilities and Long-Term Conditions together with their Unpaid Carers as the services form part of the Council's statutory duties under the Care Act 2014.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment form has been completed and can be reviewed in appendix 6.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1. The intention is to explore the development of the new service jointly with Integrated Care System (ICS) partners. This would ensure a joint place based approach to service design and delivery and meeting the needs of people funded through both the local authority and NHS Continuing Health Care (CHC).

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Capital programme costs

The Capital Programme of £2.1 million for the development relates to build costs only (at 2020 prices) this does not factor in the foregoing of a potential capital receipt if a Council site is agreed or any inflationary uplift in build costs due to the current rates of inflation and cost of materials.

13.2 Availability of suitable sites

There was a potential risk that a suitable site for the location of the new service may not be realised. Adult Care have worked with Asset Management to ensure all potential sites, both Council and privately owned, have been identified and analysis carried out in terms of specification suitability. This robust exercise has ensured that the final site recommendation is the most suitable for the purpose of delivery of the new day opportunities service.

14. Accountable Officers

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	03/10/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	29/09/22
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	29/09/22

Report Author: Julie Moore
 Head of Service – Provider Services
Julie.moore@rotherham.gov.uk

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 1.

Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report: Consultation outcome and findings - Day opportunities for people with high support needs

Author: Julie Moore – Head of Service, Provider Services

Date of report: 6th May 2022

1. Introduction

On 20th December 2021, cabinet approved a 90-day consultation exercise to establish the views and needs of users of the REACH Day Service, their families, and carers and younger people preparing for adulthood, regarding a new day opportunities service offer for people with high support needs in Rotherham.

This consultation was a very important and exciting part of the council's plan to transform learning disability services across the borough.

The consultation commenced on 31 January 2022 and ended on 30 April 2022.

2. Methodology

- Online consultation questionnaire**

A online consultation ran for the full duration of the consultation and could be found on RMBC website. The access details were widely publicised. Paper version also available.

The following Library and Neighbourhood Hubs provided help to complete online forms and displayed information about the consultation:

Library	Telephone	Address
Riverside	01709 336774	Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham, S60 1AE
Aston	01709 254134	Worksop Road, Swallownest, Sheffield, S26 4WD
Brinsworth Community	01709 255050	Field View, Brinsworth, Rotherham, S60 5DG
Dinnington	01709 334426	Laughton Road, Dinnington, Sheffield, S25 2PP
Greasbrough Community	01709 551477	Coach Road, Greasbrough, Rotherham, S61 4PU
Kimberworth	01709 558581	Church Street, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 1HA
Kiveton Park	01909 771823	Wales Road, Kiveton Park, Sheffield S26 6RB
Maltby Community	01709 334772	Braithwell Road, Maltby, Rotherham, S66 8JE
Mowbray Gardens Community	01709 370038	Herringtonthorpe Valley Road, Rotherham, S65 2UH
Rawmarsh	01709 255682	Barbers Avenue, Rotherham, S62 6AA
Swinton	01709 254615	Station Street, Swinton, Mexborough, S64 8PZ
Thorpe Hesley	0114 2457027	Trinity Community Centre, Sough Hall Avenue, Thorpe Hesley, Rotherham, S61 2QJ
Thurcroft	01709 546150	School Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9DE
Wath	01709 873542	Montgomery Square, Wath, Rotherham, S63 7RZ
Wickersley	01709 544134	286 Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham, S66 1JJ

- A series of formal public consultation meetings** were conducted and feedback gathered from Carers, Relatives and People with Learning Disabilities:

Date	Time	Where
15 February 2022	5pm – 7pm	The Gallery at Riverside House
22 February 2022	3pm – 5pm	The Gallery at Riverside House
16 March 2022	11am – 1pm	The Gallery at Riverside House
17 March 2022	5pm – 7pm	The Gallery at Riverside House
23 March 2022	9am – 12noon	The Gallery at Riverside House

- **A series of drop-in sessions** were attended across the borough by Carers, Relatives and People with Learning Disabilities:

Date	Time	Where
21 February 2022	9am – 12noon	Greasbrough Community Library
25 February 2022	3pm – 5pm	Mowbray Gardens Community Library
28 February 2022	12noon – 3pm	Maltby Community Library
3 March 2022	9am – 12noon	Mowbray Gardens Community Library
7 March 2022	1pm – 4pm	Maltby Community Library
10 March 2022	1pm – 4pm	Mowbray Gardens Community Library

In addition the following drop in sessions were also arranged:

Date	Time	Where
25 April 2022	1.30pm – 3.30pm	Aston Joint Service Centre 42-48 Worksop Road Swallownest Sheffield S26 4WD
26 April 2022	10am – 12noon	Dinnington Resource Centre 131 Laughton Road Dinnington Sheffield S25 2PP
27 April 2022	5pm – 7pm	The Centre, Brinsworth Brinsworth Lane Brinsworth Rotherham S60 5BU
28 April 2022	9am – 11am	Wath Community Library Montgomery Square Wath Rotherham S63 7RZ

- **Home visits**
The Head of Provider Services has also made a number of personal visits to Carers and Relatives to discuss the Consultation and gather further feedback.
- **Engagement activity**

Individual letters were sent to those attending REACH Day Services along with their Carers and Relatives regarding the 90 Day Consultation and means of engaging in the process.

Engagement Sessions/Workshops have been planned at REACH Day Services as a follow-up to the consultation.

The Head of Provider Services held a dedicated meeting with all REACH staff on 26/01/2022 to go through the consultation pack, slides and all aspects of the consultation to ensure staff had a clear understanding to enable them to support and explain to service users. A supply of consultation packs was also left at REACH premises on the same day.

Emails were sent and conversations had with over fifty social enterprises, network organisations, forums and groups across the borough, with follow-up offers to attend meetings to discuss the consultation proposals further. Some networks have taken up this offer and sessions arranged shaped around feedback from groups leads as to what would work best for each group.

CYPS Directorate have circulated information about the consultation to try and engage with young people, particularly those transitioning to Adult Care. This has included:

- Education Service colleagues (via CYPS)
- Providers (via Commissioning)

Ongoing Advocacy support was provided throughout all stages and methods of the consultation.

A dedicated engagement session with council members was held on 11th April 2022.

- **Communication**

Communication has been wide-ranging, including:

- Press releases
- Consultation packs
- Rotherham website information
- Internal to Council – Monday Roundup, Chief Executive Update, Member Briefings, Rotherham Round-up, VAR Email Bulletin, etc
- Cross-Directorate
- Cross-Council
- Social media used including FaceBook and Twitter
- Advertiser articles

NEW CONSULTATION AIMS TO TRANSFORM LEARNING DISABILITY DAY OPPORTUNITIES

Rotherham Council has today launched a major new consultation as part of its plan to build a new in-house day service for people with learning disabilities, replacing the centre known as REACH.

Published: 31st January 2022

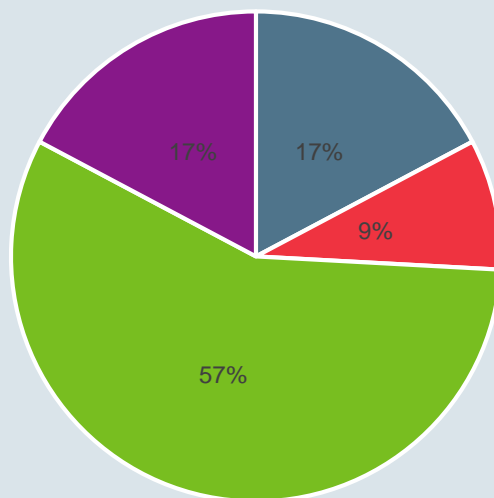


3. Participation

Online Survey Engagement:

Number of Survey Participants (31st January – 30th April): **58 Participants**

Who has Completed the Survey?



- Current Day Service Users
- Possible Future Day Service Users
- Carers
- Other

Age Breakdown of Participants:

14-17	2
18-21	0
22-29	11
30-39	11
40-49	14
50-59	14
60-70	6
Over 70	0

Geographical Distribution of Participants:

S13	1
S25	6
S26	4

S60	11
S61	2
S62	8
S63	4
S64	1
S65	6
S66	11
S73	0
S80	2
Other	2

Attendees at public meetings: 21

Attendees at drop in sessions: 21

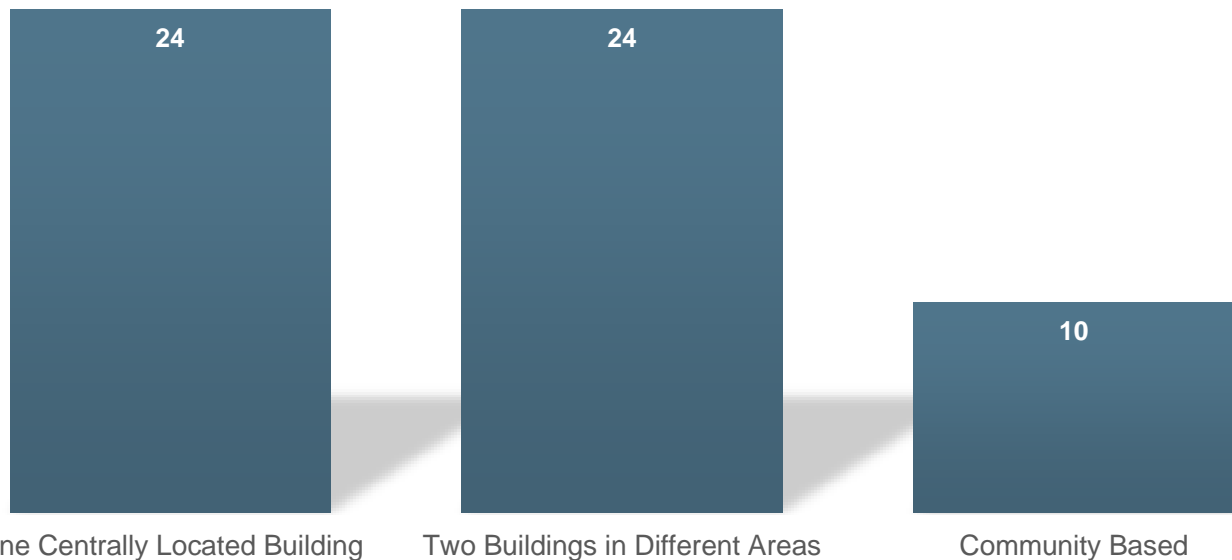
People receiving home visits: 5

Reach staff: 42

Social enterprises, network organisations, forums and groups:50

4. Consultation Findings

Where Should The New Building Be Based?



Open Responses:

1. Person who currently uses day services favouring a community-based service – “The council’s agenda is to strengthen local communities. To build local communities. So why not use

parish halls? Put changing places bathroom in all parish halls and let people with learning disabilities meet in their local area. Integrate the rest of the public with those with learning disabilities. Stop doing groups for one demographic area. Mix people together and build stronger communities”.

2. Learning Disability Community Nurse favouring 2 buildings – *“You can interlink the 2 with different aspects to the Service. Could actually do with more than 2”.*

3. Carer favouring 1 building – *“More space for wheelchair access and changing places toilet/facilities. A smaller building may not offer this sufficiently”.*

4. Support Worker favouring 1 building – *“The people who will use the service would prefer a set routine in their day-to-day lifestyle. 1 service would support their routine, so they know where and what their day is going to consist of. This will also support with building relationships by seeing the same staff support and their friends on a day-to-day basis”.*

5. Resident favouring 1 building – *“Transport needs to be provided for all service users”.*

6. Carer favouring 1 building – *“More likely to have facilities needed for all, as not doing it twice, would also need to think about transport needs”.*

7. Carer favouring a community-based service – *“Near peoples home know their local community smaller groups work better”.*

8. Carer favouring 1 building – *“I think it would be better for one building, because everybody could mix. if there was a shortage of staff it would be easier to manage in one building”.*

9. Carer favouring 2 buildings – *“All services are in Rotherham or miles away there needs to be something over this side of Rotherham S25. We have to travel miles and spend a long time on transport which isn't acceptable”.*

10. Person who currently uses day services favouring 1 building – *“Make it fair with regards to travelling”.*

11. Carer favouring a community-based service – *“In order for the service to be person centred it has to be provided on an individual and local level. It is not appropriate to have one building which is geographically central but not necessarily central to the people who need it. There has also been a tendency in the past for this to not have sufficient staff and for a general rather than personalised service be provided which in the end doesn't fully meet the needs of anyone. This is especially for those who have a sensory processing disorder and can find it impossible to access services where a large number of people are attending. I think the same would be true for 2 spaces. Money should be spent on staff working with individuals and not a building”.*

12. Person who currently uses day services favouring 2 buildings – *“Why a new one? What will happen with old ones? Who will decide who gets a service or not”?*

13. Person who currently uses day services favouring 2 buildings – *“You can support and offer different things I.e. have one unit to support adults with PMLD, non-mobile etc and other unit for adults with SLD to MLD who may have behaviour issues and may need opportunities to volunteer or work”.*

14. Person who currently uses day services favouring a community-based service – *“I think you should use all the parish halls the town already has. This will mean you are allowing people the opportunity of activities in their local communities”.*

15. **Carer favouring 2 buildings** – *“Rotherham is a widespread area so 2 different locations would cut down on transport time”.*

16. **Former LD Support Worker favouring 2 buildings** – *“Easier access for people if there are two sites. Building bases will enable facilities to be available which may not be otherwise available in the community already”.*

17. **Person who currently uses day services favouring 1 building** – *“Perhaps 1 large centre then more programmed events in the community Eg centrally run, 10 pin bowling, Pub lunch, Clifton Park meets in summer”.*

18. **Carer favouring 1 building** – *“Better to be a familiar purpose-built building with good public transport links for access”.*

19. **Person who might use day services in the future favouring 2 buildings** – *“A new building would be fantastic and give people a lovely place to spend time, it would have great facilities and because it's new would give people confidence and status they are valued. A new building could incorporate services to integrate into the community for example a coffee shop / meeting place for everyone. A new building could accommodate a service or mini services to offer support to people with a moderate learning disability for example an advice shop for benefits/ housing/ tenancy issues/ safeguarding”.*

20. **Carer favouring 2 buildings** – *“RMBC covers a wide area, so two buildings would enable greater local access....and increase community involvement and feeling of ownership. Transport journeys could be reduced as the buildings could be within easy walking distance”!*

21. **Person who might use day services in the future favouring 2 buildings** – *“Having two smaller buildings based in either centralised around Clifton/East Herringthorpe/East Dene/Eastwood/Thrybergh/Rawmarsh area and then the other to be based in the south of Rotherham around Dinnington/Aston/Thurcroft/Kiveton Park so that people it is accessible to all across the borough. Not having a dedicated building would mean groups are reliant on the availability of other spaces and that may be subject to change. This makes it inaccessible to a lot of disabled people with high support needs, and the uncertainty of location makes it inaccessible to the Autistic community, like myself”.*

22. **Carer favouring 1 building** – *“My Place in Rotherham is already well known to a large group or people with learning disabilities. It is already multi-functional, has a fully fitted commercial kitchen suitable for making snacks or meals, has several rooms available at ground level to do all sorts of subjects. It may need some alterations to incorporate a wet room but there is nowhere in the centre or close to Rotherham town centre that would be accessible for service users. A single building would be better for people with disabilities across the board because they would associate going to the building with a certain set of assumptions / values and activities and a sense of belonging which they wouldn't get from separate buildings or having no buildings at all. You ought to be considering ALL of the people with Learning Disabilities, not concentrating on just people who are able to work. Since the country started to open up again, the Learning Disability community in Rotherham has been largely ignored and forgotten with NO facilities whatsoever being open to them, be it work or leisure. Courses that used to be available at the Unity Centre or My Place have just ceased to exist”.*

23. **Person who currently uses day services favouring 2 buildings** – *“I like having the sites separate as I am with people who are of the same ability, and we are able to do similar activities together, I wouldn't like on big building as there would be more people there so it would be noisy, and I would get anxious”.*

24. **Person who currently uses day services favouring 2 buildings** – *“This works well without the need to travel into a busy congested town centre”.*
25. **Carer favouring 1 building** - *“More activities all in one place, would be seen as more of a day out. People will be more familiar and probably more likely to build and maintain meaningful relationships”.*
26. **Carer favouring a community-based service** – *“Poor disabled transport. Also saying in the community will help to gain friendship for service users and parents/carers”.*
27. **SEND College Teacher favouring 1 building** – *“Transportation is easier to and from one site, as opposed to accessing different facilities at more than one location”.*
28. **Person who works for Speakup self-advocacy favouring a community-based service** – *“Co-production needs to happen to agree/disagree and design something else which is fully co-produced from scratch”.*
29. **Person who might use day services in the future favouring 1 building** – *“Need to be all in the same place. So don't have to travel around and spend money to get to different areas”.*
30. **Carer favouring 2 buildings** – *“Smaller but multiple buildings will offer more flexibility to match service users to attend”.*
31. **Carer favouring 1 building** – *“High risk/vulnerable people need a safe base”.*
32. **Carer favouring 1 building** – *“Needs to have facilities for PMLD”.*
33. **Support Worker from an LD Care Home favouring a community-based service** – *“Choice of centres around the borough - not just 1 or 2 as some people with learning disabilities have difficulty travelling. Please don't have one centre that is only accessible to the few and not the many”.*

Key Themes

Prominent comments re One Centrally Located Building:

- Familiarity/Routine
- Safer base
- More space for one larger building to meet a wide range of needs and provide greater building accessibility
- Wider range of activities in one larger building

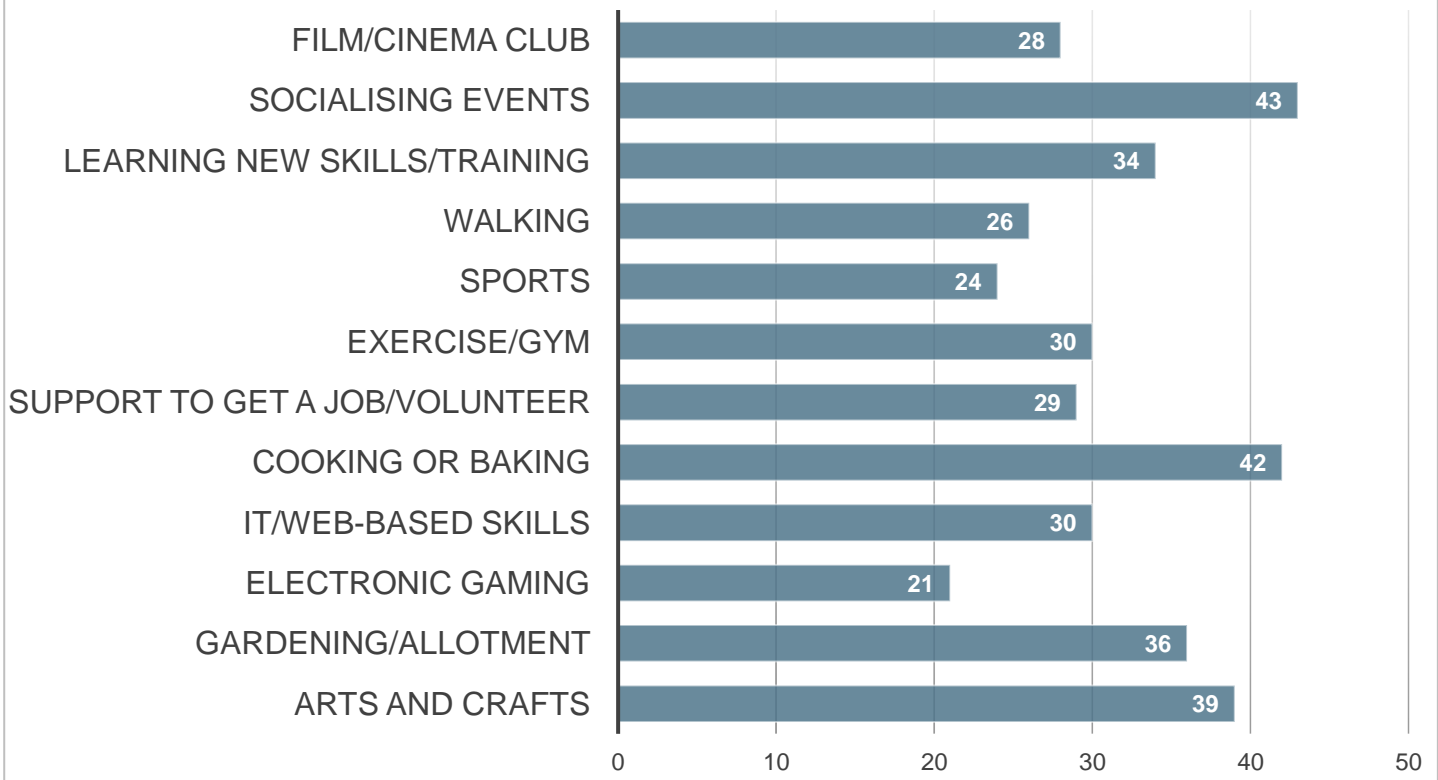
Prominent comments re Two Buildings located in different areas of the borough:

- Travel concerns reduced with two buildings rather than one
- Two separate buildings could support varying need complexities

Prominent comments re a Community-Based service:

- Transportation issues would arise with just one or two buildings – a community-based service would eradicate these issues
- Focus should be on reaching the individual within the community, rather than on a building or multiple buildings

Activities People Would Most Like To See



Open Responses:

1. **Person who currently uses day services** – *“Opportunities to volunteer”.*
2. **Learning Disability Community Nurse** – *“Independent living skills”.*
3. **Carer** – *“Snoezelen, sensory area, wheelchair accessible garden area”.*
4. **Support Worker** – *“Classes such as learning British sign language and Makaton. Woodwork classes”.*
5. **Resident** – *“You need to ask the users and their families”.*
6. **Carer** – *“Helping with communication and regulation of emotions”.*
7. **Carer** – *“Accessible Playground for Wheelchair users And a Sensory Room and Hoisting system and a Toilet area with a changing bench and hoisting system for children and adults who cannot use a toilet because they are fully time nappies/pads users”.*
8. **Carer** – *“Help with independence skills at whatever level the individual is at. Including finances, buying food, healthy meals, exercise, understanding what is going on in the world, how to navigate social media, learning about other cultures, supporting charities relevant to them, helping them understand their own health needs, planning travel and supporting any special interests”.*
9. **Person who currently uses day services** – *“Swimming self-advocacy courses pottery woodwork shop and or cafe work experience”.*

10. **Person who currently uses day services** – *“Physiotherapy, Hand and foot massage, Haircuts, Sensory based learning”.*

11. **Person who currently uses day services** - *“Service for physio, OT and SALT”.*

12. **Person who might use day services in the future** – *“I would like to see people with a moderate learning disability have opportunities to meet up with friends in a safe place, to offer a social club type drop in for example every week or minimum every month. I need support to go out and find my way to places, I would like to meet up with friends to go have a coffee or to the cinema or have a safe place to meet and watch a film”.*

13. **Carer** – *“Music based activities”.*

14. **Person who might use day services in the future** – *“Knit and natter type events similar to those in the libraries. Community garden where vegetables and fruits are grown that are free for the public to help and take as needed, possibly with a type of stall so the public know what is available. Gaming lounge where people can bring their own Nintendo Switches, Gameboys, DSs etc, possibly having a console for group play. Tables set up for board and card games like Magic the Gathering, D&D etc. Drop-in classes to learn gainful skills to enable people looking for employment to stay in employment when they find something - this could include IT classes, office-based skills such as answering phones, replying to emails, photocopying, and scanning documents etc. Social groups that are more than just having a cup of tea/coffee and sitting in a circle - actual themed events like the craft groups or a photography group - special interest based social groups. Cinema clubs where they watch films and then discuss them as a group, similar to book clubs but they watch the film together at the centre”.*

15. **Person who currently uses day services** – *“Leaflet delivery. Days out / pantomime visit. Café”.*

16. **Carer** – *“Maybe some sensory areas for autism. Climbing wall to help with motor skills”.*

17. **Carer** – *“I think we have enough sports gyms etc. We need a place to get youth and those older who have a disability interested and socialising - gaming clubs, coding classes etc something they are actually interested in”.*

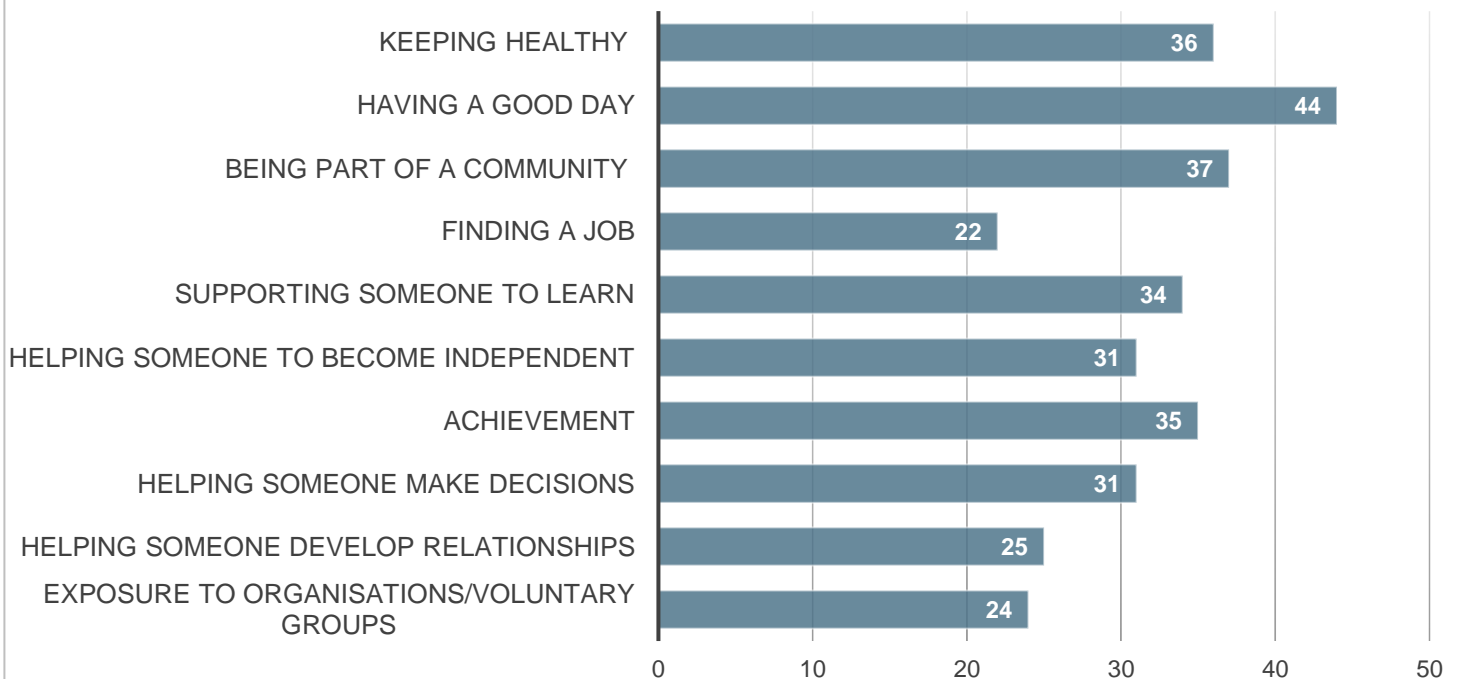
18. **Person who works for Speakup self-advocacy** – *“Co-production needs to happen before any of this is agreed or this becomes a day service. There may be lots of other things people want to do”.*

19. **Carer** – *“Sensory garden/room, music/singing/dancing”.*

20. **Carer** – *“Swimming. Music.”.*

21. **Carer** – *“None of these apply to my son due to the severity of his disabilities. I have ticked some to try and help”.*

What is most Important to People when thinking about Day Opportunities?

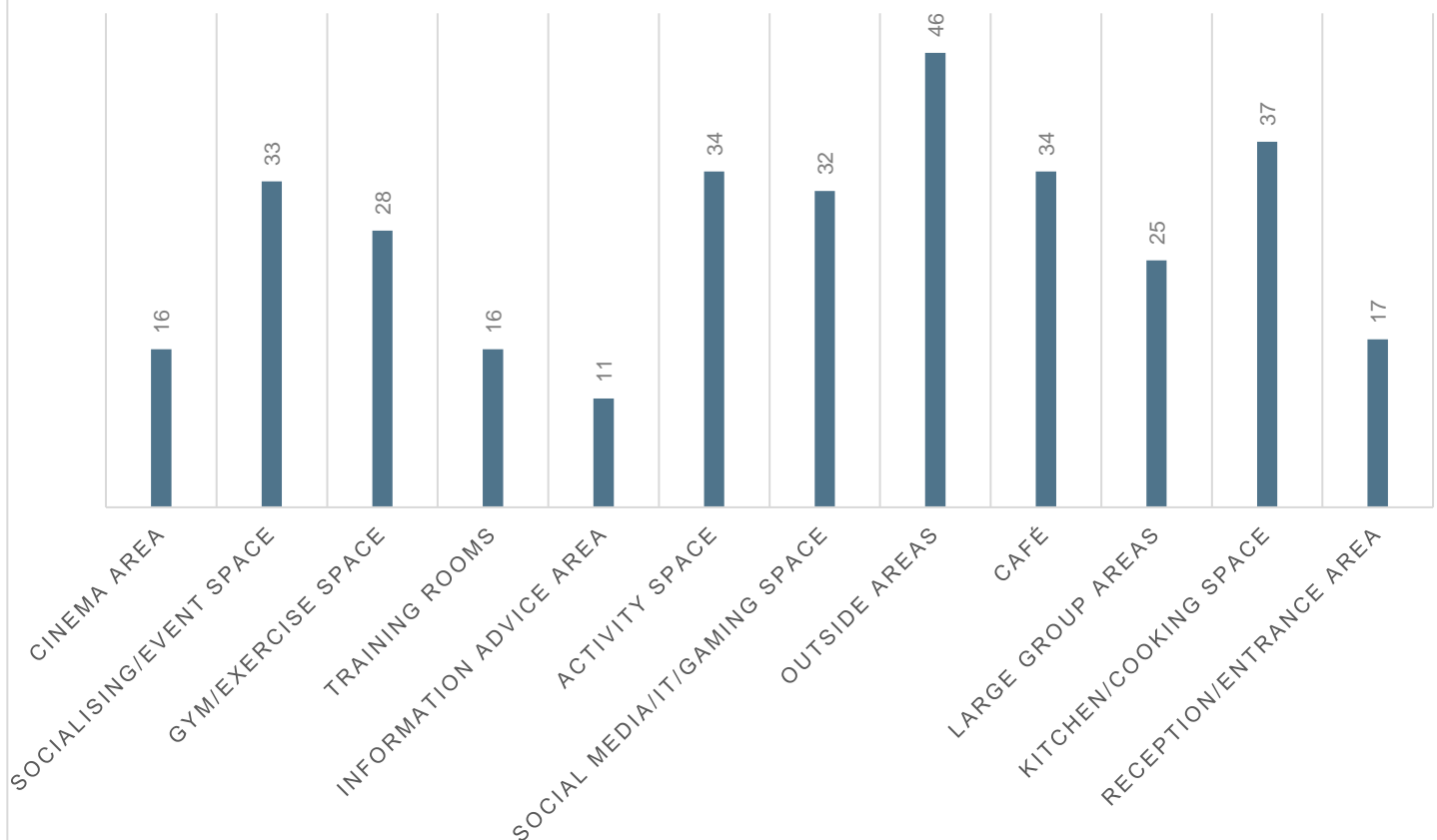


Open Responses:

1. **Learning Disability Community Nurse** – *“Occupational Therapy input would be essential”.*
2. **Support Worker for People with Learning Disabilities** – *“A safe place in the community”.*
3. **Resident** – *“Again ask the service users and their families. I would add that anyone who attends needs to feel this is a great place to be”.*
4. **Carer** – *“Don’t forget that very different levels of need and supporting decisions can be simple to complex”.*
5. **Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Intense interaction support adults with PMLD. Healthy nutrition and exercise for all”.*
6. **Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“It must have Space and area for wheelchair users and those who need quiet places”.*
7. **Person who might use Day Services in the Future** – *“Whatever happens in the centres need to be community led. Hold events and groups based on what the community wants, have opportunities for people who use the centre to create and run their own groups with assistance if they need it. Don’t just host events that you think the public want, actively ask them and continuously review what is happening. If a group doesn’t work, don’t just stop the group, ask why it isn’t working and make active changes like changing the time or date or focus of the group”.*
8. **Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Support needs to be from people who understand learning difficulties and autism”.*

9. **Carer** – *“Support group for carers such as coffee and cake which could be at the same time some of the activities take place”.*
10. **Person who works for Speakup self-advocacy** – *“Co-production including the employment of people with lived experience for this new service needs to happen before any of this is agreed otherwise this becomes a day service”.*
11. **Carer** – *“Support to socialise”.*
12. **Carer** – *“Again my son is too disabled to be able to do most of these”.*

WHAT TYPES OF SPACES/AREAS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

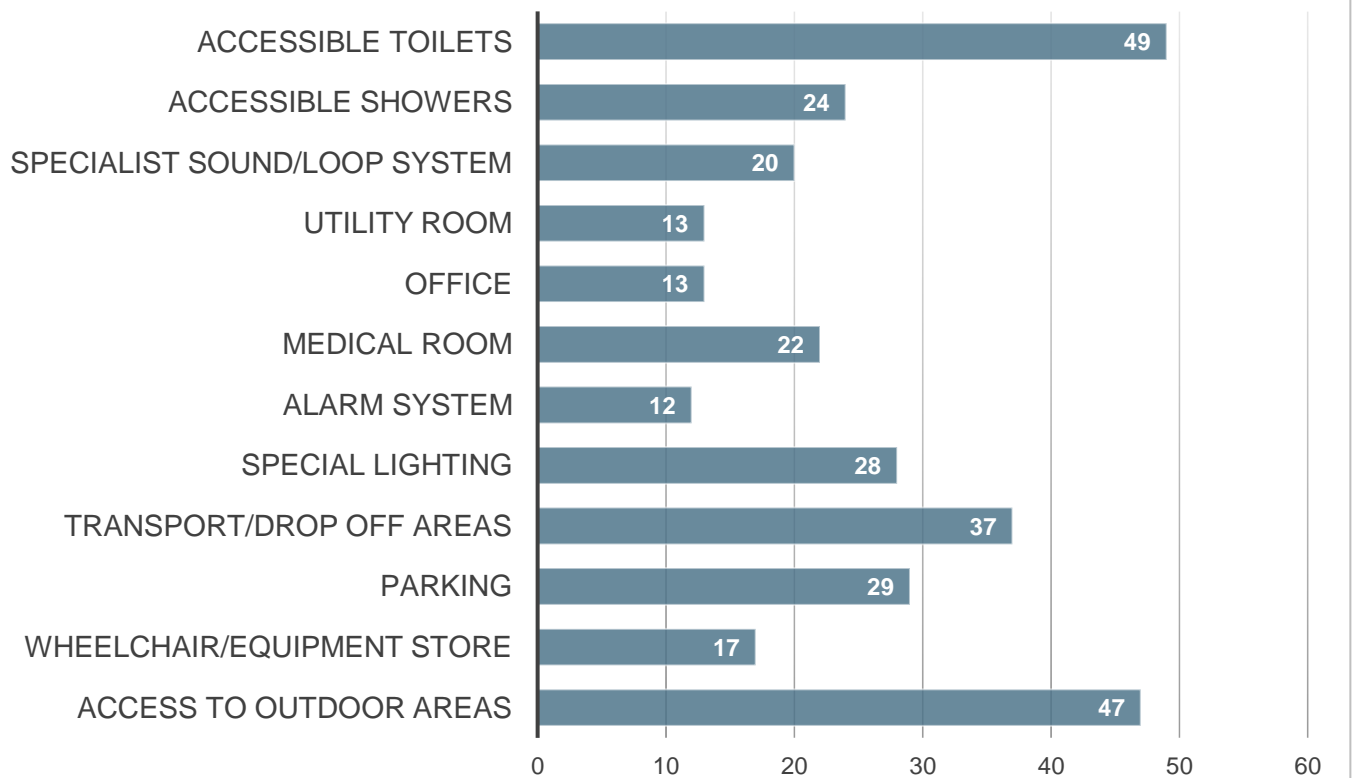


Open Responses:

1. **Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Use existing parish halls and modify these to have access for all”.*
2. **Learning Disability Community Nurse** – *“Sensory spaces”.*
3. **Carer** – *“At least 2 sensory rooms”.*
4. **Carer** – *“Snoezelen, hoist accessible matting for time out of wheelchair to meet postural needs. This is significantly lacking in other day services as areas are too small and often high traffic areas posing a danger”.*
5. **Carer** – *“Therapeutic spaces where people can be quiet and calm”.*
6. **Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Art room, Kitchen with wheelchair accessible sink etc, Sensory room with sensory equipment, ceiling hoists, Changing rooms with hoists, Medication storage, Drama/sports room, Sensory garden”.*
7. **Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Work experience role play rooms so you can learn how to work in a job before you go to a work place of that type”.*
8. **Person who might use Day Services in the Future** – *“A new building could incorporate the latest technology, to help with improving reading, for example reading the newspapers, reading a book. Areas for watching a film with friends, areas for gaming”.*

9. **Carer** – *“Ensure reception area is used as a hub for information and advice...available in all formats....this information for visitors, clients, families and carers. Signposting to all relevant agencies eg benefits advice, respite care etc”.*
10. **Person who might use Day Services in the Future** – *“Having a cafe, that could possibly be volunteer run by the people who come to the centre would be a good opportunity to teach work skills for those looking for jobs”.*
11. **Carer** – *“Possibly a quiet room for people who have found their lesson/ activity rather stressful. This could also include relaxation activities such as massages, facials, manicure and pedicures and just a general area to relax”.*
12. **Person who might use Day Services in the Future** – *“Socialising areas for people to meet up and people from the community to visit”.*
13. **Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Quiet area for times when things get overwhelming (too loud / too busy)”.*
14. **Carer** – *“Therapy type rooms for autistic people with sensory issues. Lights etc”.*
15. **Person who works for Speakup self-advocacy** – *“This describes a day service? Everything needs to be co-produced from scratch. Sorry we are repeating but a truly modern, flexible service or services needs to be co-produced”.*
16. **Carer** – *“Sensory room inside, sensory garden outside, potential pool?”*
17. **Carer** – *“Pool”.*

Which Facilities Are Most Important To You?



Open Responses:

- 1. Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Level access into the building. Automated doors. If you plan to have kitchens then height adjustable sink and work surfaces”.*
- 2. Carer** – *“Swimming Pool”.*
- 3. Learning Disability Community Nurse** – *“Chill out room / area. Private area”.*
- 4. Carer** – *“Changing places facilities rather than just accessible toilet. Ceiling track hoist”.*
- 5. Carer** – *“Need more than accessible toilets. Need changing place or all those with learning difficulties won’t be able to use it”.*
- 6. Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Ceiling hoists in all rooms, Changing rooms with hoist, Storage for pads etc, Flexible spaces which can be changed with bifolding doors, Parking for Wheelchair accessible vehicles, Wedges, cushions etc to allow Wheelchair adults to come out of Wheelchair”.*
- 7. Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“A sensory room”.*
- 8. Person who might use Day Services in the Future** – *“All The facilities must be first and foremost for the people attending”.*
- 9. Carer** – *“Regular accessible bus service with bus stops nearby. This would encourage more independence and reduce carbon emissions. The buildings should meet all requirements under the Equality Act to achieve planning permission. Could the buildings be rented out to local social groups when not in use as a Day Care Centre to generate more income for RMBC”?*

10. **Person who might use Day Services in the Future** – *“In order to make the centre fully accessible to all, having accessible disabled toilets that have adult changing facilities, like those found in Wing C at Riverside Library, would mean people could spend longer out of their homes and socialising without embarrassment. For Autistic people, having a dedicated sensory room for when we experience meltdowns/shutdowns/overload. Making sure the doors are electric, without the need to press any buttons or pull/push means high needs disabled people can be more independent. Having wide ramps going in and out of the building so wheelchair users don't feel they are stopping anyone from getting by”.*

11. **Carer** – *“A large storeroom for any equipment would be an advantage”.*

12. **Person who might use Day Services in the Future** – *“Wheelchair access and toilet facilities”.*

13. **Person who works for Speakup self-advocacy** – *“As before, full co-production needs to happen. This is describing an old-fashioned day service”.*

14. **Carer** – *“Specialist equipment in bathrooms”.*

15. **Carer** – *“Changing place. Sensory area”.*

Qualitative Feedback via Email, Paper Forms, Drop-in Sessions, Formal Meetings, and Personal Visits

Feedback via Email:

1. Person diagnosed with Autism:

“Carers are almost a barrier to us service users getting what we want because the carers are afraid for our safety. Afraid for our health. But all parents, once their child reaches 16, need to start letting go and getting empty nest syndrome. This is hard for parents to do. And even harder for parents of disabled children...”

Rather than focusing on what the parents and unpaid carers want for the service users. You really need to focus on what the service users want. Some service users only know day centres because that is all they have ever seen...

Mine and my husband’s situation is an odd set up. We are both formally diagnosed Autism, we are both married, we both have assessed needs and now we both ignore the assessed needs by choice to take our own path in life. We have no direction for our life, but we have strayed away from our parent carers. We are doing the whole thing called independent living. We still have a social worker who monitors us regularly...

I think the biggest barrier in life is the parent carers who refuse to let their loved ones move into the life that other adults have. This consultation will teach you that. Unpaid carers will want their loved ones in day services and day centres. Service users will avoid you because they want to have a house, live with friends and be a part of their local community. Or the ones who have tasted it will”.

2. Person Working for ArtWorks, a Local LD Social Enterprise:

“The building and activities planned look great. ArtWorks has always hoped to support adults with complex needs to work as artists, creating work and commissions for exhibition. We sadly do not have a suitable space to complete this work. If there is the opportunity to discuss a space in this centre to develop artists with high and complex needs, we would like to discuss this further”.

Feedback via Paper Feedback Form:

1. Person writing on behalf of the Speakup self-advocacy team:

“We filled out the online questionnaire from Speakup to give views. However, the concerns are that although there is money for a new building, care will need to be taken to make sure that this does not become a new day centre with the ‘us and them’ service user feel.

The new service needs to be co-produced from the very beginning. It needs to be flexible and innovative, so that the people with lived experience are valued and surrounded with person-centred ethos. Family carers and people with lived experience need to be employed there and be part of the advisory group, so that inclusive practices and reasonable adjustments happen from the start.

There needs to be out of the box thinking when looking risks, so that risks do not become the excuse for inaction. All people working there should be trained in person-centred thinking and

approaches so that lifestyles can be nurtured and the people, the service serves and their families, can thrive.

All this will not be easy to achieve. It is likely to take lots of time to think through by all to ensure that barriers can be overcome and that the service develops to be the best it can be.

If this could be achieved though. The service could be brilliant and be a beacon for Rotherham and thoroughly fit the local government Better Lives' framework".

2. Person writing on behalf of Rush House Support Services:

- Accessible to all. Wheelchairs etc. Kitchen Space
- Lighting-sensory area. Quiet space.
- Independent living skills. Cooking, cleaning, budgeting, staying safe in own home and community.
- Training, learning, voluntary opportunities, CV writing/interview skills, job search.
- Outdoor activities, gardening, exercise, arts and crafts.
- Fun space – arts, films, gaming.

Feedback from Formal Meetings/Drop-In Sessions/Personal Visits:

1. Person diagnosed with Autism:

- Can we work with Housing to do a mixed community - using outreach? Use universal services, out and about in the community.
- Co-production when we look at design.
- Match transport as bus services are declining. Door to door services operate 10am - 2pm, so could we offer a service 10am - 6pm so people could access independently, or 9am - 6.30pm to also support working parents.
- Why don't we go on a 'barrier hunt'?
- Think about carers needs and lifestyles.
- Changing places are important.
- Will the building be a disability confident employer, and can we have some people with disabilities working there?
- Use produce from allotment - use produce in a cafe that service users run, which is open to the public.
- Digital skills - offer learning.
- Set up a website to sell crafts / produce etc.

2. Two Carers providing joint Feedback:

- Acoustics - avoid echoing spaces.
- People with more complex needs might need break out areas.
- Time out / quiet space for de-escalation etc.
- Talk to staff at Reach because they know all the care plans.
- The new building could be open later for social events, because only one social activity has restarted in Rotherham and the others have been missed.
- The function rooms could also be rented out to produce additional revenue and could be used for social gatherings to welcome people into the centre. Can we link this with employment, voluntary work etc?
- At social gatherings, the people with lower needs can befriend the others and involve them in activities.

- Exercising/Gym - Need to look at the types of activities that will attract people; do not just offer an activity but try to match with the individual's interests and levels of ability.
- We need to consider who has the special skills to hold activities. People from the Maple Centre have gone swimming at St. Ann's, bowling from Elliott Centre, allotments, trips to Superbowl – link in with existing provision, think about how many members of staff will be needed. At Reach, different groups and key workers go out at different times.
- Current activities available: arts and crafts, allotment. There is no gaming offered because iPads are present but no Wi-Fi.
- Do the clients have sufficient communication skills to understand the concept of volunteering?
- Possibly set up a football team.
- Everyone can learn new skills but need to be more specific.
- There is a need for social events.
- DVDs are shown on Fridays at the Elliot Centre. Do we need a cinema room when there are offers available within the community and at cinemas?
- Would like to see dance, drama, music and movement to music should be offered under 'exercise'.
- Activities already held by enterprises/charitable organisations within the community, could commission for sessions outside the centre as part of the new service.
- RMBC heavily promotes assisted technology – see if this could be used to introduce living skills and support independence for people who might choose to move to assisted/supported living, e.g., keeping time, animatronic animals.
- You would expect a new building to include accessible toilets and an office as standard – they need to think outside of the box. Need to consider specifics for SLDs and higher needs autism, and what those cohorts of people will need. Was anyone from Reach consulted? Questions 1 to 5 are leading. Enhancements could include accessible outdoor furniture, sports pitches that are applicable to everyone.
- Reflect safeguarding needs – how will concerns be reported?
- Re. job opportunities, need careful assessment and support – the support needs to continue when the person is in employment.
- Contracts/expectations are needed for volunteering so that the volunteer cannot be dismissed without warning.
- If parent/carers feel that the consultation is too advanced for their children, they might not take part or consider the service appropriate.
- Independence is about more than travelling and managing money – would have been better to include more interaction. Independence needs to be supported, because many of the people who access Reach lack capacity, whereas most people who use enterprises can make their own decisions.
- If we have two buildings, we will need to ensure that there are sufficient staffing groups and cover for absence.
- Some of the cohort from Reach have multiple conditions, any one of which can be complex, so support needs to be in place.
- Forming meaningful relationships – need for careful monitoring, personalised support plans, should be sensitively handled regarding respecting everyone's rights.

3. Potential Day Service Customer:

- Any centre needs adult changing rooms, full size.
- Only to be accessed by adults and not used by children.
- No ramps, all one level.
- Evening entertainment, cinema club, gaming club, card games evening, board games.
- Sensory room with bean bags, inflatable chairs etc.

- Gardening facilities, be able to grow stuff and give/sell to the local community.
- Café with work experience for people using the centre to prepare for working life.
- Be based over two locations, North and South, not one central building.
- Avoid the use of artificial lighting, use daylight.
- Wall lights with dimmers.
- Look at Touchbase Pears, a really good example of a community facility.

4. Community Worker:

- People still need more activities.
- Outdoor activities.
- Need more funding – demotivating when seeing nothing happening.
- Use to be things to do – people get out and about.
- RUFC still do lots of different things.
- Parents need a break - they need respite.
- Be aware of what you're looking for – their health plan.
- Building for everyone – partnerships – make it a nice place to go – families feel they can come into the building.
- Have people come into use the venue e.g., outside groups use that base and have support available there.
- Not enough options and facilities at all now.
- Counselling sessions – inspiring people – help with stress.
- It needs to meet different needs - people need to understand people's health and communication and facilitate the groups.
- Need an outreach worker.
- Needs community worker and input from the community.
- 2 medium sized buildings that work in partnership with each other and get their feedback.
- Needs long term planning.
- 1 central and 1 where most people are – all depends on funding.
- How do people get to the service?
- Needs access to public and community transport.
- Disabled toilets, safety, lifers, nothing that is going to cause hazards – just a simple building
- Cooking
- Gardening
- Things that will build life-skills and independence.
- Sometimes parents think – want people to be independent.
- Social skills – manage life – bills – budgets.
- People are lonely.
- Day trips – BBQ outside.
- People are just people, and everyone needs to be treated that way.

5. Person who used to attend a Day Centre:

- Important anyone that has any equipment they use can get it sorted and fixed straight away because it can frustrate people and prevent people doing what they want to do.
- Think about things that can prevent people's triggers.
- Activities – try and spot what people don't have at the moment.
- See to wellbeing and prevent people going into hospital.
- Important to be part of the community.
- Some people have issues with people coming to support at home.

- Wants outdoor work – might do some work at Sense. Has a qualification in horticulture and worked at Addison. He started as a paid worker at food aware – gardening and veg stall – 6 years ago and up until pandemic and it was shut down.
- Enjoyed Addison outdoor part. Got used to it and became a mentor to others.
- He would like to know more about allotment projects.
- Since Addison and the pandemic, he needs something to keep his mind busy since being unemployed.
- People do need a base to go to as a meeting point.
- Liked Addison – it was the ideal place – used to cook, people from neighbourhood came for dinner – they did crafts and yoga.
- There needs to be as many places as possible – it depends where you live – it's important to a lot of people.
- Neil said he was ok getting about using his bus pass, but some people rely on transport and carers that take them.
- Some people need to be picked up at very specific times.
- Whatever you have got - key thing is to understand each person unlike the job centre who just treat everyone the same.
- The important thing is to know the individual and their needs.
- Outdoor space = very therapeutic.
- Don't push people to do things they don't want to.
- This individual did the grounds at Addison and the greenhouse.
- He now attends the social group that meets at Mowbray.
- With activities he likes things that has a point or outcome to it.
- Need to think about peoples housing and making them accessible.
- He said it's important that there is quality staff – they need to be really onboard. It needs to be their vocation.
- Can they use an existing building to save money?
- He said to let him know if help is required.

6. Potential Day Service Customer:

- A place to relax with music.
- Comfortable seats.
- Ambient lighting.
- Chess board.
- People and friendly environment.
- Tea/Coffee facilities/days.
- Poetry
- Getting people together.
- Counselling service.
- People element is crucial – like BeFriend.
- Location dependent on majority vote.
- Rob walks 30 mins to Mowbray Library Centre.
- Happy for distance to be same.

7. Two Carers Providing Joint Feedback:

- Preference for 2 buildings – and not in industrial estates.
- Separate complex needs area (and with the same dedicated staff group) as this group of people are extremely vulnerable, but an open area where clients of all ranges of complexity can meet and mix when they want to.
- Freedom to move round the building.

- Large state of the art sensory room that can also be used privately on evenings and weekends.
- A number of quiet rooms.
- A treatment room where OTs/Physio and carry out treatment so that people can still attend day services on that day rather than have to wait at home for the treatment.
- Engagement with OTs and therapists.
- Big building with outside space with people the clients know and a choice of activities.
- Swimming is very important.
- Extended opening hours over and above 9.00 to 4.00 – this could be 8.00 to 6.00 to support working parents who could pay privately for the additional hours? – adult childcare etc?
- Both carers want to be involved in all the engagement sessions as we are developing the new service.

8. Staff Member:

- Reception area.
- Lockers for staff and customers.
- Staff room.
- Large / more toilets, overhead tracking.
- Quiet room.
- Games room.
- Beauty room.
- Wi-Fi
- Laptops
- Bright and airy.
- Outdoor garden area.
- Outdoor games area.
- X2 Snoezelen/sensory rooms.
- Temperature controlled building.

Day Opportunities for people with high support needs – service options appraisal (August 2022)

Introduction

Following the public consultation about proposed new day opportunities for people with high support needs the identified options are detailed below. The preference of either one large building or two smaller buildings was evenly divided. As such qualitative data and consultation output has been considered within the final recommendation.

Option	Details	Pros	Cons
Option 1 Service to operate from one large <u>newbuild</u> centrally located building, complimented by community outreach support across the borough to support access to local communities.	<p>The service would operate from one large centrally located building being its core offer, complimented by community outreach support across the borough to support access to local communities.</p> <p>The new building would be accessible to transport links and support independent travel routes</p> <p>The modern, multifunctional building would be in easy reach of the local community, businesses and amenities that will enhance the day opportunities offer, and support the service to integrate within the heart of the local community.</p> <p>The value of having a community outreach service across the borough is evident – both for the people who use the service and local communities</p> <p>Both the new main building and community outreach support would be available as a choice to all the people currently using the existing REACH service.</p> <p>The service will provide bespoke day support for those with the most complex needs delivered in a person-centred manner, but also be a hub for wider activity, learning and skill development.</p> <p>The new service would be called 'Living my best life', with the preferred site option called 'Castle View Day Opportunities'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In line with consultation in that there is equal support for a centrally located single base along with additional support for community access. • Existing Maltby relationships and key activities maintained, through outreach support. • Larger building and space to meet a wider range of needs and activities and provides greater accessibility • Potential for access to town centre amenities and leisure depended upon location, to enhance day opportunity experiences • More cost effective use of resources/funding to ensure customers get the best level of quality for the Rotherham £ • Maximises use and impact of capital spend • Supports socialising and existing wider friendship groups • Centralised accessible support hub and changing space for the wider LD community • Familiar service/routine is maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional travel for some people • Disruption and uncertainty for some families and people until new service offer implemented. • Move to a new location to be very carefully managed. • Need to ensure changing places are available to support safe use of local community facilities • Greater footfall and noise levels, therefore would require quiet spaces

	The current sites at Elliot Centre and Maple Avenue would be decommissioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose built modern facilities • Travel/transportation arrangements easier with one site • Bringing people together builds stronger communities and communities of interest • Optimum use of workforce and staffing resource and flexibility to offer extended opening times • Every person will be reassessed to ensure their needs are met • Accessing universal services wherever possible in the community. 	
Option 2 Service to operate from two new build bases, geographically split across the Borough.	<p>The Service will operate from two smaller new build bases, geographically split across the Borough.</p> <p>The new buildings would be accessible to transport links and support independent travel routes</p> <p>The modern, multifunctional buildings would be in easy reach of the local communities, businesses and amenities that will enhance the day opportunities offer, and support the service to integrate within the heart of the local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is in line with a significant response to the consultation supporting two bases. • Provides a safe place in two distinct locations. • Potential to retain the community strengths and profile that currently exists. • Maintains the current range of choice of two locations • Reduced travel arrangements for some people • Continues to support the independence that people have developed in the area. • Less disruption to routines and family life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of two buildings and service would be compromised compare with investing the available capital in one building • Resources are split across two bases limiting flexibility and opening times • Prevents wider Rotherham Borough offer re community outreach & access. • Changing places to be accessed/ established within local community facilities • Disruption and uncertainty for some families and people until new service offer implemented. • Move to a new location to be very carefully managed for people
Option 3 Community based service	The service would operate on an outreach basis and would not have a building base presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced operating costs • Reduces the need for council buildings • Flexible service delivery and support times • Person centred • Supports particular interests and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support hub provision would be on a virtual basis and not in a physical building seen as a social space with routine • Issues with finding changing places/dignity • Lack of service identity

Appendix 2

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support can be more bespoke to an individual• Reduces the need for transport• Focuses on the person and not a building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduces scope for wider friendship and relationship building• Lack of equipment• Uncertainty of location means the service may be unaccessable for members of the ausistic community
--	--	--	--

Prefered Option – Option 1

The rationale for this decision is that it offers all the benefits that the investment into one large modern building would realise whilst retaining a community presence and outreach support in the east and across the wider borough in response to demand and need. This supports increased choice and control, strengthens local communities and considers the impact of people who currently use the REACH service in Maltby who may have developed a particular local interest, or wish to remain or become involved with their local community.

Together with the prefered site option (see appendix 3) and alignment with cohort mapping , this option will enable us to deliver a central base alongside community outreach support, meeting localised demand and need.

This page is intentionally left blank

Day Opportunities for people with high support needs – Site options appraisal (August 2022)

Introduction

RMBC Asset Management have considered all current available sites owned by the local authority and identified 23 sites for consideration re the provision of day opportunities for people with with support needs. In addition 6 privately owned sites were identified.



Each site has been reviewed against required service specifications.

The following sites were ruled out at phase 1:

Land at Tenter Street, Thornhill, S60 1LB	Former Herringthorpe Leisure Centre, S65 2HR	Land at Kimberworth Road, Bradgate, S61 1HG
Rowan Centre, Estate Road, Rawmarsh – S62 7JD	Boswell Street/Arundel Road, Clifton, S65 2ED	Millennium Centre, Badsley Moor Lane, S65 2QL
York Road, Eastwood, S65 1PW	Land off Munsbrough Lane, Greasbrough, S61 4N	Land Adjacent to Ferham Centre – S61 1AP
Grayson Road Depot, Wingfield, S61 4DS	Scrooby Lane Recreation Ground, Parkgate, S62 6N	Melton High Street, West Melton, S63 6RQ
Century Business Park (East), Dearne Lane, Wath, S63 5DP	Fenton Road/Henley Lane, Kimberworth Park, S6 3SU	Little Common Lane Open Space, Kimberworth, S61 2RA
Land at 221 Moorgate Road, S60 2AY	High Nook Road, Dinnington, S25 2PG	Undergate Road Site 3, Coronation Avenue, Dinnington, S25 2AB
Thornhill Primary Land – S60 1LD	Land at Ivanhoe Road, Thurcroft, S66 9EE	Land off Common Road, North Anston, S25 3SE
Land off Chapel Close, Rockingham, Rotherham, S61 4DQ		

Appendix 3

The remaining sites were visited by Council Officers from a range of disciplines to understand final suitability. Councillors from the Adult Care Members Working Group visited the final selection.

Option	Details	Pros	Cons
1. Walnut Drive, Dinnington South east location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.35 acres approx. • Located centrally within Dinnington • Local Plan residential use • Last planning application submitted 25/1/13 for the erection of 4no. Bungalows with formation of access road. Decision: WITHDRAWN • Not in a conservation area  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleasant residential area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site is too small for our requirements • Access to the site is very narrow and limited • Not community based • Likely to be subject to local objections <p>Not suitable</p>

2. Netherfield Court, Eldon Road, Eastwood

Central location

- 1.59 acres approx.
- Local Plan residential use
- Site has been demolished and gone to housing
- Not in a conservation area
- Site previously occupied by Netherfield Intermediate Care Centre which has now been demolished



- The site is of a good size with potential to consider joint use/purpose with Adult Care and Housing
- Centrally based
- Good access
- Good transport links
- Walkable distance from the town centre, bus and railway stations
- Community based
- Wide range of amenities nearby including rear access to Parkgate retail park
- The area is flat
- Near other RMBC services – school
- Less likely to be subject to local objections due to previous usage of site and close vicinity to other RMBC services

Housing already in process of development planning / cabinet reports – therefore this site is out of scope for Adult Care consideration

3. Bushfield Road, Wath

North location



- 4.24 acres approx.
- Local Plan Greenspace use
- Site classed as a Town & Village Green (TVG) and identified as Amenity Green Space by Greenspaces
- Last planning application submitted 16/3/2007 for urban renewal comprising of residential development, highways, pedestrian and public realm improvements. Decision: Granted Conditionally
- Not in a conservation area



- Community based

- The site is too large for purpose
- Local amenities are not close by
- Likely to be subject to local objections

Not suitable

<p>4. Charnwood Street, Swinton</p> <p>North East location</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan Residential Development use • Property demolished following fire and continual anti-social behaviour in November 2015 • Last planning application submitted 7/1/2021 for demolition of the existing library, external alterations to the former service centre to provide new library, external alterations to the civic hall, provision of a new children's play area, works of hard & soft landscaping and erection of 49 No. dwellings. Decision: UNDETERMINED. • Not in a conservation area  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site is of a good size for a large building • Good access • Community based • Close to local amenities • Close to transport links – bus service and railway station • The area is flat • Close to ACHPH Extra Care housing scheme • Less likely to be subject to local objections due to previous usage of site and close vicinity to other RMBC services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Useage may already be committed – asset management to confirm • Not Centrally located <p>Potentially a suitable site however already identified for residential development therefore out of scope for Adult Care consideration</p>
---	--	--	---

5. Warden Street, Canklow

Central South location

- RMBC owned land
- Housing are an interested party
- General use
- 1.7 acres approx. (L01940)
- Residential Area



- The site is of a good size – potential for a building, sensory community garden and allotment area
- Both adult care and housing could utilise the site due to size
- Good access to road links and dual entry points.
- Community based
- Good community spirit in local area
- Close to local amenities – including doctors surgery, post office, recreation areas, local shop
- Close to transport links – bus stops within 100m
- Less likely to be subject to local objections due to previous usage of site
- Situated next to housing association properties
- Preliminary site investigations and topographical survey completed
- Ten minutes walk from Rotherham town centre
- Site offers opportunities for innovation

- Site has slight gradient

Suitable

<p>6. Former Kimberworth School (Psalter Lane Centre) – S61 1HE</p> <p>Central North location</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.7 acres approx. (L01839) • Community Facility in Local Plan • Valued as a surplus asset in March 2022 based on the assumption planning permission could potentially be obtained for residential development • Alternative uses could be considered for a day care centre within the existing planning allocation in the LP • NHS currently lease/occupy building to the rear • Issue with retaining wall to rear of car park, therefore a structural report would be advised as there may be costs associated with this • Parking may be an issue – further consultation required with planning and highways: shared access <div> </div> <div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site is of a good size • Centrally located • Close to transport links – bus stops within 100m • Less likely to be subject to local objections due to previous usage of site • Good access with two potential entry points • Community based in a residential area • Quiet • Appears to be former parking area on the site with bays marked out • The site is flat • Near NHS building/services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situated on a main road • Lacks scope for future onsite projects <p>Suitable</p>
--	--	---	--

**7. Former
Masborough
Chapel Site,
College
Road, S60
1JN**

Central South
location

- 0.6 acres approx.
- Business Use in LP
- Subject to planning
- Asking Price – POA
- Agent – Lambert Smith Hampton



- Centrally located
- No gradient
- Good size
- Community based

- Grade II listed building situated on the site - of historical interest
- Majority of the area is a graveyard
- Potential issues with planning permission and restrictions
- Situated next to bypass and roundabout therefore high noise levels

Not Suitable

Preferred Option and rationale

Warden Street, Canklow

Each site has been reviewed against required service specifications. The two sites shortlisted to be the most suitable were Warden Street, Canklow and the former Kimberworth School site (Psalter Lane, Centre)

The Members Working Group visited the final shortlisted sites on 22nd July and unanimously made the decision that the preferred site option was Warden Street at Canklow

Meeting all required specifications, the site offers a wide scope for development potential and opportunities for innovation, is of a very good size and is in a community location known to have a strong community spirit. There are transport links within 100m of the site and the area is within walking distance of the town centre. The surroundings are pleasant and off the main road with local facilities nearby including a recreation area, shop, GP surgery. Being close to the bypass supports accessibility to travel to the site from all areas of the borough

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 4.

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title

Title:

Proposals regarding day opportunities for people with high support needs

Directorate:

Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Service area:

Adult Care

Lead person:

Julie Moore - Head of Service

Contact:

julie.moore@rotherham.gov.uk

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☒

Service / Function

☐

Other

If other, please specify:

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

This proposal is regarding a new day opportunities service model and location to replace the existing REACH day service with modern, accessible and fit for purpose facilities.

This report takes into account the views and comments of all those who have taken part in the recent 90 day public consultation process - *'day opportunities for people with high support needs'*. This includes the people who are directly affected by any

potential changes.

Ongoing engagement will continue throughout the build and service design process with coproduction being at the heart of a successful new model.

The Council has already committed £2.1m in capital funding to ensure the best possible facilities can be provided.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?	x	
Could the proposal affect service users?	x	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	x	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?	x	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	x	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?	x	

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

NA

If you have answered **no** to **all** the questions above please complete **sections 5 & 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

The proposals in this cabinet report will directly affect existing users of REACH Day services within the borough and also those people transitioning from Children's Services to Adult Care who may choose to attend day opportunity support in the future.

To date extensive discussions have already taken place with service users, carers, relatives and staff and the consultation exercise that took place between 31st January 2022 and 30th April 2022 enabled all parties to express their views about what a new service should look and feel like. An Equality Analysis will provide an opportunity to consider in more detail the impact of the service changes and any necessary actions, taking into consideration all of the Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

- **Key findings**

The consultation has enabled service users, carers, relatives, staff and people who may use the service in the future to directly contribute to the discussions and decisions about the new service. It has helped promote cooperation, trust, and ensure that service decisions reflect the choices of those most impacted.

- **Actions**

The Consultation was delivered and designed in such a way that the stakeholders have contributed effectively and has been tailored to individual's particular circumstances and understanding. Special attention has been paid to the design of supporting information, questions about choice, and the tools used to convey messaging, so it is understood and accessible by all.

Advocacy support was available throughout and at every meeting

A programme of engagement and coproduction activity will be in place throughout the full service design and implementation.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	June 2022
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	June 2022
Lead person for your Equality Analysis	Julie Moore

(Include name and job title):	Head of Service – Provider Services
-------------------------------	-------------------------------------

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Ian Spicer	Executive Director ACHPH	
Steve Eling	Policies and Equalities Manager	

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	
Report title and date	Proposals regarding day opportunities for people with high support needs
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	17 th October 2022
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	5 th September 2022

Appendix 5.

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Proposals regarding day opportunities for people with high support needs	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): August 2022	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Adult Care Provider Services
Lead Manager: Julie Moore	Contact number: 07900 165605
Is this a: <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Julie Moore	RMBC	Head of Service – Provider Services Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Jo Hinchliffe	RMBC	Service Improvement & Governance Manager Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Ian Spicer	RMBC	Strategic Director, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance
Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

The Council's ongoing commitment to the transformation of learning disability services continues with this cabinet report, outlining the outcome of the 90 day public consultation - '*day opportunities for people with high support needs*', and proposing a new service model to replace the existing REACH day service with modern, accessible and fit for purpose facilities.

This report takes into account the views and comments of all those who have taken part in the consultation process. This includes the people who are directly affected by any potential changes and those who have a protected characteristic. These key stakeholders are people with disabilities who are currently accessing services and who are funded by Adult Care and/or the CCG.

All of those who will be impacted by the changes have had the opportunity to take part in the consultation process.

The Consultation was delivered and designed in such a way that the stakeholders have contributed effectively and has been tailored to individual's particular circumstances and understanding. Special attention has been paid to the design of supporting information, questions about choice, and the tools used to convey messaging, so it is understood and accessible by all.

Advocacy support was available throughout and at every meeting

The findings from the consultation have enabled the Council to take due consideration of people's views, concerns, and preferences when deciding on the future service model and location.

What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)

Extensive discussions have taken place with service users, carers, relatives and staff and the consultation exercise that took place between 31st January 2022 and 30th April 2022 enabled all parties to express their views about what a new service should look and feel like.

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?

The services are available to all who have an assessed need regardless of the protected characteristics.

Data in relation to Gender Reassignment, Pregnancy and Maternity and Sexual Orientation has not been captured.

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

The cabinet report and decisions regarding the proposal take into consideration the outcome and findings of the recent consultation exercise which included people with protected characteristics. This represents a benchmark of the potential impact within the LD community and a route to determining peoples thoughts about the look and feel of a new day opportunities service. This will be monitored during the programme phase.

Equality information re protected characteristics is routinely collected as part of the referral and assessment process for individuals accessing the service and recorded on LAS, which is the adult social case management system. These processes also afford an opportunity for feedback to be provided by the cared for person and staff to Adult Social Care staff on the quality-of-service provision they receive.

People using the services and their families also have the option to make a formal complaint regarding the quality of the care or pertaining to issues with systems and processes aligned to it through the Council's or the Provider's complaints process.

For more serious concerns, Safeguarding and Whistle Blowing policy and procedures are in place and followed.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)

90-day consultation and engagement exercise between 31st January 2022 and 30th April 2022



LD day opportunities
consultation FINAL RE

Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)

90-day consultation and engagement exercise between 31st January 2022 and 30th April 2022 see above attachment

In addition – presentation and discussions at staff meetings

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)
How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups?

The proposal in the Cabinet Paper will directly impact the users of REACH Day services by informing where the new service will be located and what the model will look and feel like. The proposals will meet the needs of the LD community and those with protected characteristics by directly involving them, their families, and staff in a process of engagement and coproduction as the new service is designed, built, and becomes operational.

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?

The consultation findings reported on in the Cabinet Paper will help determine if the new proposals present any problems to the LD community, families, and RMBC staff.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?

By undertaking a Consultation on the recent changes, it is hoped that relationships between staff, council, service users, relatives and carers are strengthened. It will help demonstrate that the council places service users, their families, and the LD community at the heart of their decision-making process and so promote mutual trust.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations?

It is anticipated that the recommendations will have a positive impact on the community and the relationship between the Council and the Learning Disability Community in particular.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

Title of analysis: Proposals regarding day opportunities for people with high support needs
Directorate and service area: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Adult Care – Provider Services
Lead Manager: Julie Moore – Head of Service
Summary of findings:
The Equality Analysis has been completed to ensure that the report of the consultation and recommendations for a new day opportunities service for people with high support needs fully and fairly contain the views of those directly impacted. Care has been taken in the design of the consultation programme so that people's views can be properly captured using tools and techniques that make the process effective, inclusive, and accessible to all.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
The consultation outcome will be considered during all programme delivery phases and implementation of the new service model	Primary focus on D and C	12/24

Ongoing stakeholder engagement will continue throughout the build and service design process with coproduction being at the heart of the new model.	Primary focus on D and C	12/24
Advocacy support to be available throughout the whole process	Primary focus on D and C	12/24
Regular communication/progress updates to be sent to all stakeholders	Primary focus on D and C	12/24

***A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.

Name	Job title	Date
Ian Spicer	Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	26/09/2022
Cllr David Roche	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health	26/09/2022

7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this Equality Analysis relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date Equality Analysis completed	20 th June 2022
Report title and date	Proposals regarding day opportunities for people with high support needs 19 th September 2022
Date report sent for publication	03/10/2022
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	22/09/2022

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 6.

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Minimal increase to emissions		No current building on the site, therefore construction of a building will increase emissions in the area	The build will comprise of carbon reduction technologies and meet all building regulation standards aimed at reducing carbon and running costs. This will be achieved by careful selection of materials, incorporating energy efficient building services and controls, and utilising energy efficient and sustainable building methodologies	
Emissions from transport?	Minimal increase to emissions		No current footfall on the land therefore occupation will increase transport emissions in the area	Ensure good public transport links, EV chargers on site to encourage use of electric vehicles.	
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Minimal increase to emissions		No current building on the site, therefore construction of a building will increase emissions in the area	Building technologies will seek to keep this to a minimum	

Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	NA				
Emissions from construction and/or development	<p>Construction Minimal increase to emissions</p> <p>Development Reduces emissions</p>		Use of construction equipment and materials may slightly increase emissions in the area during construction	<p>Build project to ensure monitoring</p> <p>The build will comprise of carbon reduction technologies and meet all building regulation standards aimed at reducing carbon emissions. This will be achieved by careful selection of materials, incorporating energy efficient building services and controls, and utilising energy efficient and sustainable building methodologies</p>	
Carbon capture (e.g., through trees)?	Reduces emissions	Increase in carbon capture	Increase in carbon capture	Planting of allotment and garden areas including trees.	
<p>Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:</p> <p>No</p>					

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

Carbon reduction technology methodology to be integral to design, build and operation.

Supporting information:

Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Julie Moore Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Head of Service – Provider Services
---	---

Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	
---	--

If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form, please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
--	--

Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	
--	--

This page is intentionally left blank

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 17 October 2022

Report Title

Commissioning Mental Health Recovery Focussed Community Services

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)

Jacqueline Clark Head of Service – Strategic Commissioning Adult Care
01709 822358 or Jacqueline.clark@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Mental health care and support services are necessary to meet the Council's statutory requirements.

A review of current care and support provision indicates the need to improve the community service model to one which offers, mental health recovery support, personalised social care with increased choice and control for people living with mental ill-health.

A new care and support model has been co-produced in partnership with people accessing services and their supporting professionals to inform the service design. Such services will support people to achieve independent living skills, move towards and sustain independent living in the communities in which they live. This is in line with the guiding principles of the mental health recovery framework for people who are deemed eligible for support under the Care Act 2014. This model promotes the identification of the strengths of individuals, offers them support to build the resilience necessary to enable them to regain control over their lives after experiencing a serious mental illness.

Aiming to harness the opportunities which exist in the wider care and support market, the recommendations in this report propose to develop a range of service provision arranged under a flexible purchasing system (FPS). The Community Services –

Mental Health Recovery FPS will increase choice and improve outcomes for people living with mental ill-health in Rotherham.

The FPS will comprise of a number of separate lots. Each lot will specify a community service with the principle of mental health recovery at its core. The community services in scope include supported living, day opportunities and preventative services.

Recommendations

1. Cabinet approves a procurement process to establish a Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) and procure a range of community services which reflect the principles of mental health recovery model and at its conclusion successful bidders are appointed by the Strategic Director ACHPH for a period of 5 years.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 - Outcome of the co-production – Commissioning Mental Health Recovery Focussed Community Services.

Appendix 2 – Supported Living Model.

Appendix 3 - Part A – Initial Equality Screening Assessment - Commissioning Mental Health Recovery Focussed Community Services.

Appendix 3 – Part B – Equality Analysis - Commissioning Mental Health Recovery Focussed Community Services.

Appendix 4 - Carbon Impact Assessment - Commissioning Mental Health Recovery Focussed Community Services.

Background Papers

- Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Market Position Statement – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council - <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/homepage/319/adult-care-housing-and-public-health-market-position-statement>
- Report - A strategic assessment of the accommodation with support needs for people with a learning disability, autism and mental health conditions 2020-2030 <https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/strategic-assessment-accommodation-support-needs-people-learning-disability-autism-and>

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
N/A

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Commissioning Mental Health Recovery Focussed Community Services

1. Background

- 1.1 Mental health care and support services are necessary to meet the Council's statutory requirements.
- 1.2 A review of current care and support provision indicates the need to improve the community service model to one which offers mental health recovery support, personalised social care with increased choice and control for people living with mental ill-health.
- 1.3 A new care and support model has been co-produced in line with the guiding principles of the mental health recovery framework for people who are deemed eligible for support under the Care Act 2014. This model promotes the identification of the strengths of individuals, offers them support to build resilience to enable them to regain control over their lives after experiencing a serious mental illness.
- 1.4 Aiming to harness the opportunities which exist in the wider care and support market the recommendations in this Report propose to develop a range of service provision arranged under a flexible purchasing system (FPS). The Community Services – Mental Health Recovery FPS will increase choice and improve outcomes for people living with mental ill-health in Rotherham.
- 1.5 The FPS will comprise of a number of separate lots. Each lot will specify a community service with the principle of mental health recovery at its core. The community services in scope include supported living, day opportunities and preventative services.
- 1.6 An ongoing and extensive programme of co-production is taking place in partnership with; people accessing services, unpaid carers and their supporting professionals to inform the service design (Appendix 1). Such services will support people living with mental ill-health to achieve independent living skills, move towards living independently and provide support proportionate to their need to help them to continue to live in the community.
- 1.7 Statutory Requirement

Mental health care and support services are necessary to meet all the Council's statutory requirements under the Care Act 2014, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, the Mental Health Act 1983 (amended 2007) and the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

The recommendations in this report are likely to compliment Government's proposal to reform the Mental Health Act 1983 and modernise mental health care to ensure that patients are involved more closely in decisions about their care and treatment.

The types of services people experiencing mental ill-health require may include:

- Community outreach to enable people with mental ill health to live independently in their own home,
- Supported living, designed specifically to enable people to live as independently as possible,
- Crisis intervention support, and
- Residential and nursing care home provision.

Detail of support required by people with mental ill-health include:

- Welfare,
- Mental health recovery,
- Monitoring mental health,
- Reassurance/empathy/avoidance of anxiety,
- Medication – ordering/taking/attending medication appointments (i.e., clozapine clinic),
- Personal cleanliness,
- Mail/correspondence/interpreting-explaining,
- Maintenance of property - hygiene/cleanliness/laundry/outstanding repairs,
- Access to education/skills/training/work,
- Travel/public transport,
- Socialising/maintaining contact with friends and family,
- Planning/arranging/preparing for and keeping appointments,
- Finances – debt avoidance – arranging appointeeship, and
- Grocery shopping/meal prep.

1.8 Mental health - key data (Source Rotherham Data Hub)

The latest data (2017) depicts the estimated prevalence of common mental health disorders (CMHD) for Rotherham, is higher than that for Yorkshire and the Humber and England for both those aged 16 and over and those aged 65 and over.

Rotherham residents (data period shown in brackets):

- 18.6% of the population aged 16 and over are living with a common mental health disorder (2017)
- 11.6% of the population aged 65 and over are living with a common mental health disorder (2017)

Mental health problems are a growing public health concern and contingencies to support this identified cohort must be developed at the scale required.

1.9 Strategic Direction for people living with mental ill-health:

The recommendations in this report are aligned to:

- Rotherham's Housing Strategy 2022-25. - Priority 5 – Supporting People to Live Independently.

- Rotherham's Health and Wellbeing Strategy - A Healthier Rotherham by 2025. Strategic Priority 2 - Promoting independence and self-management and increasing independence of care for all people.
- Integrated Care Partnership, Health and Social Care Place Plan. Priority - Transforming mental health services.
- The Council Plan 2022-25. – For people to be safe, healthy and live well and our focus on prevention, and working with partners to ensure that local people live in good physical and mental health for as long as possible.

The priorities of the Council and its partners are aligned with the guiding principles set out in the mental health recovery model (framework) that focuses on working with people to; identify their strengths, build resilience and offer support to regain control, recover, and to lead a life meaningful to them after experiencing a serious mental illness.

1.10 Current service provision for people living with mental ill-health:

The Council currently supports 325 people with a primary need of mental health. 220 people are below the state pensionable age of 67 years.

Service Type	Numbers of people accessing service type			
	Under 67 years	+ 67 years	%	Comment
Care Home	55	56	34%	Specialised
Home Care	29	23	16%	Non-specialised
Direct Payment	120	25	45%	People are purchasing non-specialised provision
Supported Living	7	1	2.5%	Specialised mental health recovery/majority out of Borough
Community Support	7		2%	Non-specialised
Extra Care	4		1.5%	Non-specialised
Total	220	105		

A review of provision indicates reliance on specialised care homes and non-specialised home care services. People who use their personal budget as a Direct Payment are accessing non-specialised services including regulated domiciliary care or services which are not able to demonstrate the relevant capacity and capability to support people who are living with mental ill-health.

There is a severe lack of provision aligned to the Mental Health Recovery Framework and a disproportioned number of people access the supported living option with the majority of this type of provision is accessed outside the Rotherham Borough.

Co-production sessions with practitioners in July/August 2022:

'Increasing the range of services which reflect the principles of the mental health recovery model will improve outcomes for service users' –Mental Health practitioner.

1.11 Supporting evidence:

An assessment of the Rotherham care and support market indicates it is out of step with the principles of the mental health recovery model. Arrangements made with providers are a result of what's available rather than presented as a choice of strength based, personalised social care options, which meet specified quality standards at agreed prices.

Consultation with Adult Care and Integration service indicates serious challenges to securing suitable care, support, and housing for individuals with enduring mental ill-health and representatives from the service attest that choice is restricted to specialist care homes and non-specialist home care. Services are commissioned which exceed the needs of the individual i.e., residential care rather than a community based service (supported living, floating support, day opportunities, preventative services or flexible support).

Co-production sessions with practitioners in July/August 2022:

'A Flexible Purchasing System which reflects the principles of the mental health recovery model would provide more assurance of the quality of provision ' – Mental Health practitioner.

In July 2022 there were 28 people living with mental ill-health awaiting service to be sought with 20 of those require accommodation based solutions and four people are awaiting hospital discharge.

In October 2020, the results of an analysis of need for accommodation with support, for people with learning disability and/or autism and, people with severe mental illness over a 10 year period (2020-2030) indicated a minimum of 35 units of supported living were required for people living with mental ill-health (Campbell Tickell).

2. **Key Issues**

2.1 Limited market shaping activity:

The Rotherham Market Position Statement (2022) indicates a gap in service provision for people experiencing mental ill health and proposes a revised mental health social care pathway. A new service offer that includes a range of services which are designed in line with the principles of the Mental Health Recovery Model including accommodation based support is required.

2.2 Reliance on services which lack the mental health recovery approach:

There is a reliance on residential care with a disproportionately high number of people below the state retirement age who are living for long periods in this type of provision which is a cause for concern.

Co-production sessions with practitioners in July/August 2022 has highlighted a need for:

- *‘Services that can support people after discharge from hospital’.*
- *‘Managed peer support groups for support post hospital or to support independent living’.*

Responsive services:

- *‘More interim crisis support to help stabilise people’.*
- *‘A quick way for support to be reactivated for a period of time [when things deteriorate]’.*

Services which are available may fail to represent the best interests of Rotherham residents i.e., when people are placed in services outside the borough (residential care) because of the lack of provision capable of supporting people to rehabilitate and develop independent living skills.

2.3 Lack of preventative approaches:

Specialist organisations are defined as those whose remit is directed towards the relief by reason of disability and concern to a particular cohort i.e., mental ill-health and have capabilities suited to the needs of particular groups. A small number of specialist community mental health provision exists in Rotherham such services offer low level intervention below that required for people with assessed need under the Care Act 2014. Whilst these services have a key role in prevention and early intervention to support people to be sustained in the community in which they live, this market is small in scale and immature, with no formal support to sustain or develop them in line with the Council’s strategic priorities.

2.4 Non-competitive pricing:

There is a requirement for an established referral pathway to a range of readily available specialist care and support options at agreed prices to ensure prices are competitive and avoid prices being negotiated on an individual basis in pressured circumstances.

The Council faces significant financial challenges with a need to ensure cost effective and value for money services, but the current arrangements do not support this.

2.5 Lack of competition in the market:

A limited number of providers of mental health services exist in the Rotherham market. This has resulted in market dominance and nullified competition. Market engagement with incumbent providers to explore alternatives to traditional care and support models has traditionally not led to co-operation. This signals a

reliance on traditional models based on dependency which is not aligned to the Council's strategic direction of strength based approaches focusing on independence and choice.

2.6 Congested services:

There is a lack of cost-effective alternatives available to traditional forms of support for people with complex needs and who require mental health recovery support i.e., long, and short term supported living (24-hour services), floating support services. Short term flexible accommodation-based services are congested because community options of ongoing support are not readily available.

3. **Options considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 **Option 1 - Market Led Approach: Not Recommended**

Whilst developments undertaken by the market are welcome, this approach lacks competitive price control and co-ordination leading to high costs and a potential imbalance of provision in terms of supply/demand. This option would also promote the continuation of the current unsatisfactory situation with traditional models of care and support as opposed to mental health recovery principles being applied.

3.2 **Option 2 - Develop in-house provision: Not Recommended**

The Council do not currently provide any regulated mental health provision. The Council's Asset Team indicate that the Council does not have sufficient land resources to meet the development of supported living schemes highlighted by the NHS South Yorkshire ICB – 2022 Market Position Statement – Housing with support for people with learning disabilities and/or autism. This option would require increased capital outlay and revenue to support social care staffing deployment to meet the demand. This option is therefore not considered feasible and would undoubtedly result in delays in meeting existing demand.

3.3 **Recommended Option 3 – A procurement process to establish a Flexible Purchasing System:**

Undertake a procurement process to establish a Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) to procure a range of community services which reflect the principles of the Mental Health Recovery Framework to develop specialist provision in the Rotherham market. This option would achieve a range of high quality services of the required capacity, capability at competitive market prices.

It is proposed that the FPS is advertised with an indicative 5-year duration, the model will continue beyond this period if it remains fit for purpose. Organisations will be able to apply to join the FPS for as long as the model remains advertised.

3.4 Technical:

A FPS also referred to as a Pseudo Dynamic Purchasing System, is a procurement vehicle, which allows new Providers to join the agreement at any

time. This enables the Council to engage with a range of providers who meet the defined criteria in order to respond to individual needs and requirements.

3.5 Integration:

The intention is to arrange the contract in such a way which permits the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) to join the contract at a later date (subject to Strategic Director/Cabinet Member approval) to best meet the needs of people living with mental ill-health who transition between social care and health care and require consistent, collaborative and joined up approaches. This will generate a cohesive referral pathway to a range of readily available specialist care and support options at agreed prices and will be established in agreement across health and social care. In view of the system changes currently taking place it is proposed this be considered at a later date to avoid negative impact in achieving the Council's objectives.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 In line with commissioning good practice the development of the new co-produced mental health community service model has involved a range of internal and external stakeholders. With input via various interviews, workshops and focus groups it has been used to inform the content of the service specifications associated with the FPS.

A co-designed approach has been undertaken by engaging a range of committed stakeholders including people accessing services, their natural forms of support and professionals across health and social care systems.

- 4.2 The co-production timetable is detailed below:

Resource/host organisation	Key Stakeholders	Date	Target
Rotherham and Barnsley MIND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People accessing formal and informal services living in the community Unpaid Carers – natural forms of support for people living with mental ill-health VCS organisations Professionals (therapists) 	July – August 2022	80 – face to face 100 – survey online Soft research projects
Rotherham Show – MIND scoping views – via key questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People accessing formal and informal services living in the community Unpaid Carers – natural forms of support for people living with mental ill-health 	September 2022	82 people

Absolute Advocacy Rotherham	People receiving acute service provision – RDASH NHS FT	July –2022	20 people Face to Face
Professionals RDASH/Rotherham MBC Mental Health Team/Brokerage Support Service	Professionals/practitioners supporting people who are living with mental ill-health and who are accessing formal services - living in the community	July – August 2022	

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Should Option 3 set out in this report be approved, it is intended that the FPS application process will commence in November 2022. Once the initial successful applicants are appointed the Council will be able to procure requirements via the system from early 2023.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The Council currently spends approximately £5.7m per annum to support people with a primary need of mental health (under 65).

	Gross Expenditure Budget 2022/23
Home Care	234,000
Care Homes	4,162,405
Direct Payments	1,112,800
Housing Related Support	136,762
Supported Living	52,529
Total	5,698,496

- 6.2 There is no new funding for developing the initiatives proposed in this report. The cost associated with community services (Lots) which are to be tendered on the FPS will be met within existing budgets currently set at £5.7m (2022-2023). The new services procured will provide alternative cost effective and appropriate options to those available currently. The referral to such services will be determined as a result of a review of each individual care package.

Cost efficiencies achieved will be utilised to develop new community services (Lots), tendered via the FPS and within the existing budget.

6.3 Supported Living – Residential Care cost comparison:

Soft market testing has been undertaken in order to estimate prices in the market for the supported living model of care. Analysis indicates costs compare favourably when compared to the residential care model.

The total weekly support cost in a Supported Living service are estimated at £1295.48 per week for an individual. This cost includes core costs plus 5 hours per day of 1:1 bespoke support hours. These costs are incurred on a temporary basis given the ethos of the service provided is to promote independent living. The service will reduce over a period of 1-3 years duration as independence is achieved.

The average cost of residential care for people living with mental ill-health £1,246 gross (2021/22) which are incurred on a long term basis. An analysis of 25 people under the age of 67 living in residential care indicates the time they have resided in residential care of between 4 to 19 years duration with the majority living there for in excess of 5 years.

Indicative supported living costs compare well and indicate cost efficiencies to be gained.

6.4 The services described in this report would be defined in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) (“the Regulations”) as Social and Other Specific Services (“SOSS”).

The indicative value of services to be procured via the FPS over the initial 5-year duration (£28,500,000 Net of VAT) is above the threshold for Social and Other Specific Services (SOSS) (£552,950 net of VAT) as defined in the Regulations; and as such a full procurement in compliance with the Regulations must be undertaken, however the Regulations recognise for such services a Light Touch Regime may be applied.

With the establishment of the FPS being undertaken in compliance with the Regulations, this will help to establish the call-off procedures for the delivery of requirement from those providers who have successfully been appointed to the FPS ensuring ongoing continued compliance with the Regulations and the Council’s own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. **Legal Advice and Implications**

7.1 A flexible purchasing system (FPS) is a procedure available for contracts for works, services and goods commonly available on the market. The FPS is similar to a framework agreement but where new suppliers can apply to join at any time. It must be operated as a completely electronic process and is established in accordance with regulation 34 the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

7.2 The FPS is a two-stage process. In the initial establishment stage, all suppliers which meet the selection criteria and are not excluded must be admitted to the FPS. Suppliers are permitted to apply to join the FPS at any time during the lifetime of the system. Individual contracts are awarded during the second stage, in which all suppliers on the FPS (or the relevant category/lot within the FPS) are

invited to bid for the specific contract. As such an individual contract is established in respect of each specific care service provided.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct implications on internal HR resources.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The new co-produced mental health community service model outlined in this report and the co-produced service specification will improve the service offer for adults living with mental ill-health and who are supported by the Council and health partners.
- 9.2 Whilst Children's and Young People Services are out of scope for the purpose of the service specification and the procurement exercise young people transitioning to adulthood will benefit from the proposals.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 The proposals in this report support the Council to comply with legal obligations encompassed in the:
- Human Rights Act (1998), to treat everyone equally with fairness dignity and respect with a focus on those who are disadvantaged as a result of disability and
 - Equality Act (2010) to legally protect people from discrimination in the wider society.
- 10.2 An equality screening and analysis has been undertaken to inform areas of improvement. The proposals in this report will improve equality of opportunity for people living with mental ill-health to be supported to live in the community and therefore contributes positively to the equalities and human rights agenda.
- ## **11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**
- 11.1 The carbon impact assessment demonstrates that the recommendations in this report will have minimal impact.
- ## **12. Implications for Partners**
- 12.1 In line with the integration agenda, the intention is to arrange the contract in such a way which permits the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) to join the contract at a later date. Collaborative discussions are currently taking place.
- 12.2 There is potentially an under-provision of care homes providing nursing care within the borough (Cordis Bright – Report on The Care Home Market – Strategic Analysis March 2021). It is essential that, in collaboration with our health colleagues this area of the market is supported to sustain and transform in line with other market developments.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Risk: DPS Framework for Supported Living has a poor market response

- Mitigation: Further market development, engagement, coproduction, research on specifications, costs, framework structure. A market engagement event took place in September signalling market interest.
- Comment: Interest to date via limited market engagement has been solid and positive.

13.2 Risk: New providers do not sustain the mental health recovery ethos and principles.

- Mitigation: Detailed mobilisation and ongoing development plan.
- Mitigation: Services will be clearly specified with the Council's expectations in respect of competency, capability and high standards. Robust arrangements will be in place to monitor service delivery and outcomes with associated performance targets and KPIs and enforcement action taken when providers deviate from the standards.

13.3 Risk: Publicity for any criminal or historic CQC findings linked to a new provider.

- Mitigation: Robust procurement criteria and due diligence that assess any historical and current performance issues and combined with effective performance and contract management.

14. Accountable Officers

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.
Nathan Atkinson, Assistant Director, Strategic Commissioning, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	03/10/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	29/09/22
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	29/09/22

Report Author: Jacqueline Clark Head of Service – Strategic Commissioning Adult Care
01709 822358 or Jacqueline.clark@rotherham.gov.uk

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 1

Community Service – Mental Health Recovery Model – outcomes of co-production

Co-production activities began in July 2022 and remain ongoing.

This report provides a summary of co-production outcomes to date (**as at 2.9.22**). A range of activities have been undertaken, using different approaches.

1. Online survey, carried out in partnership with Rotherham and Barnsley Mind

120 surveys were sent out to a cross section of Mind service users who live in Rotherham and have lived experience of services in their local area.

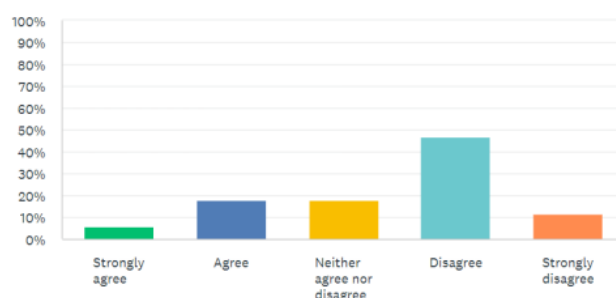
Response rate: 40% (52 responses).

Summary of responses to date (further responses expected):

- 11% said they are currently using other mental health support services (in addition to Mind).
- 35% first accessed mental health support services as a self-referral, 35% were referred by a health professional, 30% other.
- When asked 'how easy or difficult it was to get the help they needed', responses included:
'My referral was through my GP and it was relatively easy'
'I had to continually chase for updates on my referral'
'I was on a very long waiting list and had to wait for help'
- When asked whether they 'feel supported enough to live independently', 62% of respondents answered yes, 8% no, 30% not applicable.
- When asked how much they agreed with the statement 'I feel that mental health support services are available and can be accessed when I need them', 47% disagreed and 11% strongly disagreed (see table 1 below for all responses).

Table 1

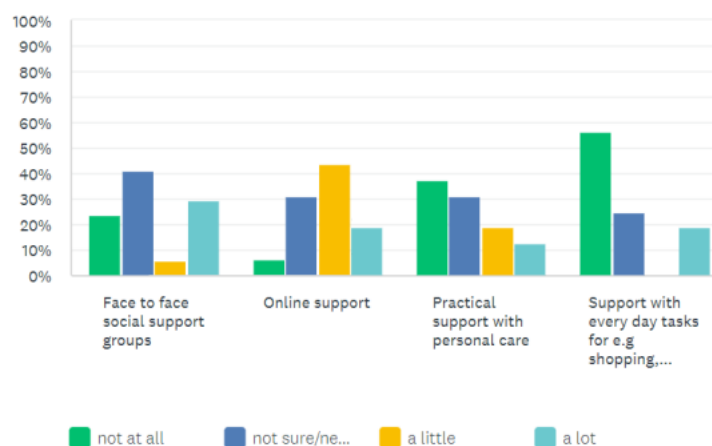
How much do you agree with the following statement: I feel that mental health support services are available and can be accessed when I need them



- Respondents were asked about different activities/services and how much they thought they could help to support or improve their mental health (see table 2 below for all responses):
 - 35% said face to face and social groups would help to support / improve their mental health.
 - 60% said online support would help to support / improve their mental health.
 - 30% said practical support with personal care would help to support / improve their mental health.
 - 18% said support with every day tasks would help a lot to support / improve their mental health.

Table 2

How much would the options below help to support or improve your mental health?



2. Face to face group sessions, carried out in partnership with Rotherham and Barnsley Mind

Three group sessions with a total of 38 Mind service users and one group session with 6 Mind staff were held at Mind. Mind staff facilitated the sessions with service users, RMBC commissioning staff facilitated the session with mind staff.

Summary of responses:

Service user sessions

- Service users feel that there is a lack of awareness of support services that are available to them and this is particularly relevant following a stay in hospital or when supporting someone living independently.
- Attendees talked about a lack of information that is available to know where to turn in a time of need and an over reliance on their GP for support and referrals.
- Most commonly service users are heavily reliant on their family or friends for day to day help with their needs.
- Many service users have challenges with accessing services or support networks due to a lack of digital capability and are therefore unfamiliar with accessing support through websites or don't have equipment to access support networks.
- Timescales and backlogs result in people not being able to access the support they need in a timely fashion. Feedback from all groups commented that time delays were the largest contributor to individuals mental health challenges.
- People expressed their lack of knowledge and that much of their information comes from word of mouth and sharing of experiences from friends, family and neighbours.
- Many service users have challenges accessing information and don't know where to go for support.
- It was thought that many services work in isolation and there is a need for a more joined up approach to better connect people to the help they need through a variety of support networks.

Mind staff session:

- It was felt that currently there are limited mental health support options available for people.
- Interim crisis support and services to support people after discharge from hospital were felt to be particularly lacking.
- Strong support for more supported living, floating support, the flexible use of hours for home care support, step up /step down support.
- Need for greater information sharing amongst professionals and training across pathways was highlighted.

- Importance of managed peer support groups as preventative services.
- Difficulty reaching out to BAME service users.
- Concern expressed about service users who fall between 'criteria' based support.

3. Face to face discussions, carried out by Absolute Advocacy

Nine individual face to face discussions have been held with people receiving acute service provision. The Mind survey was used as a basis for discussions.

Summary of responses to date (further responses expected):

- Support which was identified by people as being needed to live independently:
 - Keyworker support
 - More places to go and leisure activities
 - Banking and domestic support
 - Help with money and going out
- (89%) said face to face and social groups would help a lot to support / improve their mental health.
- (67%) said 'strongly disagree' to 'I feel that mental health support services are available and can be accessed when I need them'.

4. Face to face group session with RDASH/RMBC Mental Health Team/Brokerage Support Service staff

A group session was held with six staff (practitioners / professionals) supporting people living with mental ill health.

Summary of responses:

- Attendees discussed the need for more supported living, floating support, the flexible use of hours for home care support, step up /step down support.
- Importance of understanding the client group and their needs, to ensure the right service is put in place.
- Training standards to be made clear to providers.
- Training needed more widely for staff on services available / pathways.

5. Further co-production activities planned

Online survey – any additional responses received will be incorporated.

Rotherham Show, 3 and 4 Sept – Mind undertook a short survey of members of the public to gain feedback about mental health care and support services in Rotherham. Responses to be collated.

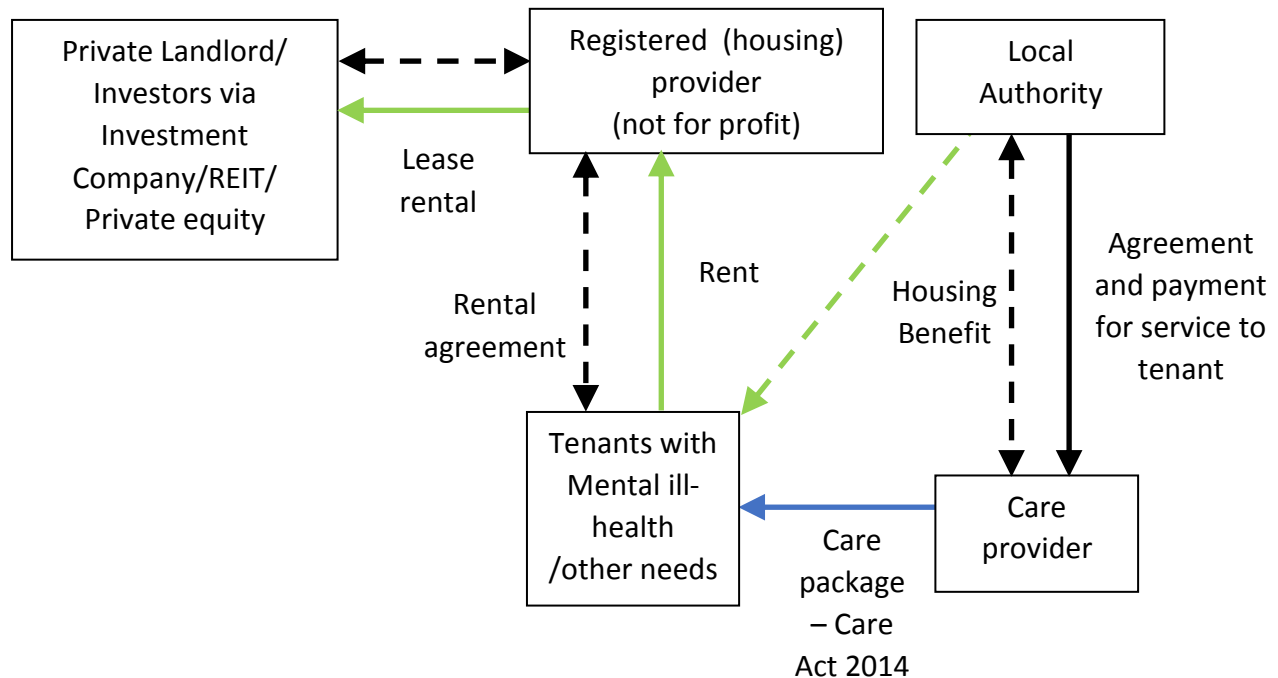
Market engagement event, 9 Sept – supported living providers invited to attend a market engagement event.

Face to face discussions with people receiving acute service provision – Absolute Advocacy plan to carry out a further 11 individual discussions.

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 2

Community Services – Mental Health Recovery Model



The term supported living refers to a product that is comprised of three elements:

- Physical building, this may be developed by an investor and owned by a private landlord.
- A registered housing provider or social housing provider who are not-for-profit organisations that provide low cost homes for those in housing need. They act as social landlords in a similar way to a local council, maintaining properties, providing a repair service and collecting rent.
- Care and support provider, regulated by the Care Quality Commission who supports the tenant.

People in supported living have their own tenancy agreement and are responsible for their own bills and cost of living. The personal care and accommodation parts of supported living are covered by separate agreements. To help cover costs individuals may be entitled to a range of benefits such as the housing benefit part of Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payments (PIP, up to state pension age only), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA, up to state pension age only) and Attendance Allowance (AA). Grants to adapt a property may also be available.

The cost of some or all of a person's care and support is made available through the local authority if eligible for support under the Care Act 2014 or sometimes via NHS funding.

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 3

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title

Title: Adult Services Mental Health community service model – commissioning approach 2022

Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Service area: Strategic Commissioning

Lead person: Jacqueline Clark

Contact: 22358

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☒

Service / Function

☐

Other

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

A Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) is to be established to procure a range of community services and specialist provision which reflect the principles of the mental health recovery model. This framework will bring quality and costs under a single set of standards to allow the Council to purchase more specified care and support services for individuals.

Background

Mental health care and support services are necessary to meet all the Council's statutory requirements under the Care Act 2014, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, the Mental Health Act 2007 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The types of services people with mental ill health require may include:

- community outreach to enable people with mental ill health to live independently in their own home.
- Supported living, designed specifically to enable people to live as independently as possible.
- Crisis intervention support.
- Residential and nursing care home provision.

The majority of people who receive these services will reside in Rotherham, with a smaller number of people eligible to receive support placed in care and support services located outside of the borough.

Currently, the provision available is limited in choice and does not promote mental health recovery or offer support to people to transition to supported or independent living. Arrangements made with providers are a result of what's available rather than presented as a choice of strengths based personalised social care options which meet specified standards at agreed prices.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	x	
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	x	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>	x	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is</i>		x

<i>carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>		
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>	x	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		x
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		
<p>The service(s) will be commissioned from external organisations and therefore no internal staff are affected.</p> <p>To note: the services to be developed will aim to support the strength based ethos aligned to professional practice of practitioners employed in Adult Care and Integration, and the principles of the Social Care Act 2012 and the Health and Care Act 2022 which underpin workforce activity across Health and Social Care.</p>		

If you have answered **no** to **all** the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- How have you considered equality and diversity?**

The services to be procured are to support people with mental ill health. A mental health condition is considered a disability (and therefore protected by the Equality Act) if it has a long term (at least 12 months or more) effect on day-to-day activities.

All future providers will be required to comply with all statutory requirements relating to the Equality Act 2010 and discrimination against any individual or group of people will be seen as a breach of contract.

Equality and Diversity is a standing agenda item at partnership (contract) meetings. Providers routinely collect/collate specific data around protected characteristics of service users.

We know that there are specific groups who experience higher prevalence of mental health problems ^{1 2 3 4 5}:

BAME groups

- Black men are more likely to have experienced a psychotic disorder in the last year than White men.
- Black people are four more times likely to be detained under the Mental Health Act than White people.
- Older South Asian women are an at-risk group for suicide.
- Refugees and asylum seekers are more likely to experience mental health problems than the general population.

Learning disabilities

- Evidence and research suggests that mental health problems may be higher in people with a learning disability than in those without a learning disability.
- Some studies suggest the rate of mental health problems in people with a learning disability is double that of the general population.

LGBTIQ+

- LGBTIQ+ people are at higher risk of experiencing poor mental health.
- A study carried out in 2020, found that: half of LGBTIQ+ people had experienced depression, one in eight aged 18 to 24 had attempted to end their life; and almost half of trans people had thought about taking their life.

Physical health conditions

- People with a physical disability or physical health problem are more likely to experience a mental health problem, while people with a mental health problem are more likely to experience a physical health problem.
- More than 15 million people – 30% of the UK population, live with one or more long-term conditions, and more than 4 million of these people will also have a mental health problem.
- Of people with severe symptoms of mental health problems, 37.6% also have a long-term physical condition.

Sex

- Men aged 45-49 have the highest suicide rate in England.
- Women between the ages of 16 and 24 are almost three times as likely (26%) to experience a common mental health issue as males of the same age (9%).

Age

- Current service provision by age (this shows the number of people under 67 years and 67 and above) for people living with mental ill health in Rotherham can be seen in table 1 below. This shows a high proportion of people aged under 67 in residential / nursing care.

Unpaid carers

- Looking after a family member can have a significant impact on carers' own mental health problems; 71% of carers have poor physical or mental health.

Rotherham population ^{6 7 8 9}:

¹ [Mental health statistics | Mental Health Foundation](#)

² [Mental health statistics - MHFA England](#)

³ [Mental health: population factors - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

⁴ [Learning Disability and Mental Health - Mental Health Research | Mencap](#)

⁵ [Latest suicide data | Suicide facts and figures | Samaritans](#)

⁶ [Homepage – Rotherham Data Hub](#)

⁷ [Projecting Older People Population Information System \(poppi.org.uk\)](#)

- The population is 264,984 (2020 mid-year population estimate).
- By 2030, the total population size for Rotherham is estimated to be 277,500. Data projections show the largest increases are expected to be in the 35-44, 65-69 and 80+ age groups.
- Rotherham people live longer with ill-health and/or disability than the England average.
- Age structure is slightly older than the national average.
- Rotherham is becoming more ethnically diverse. The Pakistani and Slovak Roma communities have above average proportions.
- Rotherham has significantly higher than average deprivation, unemployment and long-term unemployment.

Mental health - the picture in Rotherham ^{10 11 12}

- The population in Rotherham estimated to have a common mental health disorder is 25,300 in 2022 for people aged 18-64. ONS predict this to increase to 25,590 by 2032.
- 18.6% of the population aged 16 and over are living with a common mental health disorder (2017).
- 11.6% of the population aged 65 and over are living with a common mental health disorder (2017).
- The estimated prevalence of common mental health disorders for Rotherham (2017), is higher than that for Yorkshire and the Humber and England for both those aged 16 and over and those aged 65 and over.
- The suicide rate in Rotherham is 13.2 per 100,000, which is higher than that for England (10.4) and for Yorkshire and the Humber (12.5).
- Premature mortality in adults with severe mental illness is higher in Rotherham at 121.6 per 100,000, compared to England (103.6) and for Yorkshire and the Humber (108.8).

The below table provides a snapshot of data from Insight (June 2022) which shows the number of people supported with eligible mental health needs under the Care Act 2014. This shows 325 people in total of which 220 are below the state pensionable age of 67 years.

TABLE 1 – service provision for people with a primary need of mental health (June 2022)

Service Type	Numbers of people accessing service type			
	Under 67 years	+ 67 years	%	Comment
Care Home	55	56	35%	Specialised

⁸ [Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information System \(pansi.org.uk\)](https://pansi.org.uk)

⁹ IPC: Integrating Health and Social Care – Rotherham Case Study (July 2018)

¹⁰ [Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Market Position Statement: RMBC Adult Care Market and Demand](#)

¹¹ [Homepage – Rotherham Data Hub](#)

¹² [Severe Mental Illness - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://phe.org.uk)

Home Care	29	23	16%	Non-specialised
Direct Payment	120	25	44%	People are purchasing non-specialised provision
Supported Living - specialised	7	1	3%	Specialised/majority out of Borough
Community Support	5		1%	Non-specialised
Extra Care	4		1%	Non-specialised
Total	220	105		

Barriers in accessing services / treatment inequalities ^{13 14 15}

- Research shows that BAME people can face barriers to getting help, including: not recognising they have a mental illness because mental health was stigmatised or never talked about in their community; not knowing that help is available or where to go to get it; language barriers; turning to friends or family rather than professional support, not feeling listened to or understood by professionals; White professionals not understanding their experiences of racism or discrimination.
- Assessments to detect mental health problems in people with a learning disability are not always well developed. Presenting symptoms may be attributed to the person's learning disability rather than the true problem.
- Around one in eight LGBTQI+ people have experienced unequal treatment; one in seven have avoided treatment for fear of discrimination.
- Men are significantly less likely to access psychological therapies than women.
- Young people aged 16-24 are less likely to receive mental health treatment than any other age group.

Co-production

Co-production events are planned as follows:

Activity / host organisation	Date	Target audience
Online survey - Rotherham and Barnsley MIND	July/August 2022	MIND service users accessing formal and informal services living in the community (up to 100)
Face to face sessions – Rotherham and Barnsley MIND	August 2022	MIND service users accessing formal and informal services living in the community (up to 80)
Face to face session – Rotherham and Barnsley MIND and RMBC Commissioning	10 August 2022	MIND staff (therapists) x 6
Face to face discussions – Absolute Advocacy	August 2022	People receiving acute service provision (up to 20)
Hybrid session – RDASH/RMBC Mental Health Team/Brokerage	10 August 2022	Practitioners/professionals supporting people living with mental ill health and who are

¹³ [Mental health statistics | Mental Health Foundation](#)

¹⁴ [Learning Disability and Mental Health - Mental Health Research | Mencap](#)

¹⁵ [Key data: mental health | Men's Health Forum \(menshealthforum.org.uk\)](#)

Support Service		accessing formal services living in the community x 8
Rotherham Show; key questions to collect views – Rotherham and Barnsley MIND	3 and 4 September 2022	RMBC residents / people accessing formal and informal services living in the community
Market engagement event – RMBC	9 September 2022	Potential providers

Co-production events will explore views, thoughts and experiences around:

- Access: how easy is it for people (service users and professionals) to find out what support is available?
- Information: how and where do people find information?
- Delays: importance of getting help in time
- Services: positive and negative experiences of mental health services in Rotherham, what do we need more of?, what's missing?, alternatives to traditional forms of support?, support needed to live independently?, support following a stay in hospital?

This information will help to support the development of the service specification, to be underpinned by the Mental Health Recovery Framework.

• Key findings

The services to be procured will provide support to people with mental ill health, a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 (a mental health condition is considered a disability if it has a long term (at least 12 months or more) effect on day-to-day activities). This Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) aims to increase the range and choice of services, so will have a positive impact on current and future service users.

The commissioning activity being undertaken aims to harness the opportunities which exist in the wider care and support market to increase choice, improve outcomes for people living with mental ill health in Rotherham and deliver a range of service provision arranged under a FPS. The FPS will comprise of a number of separate lots. Each lot will specify a community service with the principle of mental health recovery at its core. Commissioning activity associated with each lot will take place over an extensive period to ensure a range of appropriate services are available which are co-produced with people accessing services and professionals.

There is evidence to show that people with other protected characteristics, namely: physical health conditions, learning disabilities, BAME groups, LGBTQI+, age and gender – particularly when combined with other protected characteristics experience higher prevalence of mental health problems. Relating to age, we also know that currently there are a high proportion of people under 67 in residential / nursing care.

Our initial review of services has found that:

- There is a reliance on services which lack the mental health recovery approach.
- There is a lack of cost-effective alternatives available to traditional forms of support for people with complex needs i.e long and short term supported housing, floating support services.

The co-production consultation to date has highlighted the following in relation to equality and diversity:

- Importance of understanding the client group and their needs, to ensure the right service is put in place.
- Pathways between services and organisations need to be strengthened, including with the Voluntary and Community Sector, to ensure service users get the right support at the right time.
- Prevention and early intervention services are particularly important; ensuring professionals know what's out there, be able to identify appropriate services and know how to refer.
- Increasing the range of services which reflect the principles of the mental health recovery model, will improve outcomes for service users.

• **Actions**

The intention is to develop a Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) to procure a range of community services which reflect the principles of the Mental Health Recovery Framework to develop specialist provision in the Rotherham market.

The co-production consultation will enable us to gain insight into the views and desired outcomes of people who use mental health services. For example; positive and negative experiences, what they feel is missing / we need more of, what they want to see in a supported living service. The survey will have an equality and diversity section; this will enable us to identify any specific trends.

The service specification will need to take account of the above to ensure that all communities can access the services and that no protected characteristic group is being unintentionally excluded or disadvantaged.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	August 2022
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	19 August 2022
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Jacqueline Clark – Head of Prevention and Early Intervention – Strategic Commissioning – Adult Care Housing and Public Health

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Ian Spicer	Strategic Director - Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	23 August 2022

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	22 August 2022
Report title and date	Commissioning of community services - mental health recovery model.
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	03/10/2022
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement	22 August 2022

This page is intentionally left blank



Appendix 3

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Adult Services Mental Health community service model – commissioning approach 2022	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 16 August 2022	
Directorate: Adult Care Housing and Public Health	Service area: Strategic Commissioning
Lead Manager: Jacqueline Clark	Contact number: 22358
Is this a: <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Jacqueline Clark	Rotherham MBC	Head of Prevention and Early Intervention – Strategic Commissioning
Jo Bell	Rotherham MBC	Strategic Commissioning Manager, Prevention and Early Intervention
Jo Fellows	Rotherham MBC	Strategic Commissioning Officer, Prevention and Early Intervention

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance
Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

A Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) is to be established to procure a range of community services and specialist provision which reflect the principles of the mental health recovery model.

The services to be procured are to support people with mental ill health. A mental health condition is considered a disability (and therefore protected by the Equality Act) if it has a long term (at least 12 months or more) effect on day-to-day activities.

The majority of people who receive these services will reside in Rotherham, with a smaller number of people eligible to receive support placed in care and support services located outside of the borough.

Currently, the provision available is limited in choice and does not promote mental health recovery or offer support to people to transition to supported or independent living. Arrangements made with providers are a result of what's available rather than presented as a choice of strengths based personalised social care options which meet specified standards at agreed prices.

What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)

- Data available on 'Insight', the Adult Care management system.
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment data.
- Information gained through the co-production surveys and discussions to also be fed in.

Information from external sources (referenced in Part A):

- [Mental health statistics | Mental Health Foundation](#)
- [Mental health statistics - MHFA England](#)

- [Mental health: population factors - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Learning Disability and Mental Health - Mental Health Research | Mencap](#)
- [Latest suicide data | Suicide facts and figures | Samaritans](#)
- [Projecting Older People Population Information System \(poppi.org.uk\)](https://poppi.org.uk)
- [Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information System \(pansi.org.uk\)](https://pansi.org.uk)
- [Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Market Position Statement: RMBC Adult Care Market and Demand](#)
- [Severe Mental Illness - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://phe.org.uk)
- [Key data: mental health | Men's Health Forum \(menshealthforum.org.uk\)](https://menshealthforum.org.uk)

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?

All available data has been reviewed.

Further data to come from the co-production work will be taken account of.

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

The incumbent service providers will be required to routinely collect/collate specific data around the protected characteristics of people accessing the services. Trend data will enable service providers to consider demand and gaps in delivering the service to people with protected characteristics.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)

Co-production events carried out/planned as below:

	Activity / host organisation	Date	Target audience
1	Online survey - Rotherham and Barnsley MIND	July/Aug 2022	MIND service users accessing formal and informal services living in the community (up to 100)
2	Face to face sessions – Rotherham and Barnsley MIND	August 2022	MIND service users accessing formal and informal services living in the community (up to 80)
3	Face to face session – Rotherham and Barnsley MIND and RMBC Commissioning	10 August 2022	MIND staff (therapists) x 6
4	Face to face discussions –	August 2022	People receiving acute service

		Absolute Advocacy		provision (up to 20)	
	5	Rotherham Show; key questions to collect views – Rotherham and Barnsley MIND	3 and 4 Sept 2022	RMBC residents / people accessing formal and informal services living in the community	
	6	Market engagement event – RMBC	9 Sept 2022	Providers – specifically supported living providers, social landlords and developers	
<p>The purpose of the co-production events is to explore views, thoughts and experiences around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Access: how easy is it for people (service users and professionals) to find out what support is available? ○ Information: how and where do people find information? ○ Delays: importance of getting help in time ○ Services: positive and negative experiences of mental health services in Rotherham, what do we need more of?, what's missing?, alternatives to traditional forms of support?, support needed to live independently?, support following a stay in hospital? ○ The Mental Health Recovery Framework model and the service provision needed to support this. <p>Key themes emerging to date (no. 3):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Currently there are limited options available b) Strong support for more supported living, floating support, the flexible use of hours for home care support, step up /step down support. c) Need for greater information sharing amongst professionals and training across pathways. d) Importance of managed peer support groups as preventative services. e) Difficulty reaching out to BAME groups. 					
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	Activity		Date	Target audience	
	Hybrid session – RDASH/RMBC Mental Health Team/Brokerage Support Service		10 August 2022	Staff (practitioners/ professionals) supporting people living with mental ill health and who are accessing formal services living in the community x 8	

	<p>Key findings: as above: a, b, c plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance of understanding the client group and their needs, to ensure the right service is put in place. - Training standards to be made clear to providers. - Training needed more widely for staff on services available / pathways.
--	---

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

Areas of possible impact	Impact	Level of impact
Age	Positive	Medium
Disability	Positive	High
Sex	Neutral	-
Gender Reassignment	Neutral	-
Race	Positive	Low
Religion	Neutral	-
Sexual Orientation	Positive	Low
Civil Partnerships and Marriage	Neutral	-
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral	-

Narrative:

The services to be procured via the FPS are to support people with mental ill health. A mental health condition is considered a disability (and therefore protected by the Equality Act) if it has a long term (at least 12 months or more) effect on day-to-day activities. The main benefit will therefore be a positive, high-level impact for people with disabilities.

As outlined in Part A, we know that there are specific groups who experience higher prevalence of mental health problems: BAME, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, LGBTQI+.

The establishment of the FPS will develop the range of community services and specialist provision which reflect the principles of the mental health recovery model. People will be able to transition to supported or independent living if that is the best option for them.

This will benefit all age groups as there will be alternative forms of support available other than the traditional options of residential / nursing care homes. There are currently a high proportion of people living in residential care who are below the state retirement age.

<p>Providers who we engage with will be expected to routinely collect/collate specific data around protected characteristics. Commissioners can continue to map this against the Rotherham population to see where there may be gaps. The new FPS will comprise of a number of separate lots. Each lot will specify a community service with the principle of mental health recovery at its core. Where it is identified that provision is needed to meet specific protected characteristics, the FPS will be flexible enough to accommodate this.</p>
<p>Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?</p> <p>No, the service proposed increases choice and options.</p>
<p>Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?</p> <p>Yes, as identified above. In particular, the service proposed will have a high level, positive impact for people with mental ill health.</p>
<p>What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)</p> <p>N/A</p>

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

Title of analysis: Equality Analysis – Adult Services Mental Health community service model – commissioning approach 2022
Directorate and service area: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Lead Manager: Jacqueline Clark
Summary of findings:
<p>The services to be procured will provide support to people with a mental health disability, a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 (a mental health condition is considered a disability if it has a long term (at least 12 months or more) effect on day-to-day activities). This Flexible Purchasing System aims to increase the range and choice of services, so will have a positive impact on current and future service users.</p> <p>There is evidence to show that people with other protected characteristics, namely: physical health conditions, learning disabilities, BAME groups, LGBTQI+, age and gender – particularly when combined with other protected characteristics experience higher prevalence of mental health problems. Relating to age, we also know that currently there are a high proportion of people under 67 in residential / nursing care.</p> <p>Our initial review of services has found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- There is a reliance on services which lack the mental health recovery approach.- There is a lack of cost-effective alternatives available to traditional forms of support for people with complex needs i.e long and short term supported housing, floating support services, preventative services. <p>The co-production consultation to date (still ongoing) has highlighted the following in relation to equality and diversity:</p>

- Importance of understanding the client group and their needs, to ensure the right service is put in place.
- Pathways between services and organisations need to be strengthened, including with the Voluntary and Community Sector, to ensure service users get the right support at the right time.
- Prevention and early intervention services are particularly important; ensuring professionals know what's out there, be able to identify appropriate services and know how to refer.
- Increasing the range of services which reflect the principles of the mental health recovery model, will improve outcomes for service users.

The proposed Flexible Purchasing System will enable us to procure a range of community services which reflect the principles of the mental health recovery model.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Design, commission and procure a FPS which addresses the key findings of the service review, reflects co-production feedback and the issues identified in the Equality Screening Assessment (part A)	All protected characteristic groups. Main focus on mental health disability.	Tender opportunity presented to the market Nov 2022

***A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.

Name	Job title	Date
Ian Spicer	Strategic Director – Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	24 August 2022
Councillor David Roche	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	20 September 2022

7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this Equality Analysis relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date Equality Analysis completed	22 August 2022
Report title and date	Commissioning of community services – mental health recovery model
Date report sent for publication	03/10/2022
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	23 August 2022

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 4

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Minimal	Where engagement sessions are held in-person, there will be a small carbon impact from energy use at the building. This impact is negligible, compared with Business as Usual.			
Emissions from transport?	Minimal	<p>Council officers travelling to in-person engagement sessions. Emissions from transport of staff who are traveling to deliver contracted care and support are not expected to increase beyond the current level and will be therefore business as usual.</p> <p>Carbon emissions from commuting and business travel are scope 3 emissions, in the Council's environmental reporting.</p>	Attendees travelling to in-person engagement sessions. These emissions are outside the scope of the Council's environmental reporting.	<p>Co-production activity will mainly be conducted online and through virtual meetings, minimizing the carbon emissions impact from transport.</p> <p>Where possible, venues will be chosen for in-person engagement sessions which are accessible by public transport and active travel. Active travel and public transport options will be advertised in advance of engagement sessions and car sharing will be encouraged.</p>	<p>Effectiveness of mitigating actions identified in the CIA will be considered as part of a wider review of co-production outcomes.</p> <p>For carbon emissions from transport, this will require a survey of those attending engagement sessions to establish e.g., how they travelled to the venue.</p>

				<p>Engagement sessions may be held at multiple venues, to minimize the distance travelled by those attending.</p> <p>Care and support services are delivered to people in geographical clusters and therefore will not encourage travel to multiple locations.</p>	
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Nil				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Nil				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Nil	This impact assessment only considers carbon emissions arising from engagement and co-production. For wider considerations, please see below.			Ongoing review of carbon impacts, in line with wider activity.
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Nil				

Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:

The carbon emissions impact from construction and development are Nil, since this carbon impact assessment only considers carbon emissions arising from co-production and engagement with relevant stakeholders. This is in agreement with advice received from colleagues in Asset Management, Policy and Strategic Housing.

However, as part of a wider piece of work in relation to the framework and the Cabinet report, Commissioning of community services - mental health recovery model, 35 new units will be developed over a 10 year period. This needs to be considered and potential impacts assessed, as schemes are identified and instigated. All the new units will not be new builds, but rather a mix of new build and adaptation of current buildings and structures. Where existing buildings are used, the likely emissions impact will be no change or a small decrease in emissions, as buildings' fabric is improved to meet current standards.

If the Council were to develop new, purpose-built supported living, then the relevant Carbon Impact Assessment should be reviewed and updated accordingly. This would provide assurance to residents and communities that carbon emissions considerations had been reviewed as part of the project.

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

- Access to Multiple buildings to reduce extensive travel during consultation
- Car sharing where possible
- Look at different travel methods for example buildings being near shared transport routes (bus, train routes) or cycle and walkable routes.
- Complete consultation aspects online such as surveys, questionnaires, large meetings to reduce travel and emissions.
- When using equipment in the consultations investigate recycling materials and ways in which materials can be re used after the event.
- Consider if face to face events is near to electrical car charging points.

Supporting information:

Completed by:

(Name, title, and service area/directorate).

Jacqueline Clark

Head of Prevention Early Intervention – Strategic Commissioning - ACH&PH

Joanne Bell

Strategic Commissioning Officer, ACH&PH

Arthur King

National Management Trainee, ACH&PH

Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this form.	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form, please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 17 October 2022

Report Title

Housing Related Support Pathway - proposal for future commissioning

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)

Lisa Elliott, Strategic Commissioning Manager
01709 334480 or lisa.elliott@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report sets out the recommendations for the future of Housing Related Support Services (HRS). Housing Related Support Services are non-statutory services that support people experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless to live independently in the community. It is designed to complement the Council's offer to alleviate and prevent homelessness.

The aim is to implement a single pathway of support for adults who struggle to live independently and maintain a stable housing situation. The report proposes a change to the current model, moving away from a set number of services for people with defined needs to one where resource can be more quickly accessed to meet needs, especially around complexity and where service capacity can be better utilised.

There will be an agreed overarching service specification, co-designed with the market. The premise of this will be that all commissioned services will have the ability to support anyone at risk of homelessness irrespective of compounding or complex issues, in a person-centred way. This will be used to procure a group of experienced and skilled service providers that are able to provide support and accommodation either on a block basis of multiple units or as individual packages of support. The system will allow for changes in need and demand, allowing the Council to access quality places. It will also allow quick access to the market, in the form of good quality and contractually compliant providers to maximise future short-term grant funding opportunities.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approves the remodelling of existing Adult Housing Related Support services to create one single pathway which will support a 'no wrong door' approach into services.
2. That Cabinet approves the procurement of the pathway using a 5 year Flexible Purchasing System which will be reviewed to ensure it remains fits for purpose and a progress report prepared for Cabinet

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Key Findings from Snapshot Audit (April 2022)
- Appendix 2 Equality Screening Assessment
- Appendix 3 Equality Analysis
- Appendix 4 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Rotherham Side by Side Review of Housing Related Support, Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision-Making Meeting – 16th October 2017

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Housing Related Support Pathway- proposal for future commissioning

1. Background

- 1.1 Housing Related Support (HRS) services are non-statutory services that offer personalised support to individuals to prevent homelessness. The services generally fall into two categories: support for people who are homeless, to re-settle into their new home and community to reduce risk of repeat homelessness and support for people who are at risk of losing their home, to maintain their home and continue to live independently. This is achieved by using the following service models:
- Accommodation based services – short-term accommodation with support available on-site or through a visiting service. Housing Benefit/Rental income funds the accommodation with HRS funding the support element.
 - Floating support - temporary visiting support delivered in a person's home or community location to support setting up a home or prevent homelessness, with tenancies not linked to support.
- 1.2 The last time Cabinet reviewed the whole HRS provision was in 2017 (see Rotherham Side by Side Review of Housing Related Support Cabinet Report 2017, in background papers), when services were streamlined into four pathways: Complex Needs, Vulnerable Adults, Younger People and Domestic Abuse.
- 1.3 The Domestic Abuse services were recommissioned in 2021 and 2022 and integrated into the Council's Domestic Abuse Strategy. The services ring-fenced for Younger People (aged 16-25) are also not in scope for this report as these services will be aligned to the provision commissioned by CYPS commissioning. This report therefore focuses on the remaining adult pathways, namely the Vulnerable Adults Pathway and Complex Needs.
- 1.4 The individual contracts that are commissioned within the original pathways are detailed in the table below (excluding the Domestic Abuse Contracts which were re-procured in 2021 and 2022):

Provision (and provider)	Type of Support	Available units/ households	Annual Contract Value	Client Group /Household type
Floating Support (Action Housing)	Floating Support in people's home anywhere across borough	110 (NB. Contract is supplemented with 26 dispersed properties, therefore availability for floating is 84)	£186,500	Any household type with a need to prevent homelessness or resettle after period of homelessness

Floating Support (SYHA)	Floating Support in people's home anywhere across borough	110 (NB. Contract is supplemented with 8 dispersed properties, therefore availability for floating is 102)	£186,500	Any household type with a need to prevent homelessness or resettle after period of homelessness
Dispersed Interim Accommodation (SYHA)	Dispersed accommodation (2/3 bed) with floating support	32	£80,000	Homeless couples or families with dependents
Elliott Court (Action Housing)	Self-contained Accommodation with on-site support	15	£170,000	Single people who are homeless
Elliott House (Action Housing)	Self-contained Accommodation with on-site support	15	£100,000	Single people with Mental ill health (often accompanied by homelessness)
Browning Court (SYHA)	Self-contained accommodation with on-site support	10	£145,861	Single people with Mental ill health
Young Persons (16-25) Support Service (Roundabout)	Mixture of emergency accommodation, supported accommodation and floating support	85	£525,000	Young People (16-24), who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
Fleming Gardens (YWCA)	Accommodation with onsite support plus dispersed accommodation with floating support	27	£117,775	Young Parents (16-25) – including pregnant women

Young Parents Floating Support (YWCA)	Floating Support in own home	20	£76,500	Young Parents (16-25) – including pregnant women
Housing First	Provision of accommodation in the community with intensive floating support	25 (NB. Additional x10 units obtained through temporary funding, see table below 1.3)	£166,992	People with entrenched homelessness or a history of rough sleeping with high level of complexities and chaotic lives

- 1.5 There have been opportunities in recent years for the Council to obtain short-term funding from central government grants, some of which have been used to develop innovative services and interventions alongside HRS providers. These services have delivered successful outcomes and added some much-needed provision into the system, but the funding streams are finite and the services do not fit within the existing defined pathways. See below for a breakdown of existing additional service provision:

Provision (and funding stream)	Type of Support	Available units/ households	Annual Contract value	Client Group /Household type
Indigo (SYHA) – COVID Recovery Funding, ends March 2023	Floating Support	50	£365,704	Households of any type, experiencing homelessness and residing in temporary accommodation
Housing First (SYHA) - COVID Recovery Funding, ends March 2023	Provision of accommodation in the community with intensive floating support	10 (in addition to 25 commissioned)	£62,197	People with entrenched homelessness, history of rough sleeping with high level of complexities and chaotic lives (determined through chaos index)
Emergency Accommodation (Target Housing) – Rough Sleepers Initiative	Accommodation with on site support (up to 6	8	£171,078	Single people who are rough sleeping or at immediate risk of rough sleeping

Funding, ends March 2025	weeks) – hostel			
Indigo Next Steps – Rough Sleepers Initiative Funding, gradual reduction up to March 2024	Accommodation with floating support – self contained	10	£40,00 (reducing each year)	Single people who are homeless with a history of rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping (originally funded through the governments Next Steps Accommodation Programme)

- 1.6 In addition to the services listed above there is a contract with South Yorkshire Housing Association to provide accommodation and support at Burns Court. This does not form part of the four pathways and is ring fenced as specialist support for people with diagnosed Mental Health issues, leaving hospital or residential mental health services. The annual value of this service is £136,762 and is part funded by the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board. Browning Court, which is detailed in the table above (1.4), whilst in the Vulnerable Adults Pathway, operates in exactly the same way as Burns Court. In both these instances the provider owns the property and is responsible for both the Housing Management and Support Services.
- 1.7 In order to retain provision for those with severe and enduring mental health problems, namely Burns and Browning Court, these facilities are not recommended to be included in the Housing Related Support pathway. Use of these services is part of the mental health pathway, and these are in effect ring fenced resources for that purpose.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Single Housing Related Support Pathway

Analysis has been undertaken by officers of the needs of people accessing the service, this has included feedback from providers, contract monitoring tools, feedback from stakeholders and a 'snapshot' audit undertaken in April 2022 (see Appendix 1).

- 2.2 Whilst the October 2017 Cabinet paper describing the 'Side by Side review' went some way to breaking down silos within provision by removing specific cohorts, there still remains some limitations around eligibility within services and perceptions across stakeholders that have resulted in some providers retaining specialisms. For example, the audit showed noticeable differences between the two 'Vulnerable Adult Pathway' floating support services, with one provider supporting a significantly higher proportion of people with a history of offending behaviour and people with drug or alcohol misuse issues, there was also a notable difference in the referral routes into the two services.

- 2.3 A single pathway will enable providers to work with individuals, irrespective of what 'cohort' they fall under at the time of accessing support and recognises that people can be both vulnerable and complex, or neither, to varying degrees throughout their lives.
- 2.4 As can be seen in the tables above (1.4 and 1.5), within the three current pathways (excluding Domestic Abuse), there are thirteen different services each with its own eligibility criteria and thresholds to offering support. Data collected from the recent audit undertaken in April 2022 (Appendix 1) and feedback from providers indicates that referrals are duplicated to several providers, there is no system coordination and inappropriate referrals create blockages in the system. Removing the specified cohorts from the system will allow all adults with a need for housing related support to access the first available provider.
- 2.5 The needs analysis has also shown that the presenting needs of people requiring support and the housing market have changed since the creation of the four pathways for the Housing Related Support service offer in Rotherham in 2017. There is a need to commission high quality places that can be accessed rapidly and address, in many cases, complex need for greater volumes of people without a single defining characteristic. People needing support no longer fit into single cohort definitions and providers have become highly skilled in working with all people in a personalised way to achieve their desired outcomes.
- 2.6 Data from the Council's Homeless Team also indicates a steady increase in complexity of need of people presenting as homeless over the last three years. People are increasingly presenting with mental health concerns, often caused by difficult situations and where debt, alcohol and drugs compound these difficulties. There is the opportunity to harness the expertise that the market has developed to co-design a service specification that allows providers to work with individuals to tackle root causes of homelessness, irrespective of presenting primary need. An example would be to adopt the trauma-informed principles used successfully in the Housing First services.
- 2.7 Services listed in table 1.5 (above), that are temporary services, have adopted an individual, personalised approach, rather than cohort defined, to achieve successful outcomes. The temporary nature of these contracts means there will be gaps in the system when this funding ends, for adults who do not fit into the defined Vulnerable Adults or Complex Needs pathways. A single HRS pathway provides an opportunity to incorporate the support offered by the short-term funded services into the whole HRS offer.
- 2.8 A single Housing Related Support pathway will mean the support available is consistent across all providers. To ensure equality of access and service provision, and to negate the risk of refused or inappropriate referrals, all providers will have the ability to work with service users with complex needs in a way that is personalised, incorporating strengths and risks.

2.9 **Establishing a Flexible Purchasing System for Adults**

Services that were set up as a result of short-term funding have achieved some successful outcomes for people experiencing homelessness. This has exposed potential gaps in current provision that were not necessarily apparent in 2017 when the services were last reviewed. Much of this provision has been shaped around people who were rough sleeping or whose situation was compounded by the pandemic. A flexible solution to shaping service provision would be beneficial to allow for changes in future demand.

2.10 A Flexible Purchasing System gives the Council the ability to directly access the market where demand increases or changes as the route for new entrants to the FPS is always open (or is open at frequent intervals, as relevant to the circumstances). The benefit of using this method is that the provider market can act quickly to meet the Council's demand whilst remaining compliant for procurement purposes.

2.11 The potential for Government Funding to be made available to assist with homelessness or prevention is likely to continue. Whilst providers have stepped up to support with developing short-term solutions, the Council's access to the market is limited and current contracts do not always allow the degree of flexibility that is needed.

2.12 **Young People's Housing Related Support Provision**

Children and Young People's Services commissioned, a Flexible Purchasing System (FPS), for accommodation and support for young people leaving care and looked after children, aged 16 – 25 that went live in 2021. The Children and Young People's FPS is due to run for an indicative ten years. Children and Young People's Services are undertaking work with partners to implement the new Department for Education National Standards across unregulated provision, which will be applicable to the current HRS services in the Young People's pathway.

2.13 The current providers of Housing Related Support services for young people (adults) are also on the Children and Young People's Services FPS, providing accommodation and support services for the younger population. The service provided to young people is the same irrespective of the referral route (i.e. through the Children and Young People's Services or Adults). It is crucial that this provision remains ring-fenced for vulnerable younger people and aligns to the existing specification and quality framework within Children and Young People's Services.

2.14 There are young people using the services in the HRS pathway who also fit the criteria of the Children and Young People's Services funded service. There are also young people using the services who are not known to Children and Young People's Services but with similar needs and complex issues.

2.15 **Mental Health Supported Accommodation**

People accessing the current mental health accommodation at Burns and Browning Courts, are referred through statutory mental health services. The desired outcomes for these customers are to re-settle back into the community and live independently. This demonstrates a need for these services to be more aligned to the mental health community service model as 'step down provision'. This does not neatly align to the principles of Housing Related Support regarding homelessness prevention.

2.16 The provision at Burns Court, which is partially funded by the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, sits independently of the four pathways however, Browning Court offers the same service. There is an opportunity to align these services and undertake co-production with the provider, South Yorkshire Housing Association, to shape provision to improve choice for customers within the mental health community service model.

2.17 The contracts at both Burns Court and Browning Court are long standing and the provider owns the buildings and is responsible for the Housing Management and Support available. This poses a risk to contract management.

2.18 These services will be remodelled and removed from the scope of HRS and into the mental health service offer.

3. **Options considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 **Option 1 – Recommended option** - To develop a single pathway for Housing Related Support Services, to support all those with support needs irrespective of complexities and root cause of homelessness. This approach will ensure no one misses out on services through falling between cohort and eligibility definitions.

3.2 To support the delivery of the pathway, design and procure, via competitive procurement, a pool of HRS providers that can work with all people to support and enable independent living, including all levels and complexities of need.

3.3 To establish a Flexible Purchasing System to procure a group of providers, through a competitive tender process, incorporating Social Value. The Flexible Purchasing System will provide the Council with full access to the market including new entrants as they arise, providing they meet the Council's criteria. This will give the Council the greatest chance of maximising opportunities through additional and unforeseen funding.

3.4 A Service Specification for this core provision and eligibility for the FPS will be co-designed with the market and people with lived experience of HRS services. It will incorporate good practice gained through providers' experience and learning from recent delivery. A key feature of the overarching specification requirements will be a focus on personal outcomes, shifting away from heavily specified models, and prescribed hours of service delivery expected per person using the service. Tools such as the Warwick-Edinburgh outcomes star will be used to capture evidence of personal outcome attainment.

3.5 The Flexible Purchasing System will allow for providers to opt in for different levels and types of support as follows:

- Short-term emergency accommodation-based support
- Accommodation-based support
- Floating Support (Resettlement or Prevention)

3.6 For the accommodation-based support, commissioners will engage with the Council's Housing Options service to assess demand and resource available. Demand can then be met from any available provider on the framework on the basis of either individual need or as multiple units.

3.7 For floating support services, the FPS will be used for individual packages of support or, where required, blocks of multiple units, with the pathways into these services developed alongside partners.

3.8 The HRS pathway will align with the principles of access with Housing and adapt to any future changes within Housing Options, ensuring services work together to adopt a 'no wrong door' approach for customers.

3.9 Due to the specialism of the Mental Health provision at Burns and Browning Court and the route to services as a step-down service, it is recommended that these services are remodelled to ensure that they fit the to the mental health pathway. The provider (South Yorkshire Housing Association) has engaged in the co-production work for Mental Health provision.

3.10 The Housing Related Support services commissioned for Younger People will be integrated into the framework that is already established for Children and Younger Peoples services. The existing Flexible Purchasing System has mechanisms in place that will enable this transition, ensuring continuation of services.

3.11 **Option 2**

To maintain the current pathways and re-procure existing services, with refreshed specifications. This will result in a gap in service provision, that is currently being delivered by temporary funded services for people who do not fit into the existing pathways. Whilst there is a likelihood of future government funding, it is not possible to predict the terms or timescales of such funding. To develop an additional pathway, separately to existing provision, to fill this gap would be too costly. It is therefore preferable to develop a system whereby services are able to support any individuals with a need, focussing on outcomes rather than pre-determined numbers.

3.12 **Option 3**

A further option would be to break down the service provision into specialisms and procuring services specific to cohort types, as was the model prior to 2017. To make this model viable for the market, there would be a requirement to provide additional funding, reversing the cost savings made in 2017. This option

is discounted based on the overwhelming evidence showing complexity of need of people requiring support. This option would present a risk of people falling between the cracks where there needs do not fit into a defined cohort. It is also recognised that in splitting the budget to smaller cohort groups it would make some services untenable within the allocated budget.

3.13 Option 4

The new HRS pathway could also be achieved through the procurement of a traditional Framework Contract, which would be limited to a defined number of providers. This option has been discounted as a framework closes without the ability to add new providers as needed when demand changes. Procuring on a block contract basis has also been explored and discounted for the same reasons.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Through the contract management process and snapshot survey, HRS providers have fed back that they find their current contract terms restrictive and that this does not allow them the space or flexibility to best meet the needs of adults with complex needs.
- 4.2 Providers that are active on the Children and Young People's FPS have stated that the service that they deliver to customers do not differ depending on the contract or funding route.
- 4.3 A working group has been set up across providers of Floating Support Services, this includes the in-house Council Tenancy Support Service and the Young People's floating support provider. The group has highlighted that as individual providers working in silos, they often support people who may have received a similar service from another HRS provider and have concerns around a 'revolving door' for some people moving between provision. The group also found that some referrers will refer to more than one provider, using the multiple referral forms and processes in place, this uses a lot of resource for both referrers and providers.
- 4.4 Feedback has been sought from officers within Housing Options, who have said they would like more information and clarity around which provision they are able to refer to and the expectations and general contract terms for services in order to make informed referrals.
- 4.5 Officers responsible for the HRS services commissioning have supported the consultation process for the Homelessness Prevention & Rough Sleeper Strategy Refresh and will incorporate any findings into the design of HRS services.
- 4.6 Providers have been consulted around the proposals and invited to provide written feedback. This has identified that providers would want to continue to be consulted on the size of the lots to be commissioned through the FPS and how the competence of newly appointed providers will be assured.

- 4.7 Providers have also been invited to form a working group to design the specification, which will include assurances around competence in delivering the service. The Council will work with the wider provider market to co-produce an overarching service specification, harnessing expertise developed by the market in achieving positive outcomes for people using the services. The sizes of multiple blocks of provision will be agreed with all stakeholders and will consider providers' ability to meet demand.
- 4.8 Some benefits of the proposals that providers have identified include; 'fluid and amendable to fit the needs as and when for clients', 'quicker processes', 'longer contracts', 'bespoke services for the right client'.
- 4.9 User feedback and experience is collected by providers annually and shared with officers as part of the contract management process. The Council will also collect feedback from people using the services to identify areas of good practice for inclusion in the service specification and criteria and build in regular feedback loops into the new delivery model.
- 4.10 The provider market and people who have experience of using services will be invited to be involved in a co-production working group to define and shape the service specification and outcomes for the services. The working group will be established subject to Cabinet approval in October 2022 and will produce the specification for publication by March 2023.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1	Activity	Target date	Accountable
	Approval of HRS pathways and Framework via Flexible Purchasing System at Cabinet	October 2022	Cabinet
	Establish co-production working group with market and internal partners (include experts by experience if able)	October 2022	Strategic Commissioning
	Produce overarching service specification and deliverables (outcomes, KPIs)	March 2023	Strategic Commissioning
	Implement Stakeholder Strategy to inform and promote pathway and referral process	March 2023 -2023 July	Strategic Commissioning/ Communications Officer
	Agree the HRS pathway with key partners	March 2023	Strategic Commissioning/ Housing
	Publish Application to establish the FPS	March 2023	Procurement/Strategic Commissioning
	FPS live and ongoing applications managed	October 2023 and onwards	Procurement
	FPS Contract Start	October 2023	

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The services described in this report would be defined in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (“the Regulations” as amended) as Social and Other Specific Services (“SOSS”).

The establishment of the Flexible Purchasing System (Pseudo Dynamic Purchasing System) under the Light Touch Regime and any ongoing procurement activity via the system will be carried out in compliance with the Council’s Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules and Public Contract Regulations (as amended).

- 6.2 The current revenue budget for the Housing Related Support pathways within the scope of this report is £1.755m. This budget has been fixed since 2017 and none of the HRS providers have received an inflationary uplift, due to rising inflation and cost of living pressures, there will need to be consideration within the Councils Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 (MTFS) to enable uplifts to be provided in line with agreed levels within MTFS. There are no direct financial implications contained within the recommendations of this report.

Providers accepted on the Flexible Purchasing System are not guaranteed work and any contracts procured through the new framework will be funded from within existing revenue budgets.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The services described in this report fall within the light touch regime under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Accordingly, the Council has considerable flexibility in designing a procurement route, as long as the Council meets requirements of transparency and equal treatment of operators.
- 7.2 A flexible purchasing system as described in this report would comply with procurement law, and the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules.
- 7.3 Officers may consult with Legal Services in relation to the preparation of necessary documentation, including the rules of the flexible purchasing system and other relevant contractual documentation.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no identified direct human resource issues for the Council as all HRS services are externally commissioned.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Opportunities have been identified to align Housing Related Support provision for those aged 16-25, commissioned by the Adults, Housing and Public Health Directorate more closely with Children’s and Young People’s commissioned services. This alignment will reduce duplication of services and instances of young people moving between services in an unplanned way. It will allow a more planned approach for young people to ‘move on’ within the pathways and reduce

the risk of people falling between the cracks. This can be achieved by aligning the services using the same contract mechanism, whilst maintaining the budgets within respective directorates.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 An Equality Analysis has been conducted in line with the Council's procedures (Appendix 2 and Appendix 3). There are no further Equalities and Human Rights Implications identified outside of the Equality Analysis documentation.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no anticipated implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change, as detailed in the Carbon Impact Assessment (Appendix 4)

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Providers of HRS services need to be considered as partners to ensure the model and specification is achievable. Engagement with providers and the wider market will be achieved through a co-production approach.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 With a Flexible Purchasing System, there is a risk of no guarantee of work from the Council for providers. This could mean providers are unable to obtain enough work for the contract to be financially viable. As part of the procurement process due diligence will be undertaken to ensure providers appointed to the FPS are not solely reliant on the contract. Providers will be fully aware of the FPS models and implications. Whilst the Council cannot guarantee numbers of units, as the model intends to be flexible, it will continue to use the Market Position Statement as a tool to show indicative demand and will offer contracts in multiple units to assist providers in their business and finance planning. At the start of the framework contract, officers from Adult Care and Housing will work together to assess demand and available budget and will then access the market through the FPS to deliver volumes.
- 13.2 Providers are also not obliged to pick up contracts on the FPS, to mitigate the risk of this happening the specification will be co-designed with the market to ensure the model is attractive and deliverable. There will also be a thorough cost analysis enabling a viable price for support, which will be developed alongside the market. It should also be noted that with current block arrangements, providers are still able to refuse referrals.
- 13.3 The ending of temporary funding will inevitably reduce the available resource and in turn number of people supported, the HRS new model will allow for flexible service delivery for providers to work with higher demand. The FPS will allow for utilisation of unexpected funding sources. However, there is still a risk to provision due to reduced funding levels.
- 13.4 Although the Young People's services have cross over with Children and Young People's Services, there remain many vulnerable young people accessing these

services who are not known to Children's Social Care. It is crucial these services continue whilst system reviews are undertaken. Officers have implemented a robust contract management process to ensure the continuous delivery of high-quality services through this period.

14. Accountable Officers

Nathan Atkinson, Assistant Director, Strategic Commissioning, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	03/10/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	29/09/22
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	29/09/22

Report Author: Lisa Elliott, Strategic Commissioning Manager
01709 334480 or lisa.elliott@rotherham.gov.uk

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

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 1

Key Findings from Snapshot Audit

The snapshot audit was undertaken on 22nd April 2022, whereby all providers of commissioned Housing Related Support services completed a spreadsheet detailing all people receiving their services on that date. This exercise was undertaken across all commissioned providers operating within the Housing Related Support pathways to provide a comprehensive view of current provision and need. The snapshot audit provides data relating to a single point in time, i.e., 22nd April 2022. The date was agreed with providers to ensure all people within services were included, there was consistency to the data provided and there was no risk of double counting for example where people move between services. For context, the data was analysed alongside contract monitoring data, which is collected on a quarterly basis. This is referenced in Section 2 below.

The data collected broadly fit into the following areas:

- Household/tenure type
- Referral data
- Length of support
- Needs and compounding issues
- History of homelessness and support
- Support needs and planning
- Outcomes
- Diversity data
- Geographical data

This document contains the key findings from the Snapshot Audit and provides a benchmark for monitoring ongoing data as part of the contract management process.

SECTION 1 – All Housing Related Support provision

470 households were in receipt of Housing Related Support (this does not include those in the Domestic Abuse Pathway)

74.7% of households were single people, this rises to **78.4%** when considering only those who were homeless at point of referral

297 households received support through Vulnerable Adult Pathway (VAP) only

Support Needs Across all HRS

Housing Related Support covers a broad range of support needs and is personalised to enable individuals to maintain independent living, however, there are several support areas a person's needs will fall under, listed below is the support area and the percentage of people with the identified support need:

Managing Finances	88%
Finding a suitable home	76%
Understanding and adhering to tenancy conditions	83%

Managing relationships and Social Networks	59%
Accessing Community Services	67%
Life skills/Practical Skills in maintaining a home	68%
Parenting	19%
Improved Safety and Wellbeing (self)	69%
Improved Safety and Wellbeing (others)	37%
Access to training, education or learning opportunities	28%
Career Management, employment or volunteering	18%
Emotional Support	78%
Support to better manage physical health	54%
Support to better manage mental health	71%
Support to better manage drug or alcohol misuse	41%

As well as support needs that are met by the service, many people in receipt of services have contributing factors to their homelessness or risk of homelessness, this may not necessarily be a support need met directly by the HRS service but can often indicate root cause of homelessness or risk of homelessness or compounding issues. These are referred to as compounding issues and often give an insight into complexity of need.

The table below shows the compounding issues across all HRS:

Mental Health	82%
Physical Health	44%
Physical Disability	19%
Drug misuse	33%
Alcohol misuse	24%
Dual Diagnosis	18%
Offending Behaviour	24%
Domestic Abuse	21%
Learning Disability	17%
Learning Difficulty	20%

Other contributing factors listed included sensory impairment, language barrier, post CSE, addiction (e.g. gambling).

Repeat access to Housing Related Support Services

Across the Vulnerable Adults Pathway services and the additional short term grant funded services, **10.8%** of people had previously accessed a Housing Related Support Service. This does not include people who have moved through a pathway of support (i.e. supported accommodation through to floating support), rather those who had accessed the services in the past.

Holistic Service delivery and partnership approach

283 people in receipt of Housing Related Support were also in receipt of other services.

36 people in receipt of Housing Related Support also had a Care Act Assessed need.

Of the **385** people who were identified as having Mental Health Issues as a compounding issue (326 diagnosed, 59 undiagnosed), **163** were listed as not receiving Mental Health Support from specialist services.

Of the **154** identified as having drug related issues as a compounding issue, **49** were not accessing support from specialist services.

Of the **112** identified as having alcohol related issues as a compounding issue, **32** were not accessing support from specialist services.

The people not receiving services from other statutory providers were evenly spread across the commissioned services. There was no correlation as to the length of time spent in receipt of HRS support and lack of access.

SECTION 2 – Service Specific findings

2. A. Homeless Interim Accommodation

Homeless interim accommodation provision is commissioned at **47** units through two separate contracts, **32** units for Homeless Families - including couples with no dependents (SYHA) and **15** units for Single People (Action Housing, Elliott Court).

The number of people receiving services was **40**, which is **85%** of commissioned provision, the household type is broken down as **20** families and **20** single people/couples with no dependents, with some single people utilising the Homeless Families provision.

The length of time in support ranges between **3 days** and **955 days**.

There were **4** people who had been in interim accommodation for over two years, one was not engaging with the service, three were active on the Housing Register and bidding, all are single people or couples with no dependents.

13 people had been receiving support between one and two years.

22 had been receiving support for less than a year.

The following data was taken from the contract management quarterly reports, that provide exit data for people leaving the services, this related to financial year 21/22.

Single persons service

25 people exited the service during the year. Utilisation of the service was **95%**

Of the 25 - **4 (16%)** moved to a long-term tenancy, **9 (36%)** moved to another short term supported accommodation or with family, **8 (32%)** either abandoned the property or were evicted, **3 (12%)** left through hospital admission or death.

Of those who were planned departures, the average length of support was **7.7 months**.

Families service

17 people exited the service during the year. Utilisation was **92%** across the year.

15 (88%) moved to longer terms supported tenancy, **2 (12%)** abandoned their tenancy

The average length of support for those who had a planned departure from service was **6.5 months**.

2. B. Short Term Supported Accommodation (VAP)

These services include Browning Court (South Yorkshire Housing Association) and Elliott House (Action Housing) and Burns Court (South Yorkshire Housing Association). The provision at Burns Court was commissioned independently of the HRS pathways, however as the service replicates provision at Browning Court, data

has been incorporated into this section. Capacity for this type of supported accommodation is **34**, there were **33** receiving the service at the time of the audit

100% of people accommodated at Burns Court or Browning Court were hospital inpatients prior to support commencing, at Elliott House, this was **27%** with others moving from emergency accommodation, living with family, other supported housing or rough sleeping.

The other key difference noted was that whilst **100%** of people in Burns and Browning Court had diagnosed Mental Health issues, this figure was **60%** at Elliott House, with others having undiagnosed mental ill health or none noted.

There are **4 (12%)** people within these services who have been in service for over 2 years, **9 (27%)** have been in service between one and two years.

Compounding issues (short term supported accommodation)

Mental Health	94%
Physical Health	24%
Physical Disability	12%
Drug misuse	29%
Alcohol misuse	29%
Dual diagnosis	6%
Domestic Abuse	15%
Learning Disabilities	6%
Learning Difficulty	21%
Homelessness	30%
Care Act Assessed Need	24%

2.C. Floating Support Services

Capacity across floating support (including Young People's services and grant funded services) is **357** units of support. Utilisation at the time of audit was **311 (87%)**.

Data showed **13** younger people accessing the vulnerable adults services rather than the specialist young people services, equating to **20%** of the younger people in receipt of floating support.

Of all people in receipt of floating support, **151** were in a Council tenancy, this is approximately **48.5%**. It is not known whether these people had accessed the Council's in-house tenancy support service.

The average length of support for people receiving the service was **251 days**, with **14** people having received the service for longer than two years, these are predominantly single people, 2 of whom listed as Mental Health being a barrier to move on.

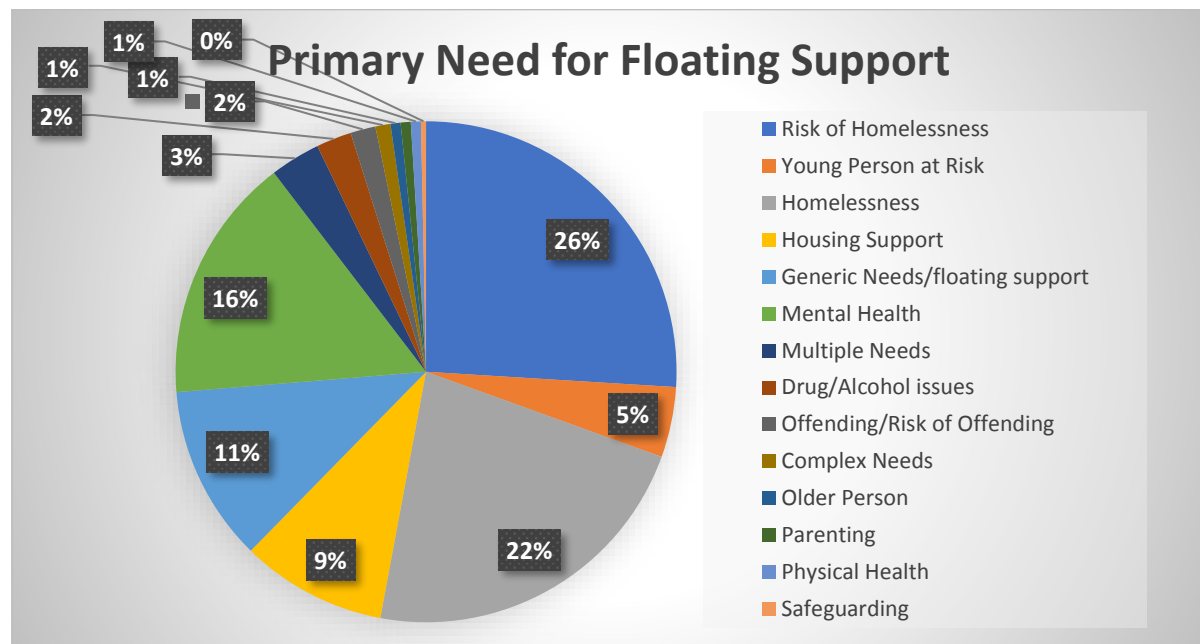
Most people had been receiving services for less than a year. However, exit data from the quarterly workbooks suggests an average support time for those who have successfully completed a programme of support is around **369 days**. Those who do

not complete the programme of support are usually in the service for less than a year, with the majority leaving the service within the first six months.

The Primary Need for Floating Support as defined by service providers shows a split between homeless prevention and homeless resettlement support. However, a high proportion of people using the service are listed as having a different primary need. Mental Health is the highest (**16%**), but in total **22%** of people using the service have a primary need that is not homelessness or homelessness prevention. This does not mean those people do not have a Housing Related Support need but could indicate the services are providing support to people with high levels of complexity and contributory factors to housing issues.

Where a person's primary need is not listed as homelessness or risk of homelessness, the average length of support to date rises to 331 days, with a higher percentage of this cohort in receipt of support for over two years (**7.62%**).

The chart below gives a full breakdown of Primary Need across floating support services.



SECTION 3 – DIVERSITY DATA

This data relates to the whole HRS provision

Equality and Diversity categories mirrored those used by Office for National Statistics, however categories with '0' recorded across all services are not recorded in the tables below. All people using services self-define their diversity data.

Figures are shown as a percentage across each service type, the services have been categorised as follows:

Floating Support – Action Housing (VAP), South Yorkshire Housing Association (VAP), South Yorkshire Housing Association (Indigo, floating support)

Accommodation Support – Action Housing (Interim accommodation), South Yorkshire Housing Association (Interim dispersed), South Yorkshire Housing Association (Indigo accommodation), Target Housing (Emergency Hostel), South Yorkshire Housing Association /Target Housing (Housing First)

Young People's services – Roundabout (Accommodation and floating support), YWCA (Accommodation and floating support)

Mental Health – South Yorkshire Housing Association (Burns Court and Browning Court), Action Housing (Elliott House)

Ethnicity

	Floating Support	Accommodation Support	Young People's services	Mental Health
White British	91.37	86.52	87.36	91.67
White Irish	0.85	0	0	0
White Roma	3.42	0	0	0
Asian/Asian British - Pakistani	7.69	1.15	2.25	0
Asian/Asian British – Indian	3.42	0	0	0
Arab	0.85	0	0	0
Black/Black British – African	0	2.3	1.12	0
Black/Black British – Caribbean	0.85	1.15	1.12	4.17
Mixed, Multiple, WB & B/BB - Caribbean	0.85	0	1.12	0
Other – White	2.56	5.75	1.12	0
Other – Black/Black British	0.85	0	0	0
Other/Not Given	0.85	2.3	3.37	4.17

Gender

	Floating Support	Accommodation Support	Young People's services	Mental Health
Female	36.68	50.57	71.43	33.3
Male	62.55	49.43	26.37	63.6
Other	0.77	0	2.2	3.03

Sexuality

	Floating Support	Accommodation Support	Young People's services	Mental Health
Bisexual	0.4	2.35	7.69	3.03
Gay or Lesbian	2	2.35	5.49	9.09
Other	0.4	0	0	3.03
Declined	0.4	1.18	4.4	0
Heterosexual	96.8	94.12	81.32	84.85
Does not know	0	0	1.1	0

Disability

	Floating Support	Accommodation Support	Young People's services	Mental Health
No	41.7	73.56	46.15	31.25
Declined	0.77	0	0	0
Unsure	1.93	0	0	0
Yes	55.6	26.44	53.85	68.75

Religion

	Floating Support	Accommodation Support	Young People's services	Mental Health
Any Other	1.93	0	1.10	0
Buddhist	0.39	0	0	0
Christian (all denominations)	20.08	11.49	4.4	30.30
Declined	1.16	1.15	3.3	0
Hindu	0	0	0	0
Muslim	3.09	2.3	1.1	0
No Religion	58.28	83.91	72.53	63.64
Sikh	0.39	0	0	0
Unknown	19.69	1.15	17.58	6.06

Age

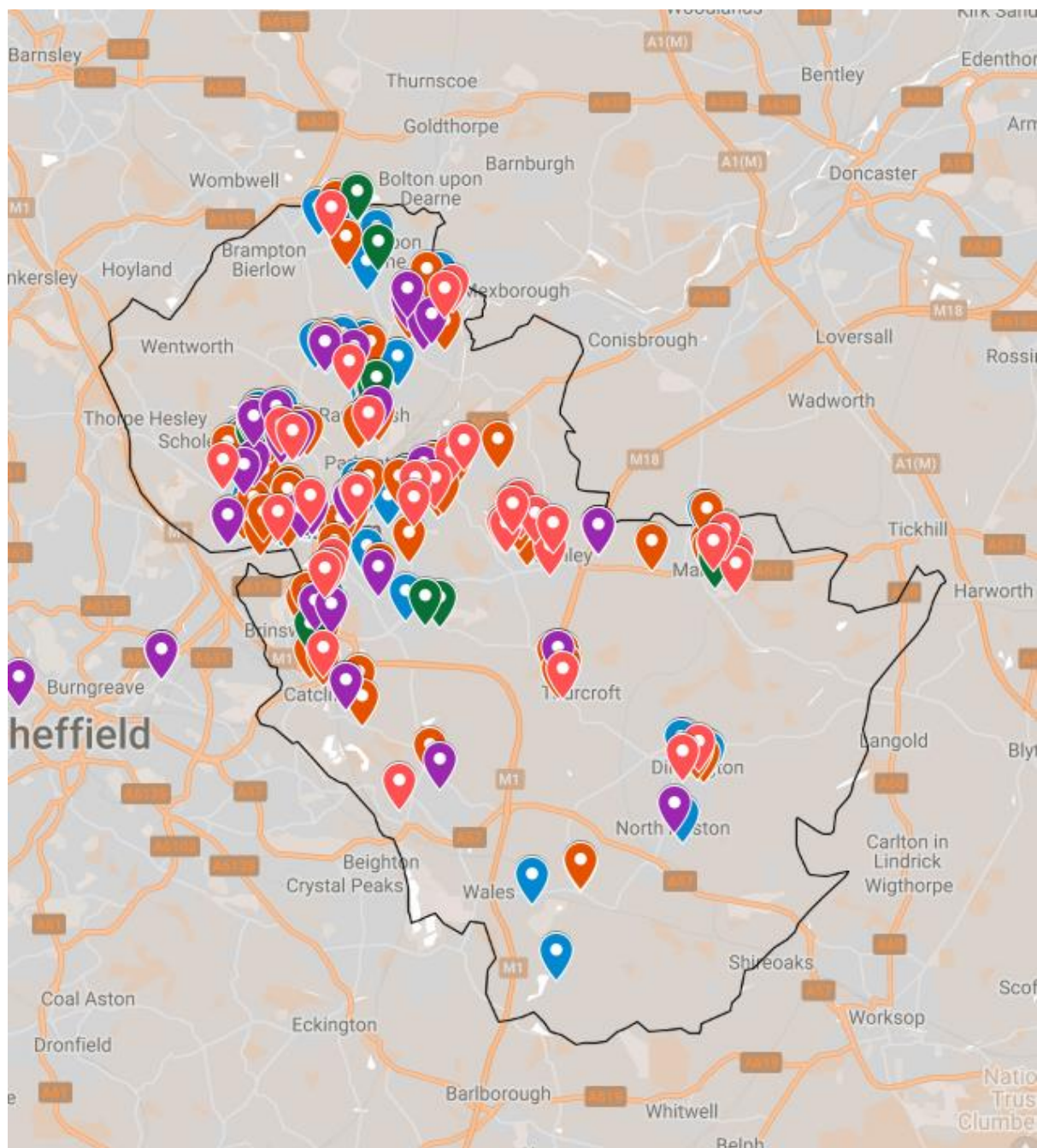
	Floating Support	Accommodation Support	Young People's services	Mental Health
16-17	0	0	14.3	0
18-25	5.4	14	83.5	21.2
26-35	24.9	25.6	2.2	39.4
36-50	40.1	39.5	0	24.2
51+	29.6	20.9	0	15.2

SECTION 4 – Geographical data

Geographical data shows that most of the support is delivered in and around central locations within Rotherham.

Accommodation based support tends to be in Central Rotherham, with some Indigo (temporary grant funded) provision in Rotherham North (Wath), and some services in Maltby (Burns Court and one unit of Housing First), Bramley (Fleming Gardens) and Herringthorpe (Browning Court).

The map below shows the delivery of Floating Support across the borough at the time of the snapshot data, the colours represent the different services. Note the pins that are out of borough relate to Indigo (temporary grant funded) floating support to people placed temporarily in B&B/Hotel accommodation out of borough.



This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 2

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title

Title: Housing Related Support Commissioning

Directorate:
Adult Social Care, Health and Housing

Service area:
Strategic Commissioning

Lead person:
Lisa Elliott

Contact:
Lisa.elliott@rotherham.gov.uk

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☐

Service / Function

☒

Other

If other, please specify – Revised pathway for commissioned services

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

- Housing Related Support pathway to replace previous Vulnerable Adult and Complex Needs pathways with specified services replaced by overarching service specifications
- Establishment of a group of contractually compliant providers through a flexible purchasing system
- Mental health provision (Burns Court and Browning Court) to align to Mental Health pathway
- Young people's services to integrate into CYPS Flexible Purchasing Model

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		X
Could the proposal affect service users?	X	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	X	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		X
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

If you have answered **no** to **all** the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

Data is collected relating to profile of people using the services, including protected characteristics. There will be no change to the collection and analysis of this data.

For inclusion onto the Flexible Purchasing System, all providers will undergo a tender process. Equality and Diversity will be included within this process as a tender question. Providers will be monitored and held to account for the duration of the contract.

As the proposals do not recommend any reduction in the level of service provision, there should be no impact to customers in accessing the service. The procurement exercise (including co-production) will aim to ensure the services are reaching those most in need of the service and equity will be incorporated into service and access design.

The FPS will essentially be a different tool for delivering services that are already in existence. However, it will allow more flexibility within provision and enable solutions for grant funding to be selected and mobilised. However, it cannot be known prior to the procurement whether the same providers will be successful in securing contracts. Should there be any need to move people to a new service provider, then a full transition will be planned and customers needs will be fully met.

The new pathway proposes removal of restrictions to HRS due to presenting need or cohort and therefore is expected to be more inclusive than the current model. However, this will be monitored.; A snapshot of all people currently using Housing Related Support was carried out in April 2022 and this includes diversity monitoring data. This data, along with quarterly monitoring data will act as a starting point to allow commissioners to ensure changes to service provision are positively supporting people with protected characteristics, by using as a baseline for monitoring future usage of services.

For the services that are aligning to the Mental Health pathway, equality monitoring data will be collected and analysed by commissioners to ensure equality of access and service delivery.

For the Young People's services, the proposal is integrating HRS provision into an existing model that already monitors equality and diversity All contract management documentation will reflect this, and accessibility and pathways into the services will remain unchanged.

- **Key findings**

A snapshot of people using the services under the current contract terms and pathways was undertaken in April 2022. This provides a baseline of need and will support future monitoring of equality data.

The data has been broken down into Floating Support Services, Accommodation based Housing Related Support Pathway - proposal for future commissioning Services, Young People's Services and Mental Health Services.

This data has shown that:

Ethnicity – The differences across service type were not significant and it should be noted that this is only a single point in time, but data will be collected and regularly monitored

Gender – Floating Support services showed a higher percentage of male customers at the time of the data collection. Young People's services showed a higher percentage of female customers, which is to be expected given that one of the services commissioned is for young mothers and expectant mothers.

Sexuality – There is a slight variation in younger people and mental health services whereby a higher percentage of people identified as bisexual, gay or lesbian.

Disability – A lower proportion of people with a disability were accessing accommodation-based services than floating support. Accessibility of properties should be considered as part of service specification.

Religion/Faith – a lower proportion of people using the younger people's services stated they followed a Religion/Faith than of the other services.

Age – There are a higher proportion of people aged 18-25 using the mental health services than the other floating support and accommodation-based services

The above findings should continue to be monitored to build an ongoing picture of people accessing the services, this can then be benchmarked against data for the Rotherham population and data of people accessing homeless services to ensure services reflect the need.

- **Actions**

- Ensure the voices of people who use the service are captured in the design of the new service specification
- Include accessibility in quality standards
- Include EDI assessment as part of tender process
- Continue to measure EDI data for services

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	May – June 2022
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	June – July 2022
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Lisa Elliott, Strategic Commissioning Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Nathan Atkinson	Assistant Director, Strategic Commissioning	10 August 2022

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	02/08/2022
Report title and date	Housing Related Support Pathway - proposal for future commissioning 17 th October 2022
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	03/10/2022
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	02/08/2022

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 3

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Housing Related Support – Future Commissioning	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 01/06/22 – 18/7/22	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Strategic Commissioning
Lead Manager: Lisa Elliott	Contact number: 01709 334480
Is this a: <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other If other, please specify Pathway development and procurement	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Lisa Elliott	RMBC	Commissioning Manager
Rebecca Woolley	RMBC	Public Health Specialist
Levi Karigambe	RMBC	Policy Officer

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance
Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, other groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

This report sets out the recommendations for the future of Housing Related Support Services (HRS). Housing Related Support Services are non-statutory services that support people experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless to live independently in the community.

Services are currently in place and the new pathway does not propose any reduction to the current level of service offer. The pathway aims to break down eligibility barriers for the different Housing Related Support Services to create more accessible provision at the first point of contact.

What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)

Housing Related Support services provide equality data for all people exiting the service. This can then be cross referenced with positive outcomes and fed into contract management. On the 22nd April 2022, all commissioned providers were engaged in undertaking a snapshot analysis of people currently in service. This included diversity data. This data has been analysed and will form a baseline for equality monitoring as the new pathway and service specification develops. The data has been broken down into Floating Support Services, Accommodation Based Housing Related Support Pathway - proposal for future commissioning Services, Young People's Services and Mental Health Services.

This data has shown that:

Ethnicity – The differences across service type were not significant and it should be noted that this is only a single point in time, but data will be collected and regularly monitored

Gender – Floating Support services showed a higher percentage of male customers at the time of the data collection. Young People's services showed a higher percentage female customers, which is to be expected given that one of the services commissioned is for young mothers and expectant mothers.

Sexuality – There is a slight variation in younger people and mental health services whereby a higher percentage of people identified as bisexual, gay or lesbian.

Disability – A lower proportion of people with a disability were accessing accommodation-based services than floating support. Accessibility of properties should be considered as part of service specification.

Religion/Faith – a lower proportion of people using the younger people's services stated they followed a Religion/Faith than of the other services.

Age – There are a higher proportion of people aged 18-25 using the mental health services than the other floating support and accommodation-based services

The above findings should continue to be monitored to build an ongoing picture of people accessing the services. This can then be benchmarked against data for the Rotherham population and data of people accessing homeless services to ensure services reflect the need

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?

Maternity status is not currently collected as part of the ongoing contract monitoring and this will be added to future reporting. Going forward data will be cross referenced with diversity data of homeless applicants to ensure service delivery is mirroring need.

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

As part of the contract management process quarterly monitoring reports collect equality data of people exiting the services. This can be cross referenced with outcomes. This data, along with the snapshot data will be used as a baseline to monitor service delivery as part of the re-commissioned service. This will allow the Council to identify any areas where groups are underrepresented and work alongside providers to address this through the contract management process.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)

The re-defining of the pathway will not impact customers using the service and levels of provision will remain. Customers will be involved in the new service specifications that will cover the overall pathway, through a planned programme of engagement. Equality and Diversity data will be collected for all customers involved in the co-production of the service specification to ensure representation across people with protected characteristics.

Customers are also feeding into the wider refresh of the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy. Officers will utilise any findings from this consultation in shaping the new service specifications.

Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)

This relates to externally commissioned services. As part of the cyclical nature of the commissioning process, providers have had the opportunity to feedback throughout the lifetime of their existing contracts. Contract management data has been reviewed along with feedback from the contract management process to inform the future direction of the commissioned services. Officers from the Adults Commissioning team manage the contracts and process. In addition to this, a working group of Housing Related Support providers has been

	established to include in-house partners. The service specification that will be developed to underpin the new pathway will be co-produced with the market.
--	---

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

The current data will be used as a base line to continue to monitor equality of access to service and service delivery as the new pathway is developed and providers procured onto the Flexible Purchasing System. A single pathway would make the services easily accessible and reduce the need for multiple referrals to different services. There is no likely change or impact to different communities or groups and the services will continue to reach out to people in need of Housing Related Support. All providers will be required to demonstrate their commitment to Equality and Diversity on appointment to the FPS and throughout the contract, including understanding and meeting the needs of those with protected characteristics. This will be included in contract management and quality monitoring processes.

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?

As stated above, the intention of this work is to improve accessibility to the pathway. It is anticipated that this will help to remove barriers to communities seeking Housing Related Support and barriers faced by specific communities will be addressed through involving service-users in the design of the specification.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?

Yes. The removal of 'cohorts' and development of a single pathway will mean people can access the first available service. This is being supported by a Flexible Purchasing System, which will allow providers to work with individuals and their needs, rather than a pre-defined eligibility. The underpinning service specification will be co-produced with experts in the community, i.e. people who use the services and providers that deliver the services and will ensure services support a personalised approach to Housing Related Support, which promotes equity in service delivery.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

There are no perceived impacts on community relations from the proposals. However, should a new service offer location be proposed in the future, this will be assessed to ensure that impacts on the community are considered, taking into account existing nearby amenities and services.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

Title of analysis: Housing Related Support Commissioning
Directorate and service area: Adults, Housing and Public Health - Commissioning
Lead Manager: Lisa Elliott
Summary of findings:
The proposals are to create a single pathway for Housing Related Support through the use of a Flexible Purchasing System as a procurement tool to access the market. The standards and specification will be co-designed with the market and people who use/have used the services. This co-production should include equality of access and measures should be taken to ensure that a diverse and representative provider and customer group are involved. There are no planned reductions in the level of service provision. The aim is to streamline the process for the customer and reduce the risk of them unnecessarily moving between services. This supports a personalised approach. The procurement process will involve standards and questions around Equality and Diversity and this will also be built into future contract monitoring. The contract management process will use the baseline data along with any other diversity data available, such as that of the homeless team, to assess delivery against and identify and improvement areas for the commissioned providers. Some variations in diversity data of people accessing services were found in the Equality Screening and Analysis. This will be monitored further to ascertain whether this is due to an increase in need or whether service accessibility within certain communities should be addressed.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Co-production of service specification with customers to include those with protected characteristics	All	March 2023
Equality and Diversity standards agreed and embedded into service specification and quality standards, including accessible services	All	March 2023
Equality and Diversity question to feature in procurement	All	March 2023
Equality and Diversity data built into contract monitoring process and assessed against need and baseline, including measures to cross reference diversity data with customer outcomes and data collected by homeless services	All	October 2023
Quality Standards developed to include Equality Analysis and review of Equality Policy	All	October 2023

***A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.

Name	Job title	Date
Nathan Atkinson	Assistant Director, Strategic Commissioning	10 August 2022

7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this Equality Analysis relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date Equality Analysis completed	02/08/2022
Report title and date	Housing Related Support Pathway - proposal for future commissioning
Date report sent for publication	03/10/2022
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	02/08/2022

Appendix 4

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	<i>No impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from transport?	<i>Impact unknown</i>	The pathway, when implemented, will allow for fluctuation of provision according to need. There is a potential that more travel could be required through increased floating support. However, there is also a potential that less will be required and the FPS will allow organisations to work flexibly.	none	It is likely there will be no noticeable change to existing provision, however, if in future the levels of 'floating support' increase significantly, commissioned providers will be consulted on the best method of delivery to minimise emissions. This could include planning work geographically, public transport schemes or adapting setting for support sessions	
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	<i>No impact on emissions</i>				

Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	No impact on emissions				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	No impact on emissions				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	No impact on emissions				
Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:					

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The introduction of HRS single pathway and Flexible Purchasing System model does not propose any increase to current service delivery. However, if further future funding was to be made available and demand for floating support services increased there is a potential for the FPS to facilitate an increase in this activity. Should this occur, Officers would work with commissioned providers to ensure emissions from transport were minimised. This could include planning of visits to minimise travel, delivering services in community locations or use of public transport schemes. There are currently 220 receiving floating support services across Rotherham, with visits that occur at least monthly. For accommodation-based services, all accommodation is subject to energy efficiency standards and this will continue.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Lisa Elliott, Strategic Commissioning Manager, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	

This page is intentionally left blank

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet - 17 October 2022

Report Title

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2023 – 2028

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

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

Report Author(s)

Helen Sweatton. Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality
Helen.sweatton@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Rotherham's Looked After Children's Sufficiency Strategy 2019-2022 was agreed by Cabinet in June 2019. As such, the period of this strategy ends this year, and the new one needs to commence in January 2023.

The Duty of 'sufficiency' requires Local Authorities (LA) to ensure that there is a range of sufficient and appropriate placements that meet the needs of children and young people that are looked after by the LA. There is also a responsibility to take steps to develop and shape service provision to meet the needs of all children and young people in care at a local level, as far as is reasonably possible. The Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2028 has been developed in line with the duty to provide or procure placements for Looked After Children (LAC) by the Local Authority.

The Strategy identifies the principles that are applied when commissioning the provision of secure, safe and appropriate accommodation and support to children in care and care leavers over the next three years. It provides the needs analysis that will inform market management work, seeking to ensure that there is the right mix of provision available to meet the needs of children and young people and that this provision mix provides positive outcomes and value for money. Whilst this Strategy is not primarily a financial one, it is expected that the commissioning and strategic intentions set out will provide significant cost avoidance and savings opportunities and which are essential to the sustainability of improved outcomes and the LA budget.

The revised Sufficiency Strategy focuses on what Rotherham Council knows about its children and young people and the information about local homes for children. It includes the voice of looked after children. The strategy provides all the latest data trends, what the priorities are and the delivery plan to achieve these.

This report provides an update on the delivery of the previous strategy and requests approval of the new Strategy.

Recommendations

1. To approve the new Strategy.
2. To approve the monitoring and oversight of progress against the delivery plan, and annual review of the aspirations, be undertaken by Corporate Parenting Board.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 The Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2023 – 2028
Appendix 2 Initial Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Analysis

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Background Papers

1. Looked After Children's (LAC) Sufficiency Strategy 2020-22
<https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=895&MId=15429&Ver=4>

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Yes

Considered by Improving Lives Select Commission on 6 September 2022.

Council Approval Required

No

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy (including Sufficiency) 2023 – 2028

1. Background

- 1.1 The Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2023 – 2028 has been developed in line with the duty to provide and/or procure placements for Children Looked After by the Local Authority. The legislation and guidance include Children Act 1989, Sufficiency Statutory Guidance 2010, Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2011. The duty of 'sufficiency' requires Local Authorities and Children's Trust partners to ensure that there is a range of sufficient and appropriate placements which meet the needs of children and young people in care. There is also a responsibility to take steps to develop and shape service provision to meet the needs of all children and young people in care at a local level, as far as is reasonably possible.
- 1.2 The Strategy sets out how Rotherham Children and Young People's Services will fulfil its role as a Corporate Parent and meet its statutory sufficiency duty by providing good quality care, effective parenting and support to children and young people in care and leaving care. It describes the principles that are applied when seeking to commission the provision of secure, safe and appropriate accommodation and support, to children in care and care leavers over the next five years.
- 1.3 The Strategy provides the underpinning needs analysis that will inform market management, seeking to ensure that there is the right mix of provision available to meet the needs of children and young people and that this provision mix provides positive outcomes and value for money. Whilst this Strategy is not primarily a financial one, it is expected that the commissioning intentions are essential to the sustainability of improved outcomes and the Local Authority budget.
- 1.4 The previous Sufficiency Strategy was approved by Cabinet in June 2019. The key priorities of the Market Management Project were:
 - To reduce reliance on Independent Fostering Agencies by recruiting more in-house foster carers.
 - To develop local residential provision and secure block-bookings for Rotherham children where this will achieve best value.
 - Explore opportunities for regional collaborative working arrangements.
 - Review the Rotherham Fostering Framework to ensure that it continues to deliver high quality placements and value for money.
 - Implement a Dynamic Purchasing Framework to ensure that sufficiency is achieved for Rotherham care leavers; and
 - Work in partnership with Adult Care and Housing to ensure that sufficiency is achieved for vulnerable 16 and 17 year olds.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Progress against all priorities in the previous sufficiency strategy has been reviewed to support the development of the new strategy.

1. To reduce reliance on Independent Fostering Agencies by recruiting more in-house foster carers

A significant programme of work has progressed to increase the number of in-house foster carers through recruitment, including significant investment in a digital marketing contract.

During the period of the strategy there have been some successes in recruitment and development of available fostering places, however in 2021 recruitment did not attract the targeted number of foster carers. A review of the digital marketing contract and mobilisation of a new specification has resulted in improved performance.

During the period of the strategy a number of Rotherham foster carers have resigned/ de-registered. This means that despite the recruitment, the number of in-house foster carers has not increased. Nationally, Ofsted standards for official statistics for 2020/21 indicates the total number of IFA fostering families (and places) increased and the number of LA fostering families (and places) reduced.

The programme of work now focuses on retention in addition to recruitment.

2. To develop local residential provision and secure block-bookings for Rotherham children where this will achieve best value

The February 2020 Cabinet report agreed a proposal to develop a range of in-house residential provisions, including emergency accommodation for Rotherham looked after children. 16 residential beds and 2 emergency beds across 7 registered settings.

- 4 new children's home purchased or acquired and fitted out to meet the specification informed by young people's service and Ofsted.
- Recruitment of 4 managers and 44 staff.
- 60 days of induction training covering Therapeutic Crisis Intervention, evidence based therapeutic approaches, Signs of Safety and Rotherham Family Approach.
- 3 children's homes opened with Ofsted registrations.
- Ofsted rating of Good for all children's homes on first inspection.
- 6 young people living in the homes since opening.
- Successful 'step down' from residential care into foster care settings as a direct result of the work offered by the service.

Block bookings were secured, however due to matching (identifying children who can safely live together and with the provider of a home) best value was not always achieved.

3. Explore opportunities for regional collaborative working arrangements

Children and Young People's Services continue to work with other authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber as part of the White Rose Framework. Despite a number of providers choosing to operate 'off framework' reducing the collective buying power, this remains a collaborative opportunity to explore regional working arrangements.

4. Review the Rotherham Fostering Framework to ensure that it continues to deliver high quality placements and value for money

Children and Young People's Services joined the White Rose Framework for fostering in April 2020. Despite a number of providers choosing to operate 'off framework' reducing the collective buying power, this remains a collaborative opportunity to explore regional working arrangements.

5. Implement a Dynamic Purchasing Framework to ensure that sufficiency is achieved for Rotherham care leavers

Children and Young People's Services developed a 16+ Support and Accommodation flexible purchasing systems (FPS) which went live in January 2021. The purpose of the FPS was for the Commissioning team and Social Care to continue working closely to secure good quality provision for Rotherham's young people. The FPS also allows Rotherham to develop and shape the market; build relationships with existing and new providers; monitor quality and provide a compliant route to market.

Ofsted will develop a registration and inspection framework for 16+ accommodation and begin registering providers from April 2023. In preparation for this the Commissioning Team will review the Quality Assurance Document they use to quality assure commissioned provision, to include the four national standards, to focus providers on the requirements for registration.

6. Work in partnership with Adult Care & Housing to ensure that sufficiency is achieved for vulnerable 16- and 17-year-olds

Collaborative working ensured sharing of good practice to inform the commissioning of accommodation for 16- and 17-year-olds who are homeless. Work is underway to further develop the FPS to expand it to include this cohort.

Accommodation for young people aged 16 and 17 because they are homeless not looked after children will still be relevant for Ofsted registration. CYPS are working with Adult Commissioners to understand the new developments and mirror the regulation requirements for their young people's projects.

- 2.2 To support the development of a new strategy, regular monthly core group meetings with key people involved in the services have taken place along with benchmarking against the 'What Works for Children's Social Care' independent review. These have helped to inform the structure, analysis, and content of the new Strategy.

- 2.3 The Strategy has been developed in line with the principles of the Rotherham Charter (Four Cornerstones):
1. Welcome and care
 2. Value and include
 3. Communicate
 4. Work in partnership
- 2.4 This is reflective of the work undertaken by the Genuine Partnerships team which involves an equal partnership between Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC), facilitated by the Education Psychology Service (EPS), and Rotherham Parent Carer's Forum.
- 2.5 Corporate Parenting is the term used in law to describe the collective responsibility to care for, love and champion children in care and care leavers and ensure they have every opportunity to reach their full potential as they grow up in the Rotherham family.
- 2.6 This Strategy has been developed in line with the Looked After Children and Care Leaver promises. The promises were created by Rotherham's Looked After Children and Care Leavers and agreed in Corporate Parenting Panel.
- 2.7 Internal Audit were commissioned to undertake an audit to provide assurance that the originally agreed intentions of the LAC Sufficiency Strategy have been achieved. Based upon the results of the audit, internal audit was able to provide Substantial Assurance that the controls are operating effectively.
- 2.8 Based on the analysis of local need; the following aspirations are identified for the period of the Strategy.

The aspirations over the next five years are to:

- More Young People aged 10+ are able to be cared for safely in their families and communities.
- Children and young people have access to a range of homes (internal and external options) that meet their needs and improve their outcomes.
- All services take the Rotherham Family Approach to ensure all Rotherham children and young people are "resilient, successful and safe", evidenced by Quality Assurance activity.
- Children and young people are able to access the support they need when they need it because Health, Education and Care Services share a joint understanding of the needs of children and young people in Rotherham and use this to inform commissioning and service delivery.
- Children and Young People and their families and carers are able to access CAMHs assessment and intervention when needed.

- Children, young people, families, and carers benefit from additional social value in Rotherham e.g., more employment opportunities.
- More children, young people and families benefit from additional support to improve outcomes and access employment..

2.9 Cabinet have maintained oversight of the key priorities identified in the LAC Sufficiency Strategy 2019-22 through reports to Cabinet on fostering recruitment and development of residential provision, this has focused on in-house services.

2.10 It is proposed the delivery plan for the Looked After Children and Care Leaver's Sufficiency Strategy 2023 - 2028 will be developed with key milestones for each of the objectives, and outcome measures documented. Progress against the delivery plan will be reported to the Corporate Parenting Board. The aspirations will be reviewed annually by the Corporate Parenting Board based on updated annual sufficiency data and local / national drivers.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Option 1:

1. To approve the new Strategy.
2. To approve the monitoring and oversight of progress against the delivery plan, and annual review of the aspirations, be undertaken by Corporate Parenting Board.

Approval of the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2028 will ensure the Council has set out its commitment in line with its duty to ensure that there is a range of sufficient placements which meet the needs of children and young people in care.

Approval of Corporate Parenting Board to undertake the monitoring and oversight of progress against the delivery plan, and annual review of the aspirations, will ensure consistent oversight of the delivery of the strategy and escalation as appropriate if issues arise.

3.2 Option 2:

Do not approve the new Strategy.

This will mean the Council does not have an accurate and up to date strategy to set out its commitment in line with its sufficiency duty.

Governance of the delivery of the strategy will not be articulated and understood and may result in failure to escalate issues as they arise.

3.3 Option 1 is the recommended option.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The development of the revised Strategy has involved collaborative working across Rotherham, including Looked After Children and Care Leavers, First Response, Locality Social Work, Commissioning, Performance, Early Help, Legal Services and Finance.
- 4.2 Internal Audit were commissioned to undertake an audit to provide assurance that the originally agreed intentions of the LAC sufficiency strategy have been achieved.
- 4.3 Two recommendations for the development of the future strategy were made.
 - The LAC Sufficiency Strategy 2023-28 does not clearly show in tabular form the aims and objectives of the previous strategy, the actions taken, and any outstanding actions included in this strategy. **Recommendation 1**
 - Also, the Aspirations Section of the LAC Sufficiency Strategy 2023-28 does not include details of how these actions are to be monitored. This Aspirations Section can be interpreted as a formal Action Plan. **Recommendation 2**

These have been incorporated into the development of the strategy and associated governance arrangements.

- 4.4 Further engagement has also influenced the document including Public Health, the Integrated Care Board Rotherham Place, TRFT, RDaSH, Residential and Independent Fostering providers, In-house fostering, Rotherham Therapeutic Team, Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership and LAC Council.
- 4.5 The draft strategy was considered at Improving Lives Select Commission on 6th September. The recommendations made have been incorporated into the development of the strategy and associated governance arrangements.
- 4.6 The Looked After Children Council considered the strategy at their meeting on 14th September. They provided specific guidance on the presentation and design of the strategy, the relevance of the graphs (including whether any contain identifiable information that may make them feel uncomfortable), feedback on what they feel the strategy should be for, what is important about it and their voice to supplement the LAC promises. The Looked After Children Council also requested Care Leavers were more robustly considered in the strategy, suggesting some amends in section 5 and an additional data set in section 6. This is reflected in the final draft Strategy.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The Strategy focuses on what Rotherham Council knows about its children and young people, including their voices, and the information about local homes for children. The Strategy also provides all the latest data trends, what the aspirations are and the delivery plan to achieve these over the next five years 2023 – 2028.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 Where there is a need for the Council to commission services from third party organisations to deliver the Strategy, this must be done in compliance with the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended). Early consideration needs to be given in the development of any commissioned services to ensure the chosen delivery vehicle includes the flexibility to meet the requirements of the Strategy.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The legislation which sets out the Council's sufficiency duty is contained in the body of the Report. There are no further legal implications arising from the review of the Strategy.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 No direct HR implications within this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Implications to vulnerable children and young people and vulnerable adults who are care leavers are covered within the Report and Appendices.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 An equality impact assessment checklist is attached. Equality implications for looked after children, care leavers and foster carers are reflected in the draft strategy.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 N/A

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Implications for partners are reflected in the draft strategy.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 These are referred to in the draft strategy and associated delivery plan.

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	03/10/2022
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	29/09/2022
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	29/09/2022

Report Authors:

Helen Sweaton, Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality
helen.sweaton@rotherham.gov.uk

Monica Green, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care
monica.green@rotherham.gov.uk

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

***“Our Children,
Resilient ★ Successful ★ Safe”***

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy

2023 – 2028



Contents

1. Foreword
2. Introduction
 - Vision
 - Principles
 - Looked After Children and Care Leavers Promises
3. Policy Context
4. Progress Since the Last Sufficiency Strategy
5. Supporting more children to live within their families and networks
6. Children in the Care of the Local Authority
 - Overview of Rotherham
 - Looked After Children needing homes
 - Looked After Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
 - Looked After Children's emotional and behavioural health
 - Care Leavers
7. Homes for children for Children in the Care of the Local Authority
 - Review of Current Provision and market analysis
 - Independent Fostering Agencies
 - In-house Fostering
 - Residential homes
8. Future Need Projections
 - No of Looked After Children (trend to 2028)
 - LAC placement numbers
 - LAC net placement costs
9. Aspirations
10. Measures of Success
11. Delivery Plan

1. Forward

This strategy is about making sure all looked after children and care leavers have a safe place to live. It will help workers understand where the right place is for children to live and who the right people to look after them are. This is about supporting us for our futures.



Looked After Children Council Members

Our Vision is simple, we are working with Rotherham's children, young people and families to be resilient, successful and safe. We constantly ask ourselves, 'would this be good enough for my child' and are committed to keeping our Looked after Children and Care Leaver promises. This strategy sets out what we are doing to keep these promises, especially; Promise 1 - We will help you to live in a safe place where you are protected from harm.



Cllr Victoria Cusworth, Lead Member,
Children and Young People



Suzanne Joyner,
Director of Children's Services

2. Introduction

The purpose of this Strategy is to set out the vision for achieving Rotherham Council's commitment to improving the outcomes and life chances of the children and young people who are in our care and providing sufficient, safe, secure, and appropriate placements for looked after children and Care Leavers over the next 4 years.

An important element of planning sufficient accommodation is to take early, preventative action to support children and families so that more children can remain with their families and networks.

This Strategy considers information we know about our children, including their voices, and the information we know about local homes for children. This informs the activity we need to undertake and supports the delivery of Rotherham Council's Looked after Children promises.

2.1 Vision

We have a strong clear vision for children and young people's services - "Working with Rotherham's children, young people and families to be resilient, successful and safe", which aligns to the Council Plan: Council Plan 2022-25 – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

2.2 Principles

Activity to support children and families is underpinned by the Rotherham Charter (Four Cornerstones):

1. Welcome and care
2. Value and include
3. Communicate
4. Work in partnership

At the heart of these is trust.



1. Welcome and care

Our Rotherham Family Approach is informed by respectful, collaborative relationships and a stance of critical enquiry and "locating grand aspirations in everyday practice where the experience of the child is at the centre".

2. Value and include

Whilst the local authority is the lead agency in developing and implementing this strategy, it has been developed in collaboration with a wide range of partners and will be owned and implemented by all professionals working with children, young people, their parents, and carers.

3. Communicate

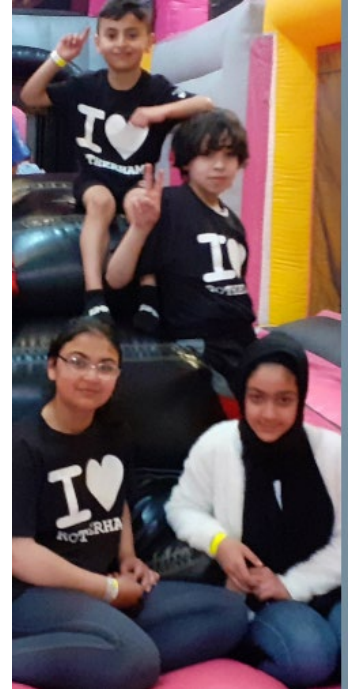
Rotherham Council are committed corporate parents, we use language that reflects this, we want everything to be the best that parents want for their children:

- That they are happy and healthy both physically and emotionally.
- That we keep them safe and protected from harm and exploitation.
- That we support them into adulthood and that we prepare them for independence.
- We are ambitious for our children; we want them to achieve their potential and participate in decisions which affect their lives.

4. Work in partnership

We want our children and young people to work with us and, along with parents and carers, shape the services we offer to them.

We value our children and young people and parents and carers as equal partners; this strategy is underpinned by our commitment to deliver the promises developed with our Looked After Children and Care Leavers.



2.3 Looked After Children and Care Leaver Promises

Corporate Parenting is the term used in law to describe our collective responsibility to care for, love and champion our children in care and our care leavers and ensure they have every opportunity to reach their full potential as they grow up in our family.

Rotherham Corporate Parents take our **Rotherham Family Approach** ethos of: '*would this be good enough for my child*' and have made the following promises, which came from our Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

Promise 1 - We will help you to live in a safe place where you are protected from harm

Promise 2 - We will listen to what you have to say and make sure it makes a difference

Promise 3 - We will help you to learn and do your best at school and college

Promise 4 - We will fully involve you in plans and decisions about you and your future

Promise 5 - We will help you to learn new skills as you grown up and become an adult

Promise 6 - We will help you take part in activities that you enjoy/are interested in

Promise 7 - We will help you to be proud of yourself and celebrate your individual beliefs

Promise 8 - We will help you to be happy and healthy

Promise 9 - We will help you to explore and be ready for the world of work

3. Policy Context

This document seeks to improve outcomes for looked after children and young people by providing guidance on the implementation of section 22G of the Children Act 1989. Section 22G requires local authorities to take steps that secure sufficient accommodation within the authority's area which meets the needs of children that the local authority are looking after ('the sufficiency duty'). Section 27 of the Children Act 1989 imposes a duty on other local authorities, local authority housing services and health bodies to assist the Children and Young People's Service in carrying out its functions under the Act. This includes assisting in the Corporate Parenting function and to provide joined up services that best meet the needs of the child.

In 2010, the Government published statutory guidance on the implementation of section 22G of the Children Act 'General Duty of Local Authority to secure sufficient accommodation for looked after children'. Since May 2014 there is a duty in the Children and Families Act (2014) for local authorities to have staying put arrangements in place to enable young adults to remain in their foster homes for children until they are 21 years old.

The Children & Social Work Act 2017 extended the duties on all local authorities to incorporate a set of corporate parenting principles when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and care experience young people up to the age of 25

This Sufficiency Duty requires the Council to:



This strategy considers what is required by the local authority in terms of sufficient provision.

This strategy is linked to and informed by the following:

- The Joint Strategic Needs Analysis
- The Corporate Parenting Strategy.
- The Corporate Parenting Promise to Looked After Children.
- The Pledge to Looked After Children.
- The Rotherham Offer to Care Leavers.
- The Early Help Strategy
- The Local Transformation Plan
- The Joint Commissioning Strategy

It takes into the account the criteria outlined for the inspection of Local Authority Children's Services 2018 (ILACS) and follows the journey of the child, considering the range of commissioned provision required from Early Help through to specialist placement provision.

4. Progress Since the Last Sufficiency Strategy

The previous LAC Sufficiency Strategy was approved by Cabinet in June 2019, progress against all priorities has been reviewed to support the development of the new strategy.

1. To reduce reliance on Independent Fostering Agencies by recruiting more in-house foster carers

- Significant programme of work including significant investment in a digital marketing contract.
- Some successes in recruitment (at a time where this is a challenge nationally) and development of available fostering places, we have not increased the number of in-house foster carers.
- National issues impacting on retention of local authority foster carers, including the expansion of the independent fostering market, have impacted in Rotherham
- Programme of work now focuses on retention in addition to recruitment.

2. To develop local residential provision and secure block-bookings for Rotherham children where this will achieve best value

The February 2020 Cabinet report agreed a proposal to develop a range of in-house residential provisions, including emergency accommodation for Rotherham looked after children. 16 residential beds and 2 emergency beds across 7 registered settings.

- 4 new children's home purchased or acquired and fitted out to meet the specification informed by young people's service and Ofsted
- 3 children's homes opened with Ofsted registrations
- Ofsted rating of Good for all children's homes on first inspection

Block bookings were secured, however due to matching (identifying children who can safely live together and with the provider of a home) best value was not always achieved.

3. Explore opportunities for regional collaborative working arrangements.

- Rotherham continues to work with other authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber as part of the White Rose Framework regional collaborative arrangement for Fostering and Residential placements.

4. Review the Rotherham Fostering Framework to ensure that it continues to deliver high quality placements and value for money;

- Rotherham joined the White Rose Framework for fostering in April 2020.

5. Implement a Dynamic Purchasing Framework to ensure that sufficiency is achieved for Rotherham care leavers;

- Rotherham developed a 16+ Support and Accommodation flexible purchasing systems (FPS) which went live in January 2021.
- The FPS supports Rotherham to develop and shape the market; build relationships with existing and new providers; monitor quality and provide a compliant route to market.

6. Work in partnership with Adult Care & Housing to ensure that sufficiency is achieved for vulnerable 16- and 17-year-olds

- Collaborative working ensures sharing of good practice to inform the commissioning of accommodation for 16- and 17-year-olds who are homeless.

Since 2019 there has also been national activity which has been considered in the development of this strategy.

In January 2021 the terms of reference for an independent review of children's social care were published. Following consultation, the case for change was published in October highlighting "the immediate pressure of there not being enough of the right homes in the right places." The national 'market' for homes for children is described as not working due to private providers setting the terms for engagement. This means Local Authorities need to use the homes for children that are available and can't always find the right homes for children to meet their needs.

There are 80,850 children in the care system in England, an increase of 1% from 2020 and an all-time high. In 2021 62% of Looked After Children were aged 10 years and over and 71% of Looked After Children were living with a foster family.

In 2021, 78% of children's homes were run by private providers and 41% approved fostering places are provided by independent fostering agencies.

The Personal Social Services Review Unit reported average prices are £4,865 a week for a local authority place and £4,153 for a private placement. This does not reflect the variance in the cost of private placements, some cost 2 and 3 times more than the average £4,153. The Competition and Markets Authority report profit margins for the 15 largest private children's home operators average 22.6% in The State of UK Competition, April 2022.



5. Supporting more children to live within their families and networks

In Rotherham, help is provided at the earliest opportunity and continues to be provided to support children and families, unless there is evidence of harm.

Help is provided as part of universal support from someone with an established relationship with the family, the Rotherham Partnership Early Help Offer and/ or the Rotherham Council Early Help Offer.

Harm is assessed by social care; child protection plans are utilised to measure progress to improve children's safety. Children can become looked after when there is no other option to secure their safety.



The 'wrap-around support' in our Early Help offer, Edge of Care offer and Pause (work with women who have babies removed to avoid repeat care proceedings) form a key component to delivering outstanding services for children, young people, and families in Rotherham. Supporting children into more appropriate permanence arrangements including safely returning home, adoption, special guardianship, and child arrangements orders. A range of evidence-based services and commissioned support form part of this offer to families.

Our therapeutic team have developed a 'wrap-around trauma' informed approach to support the safe 'step-down' of children and young people from residential care to family-based care. We have successfully identified, trained, and supported our first foster carers, and are working with further foster carers in preparation for successful matching and working to identify further established and new carers. This means children in Rotherham in residential care will be able to return to family-based homes for children as soon as it is safe for them to do so.

It is recognised that support to live alongside their families and networks is equally important for care leavers. Young people are supported into their adult years by a team of 11 personal advisors (PAs). PAs support our young people find a home, jobs, training, or university place. Our offer to Care Leavers includes supporting two key relationships for Care Leavers and encouraging aspirational pathway planning for their futures. The PAs have networks across universal services who they can call on to support young people.

6. Children in the care of the Local Authority

Overview of Rotherham

Rotherham has 57,453 children aged under 18 representing 21.7% of the local population (ONS, mid 2020).

23% of children live in low-income families (England 18%). The free school meal entitlement rate is above the English national average (23.8% compared to 21.6% at Primary, 21.4% compared to 18.9% at Secondary – DfE 2020/21). 19.4% of Rotherham's school age population is from a BME background (England 35.1%) (DfE 2020/21).

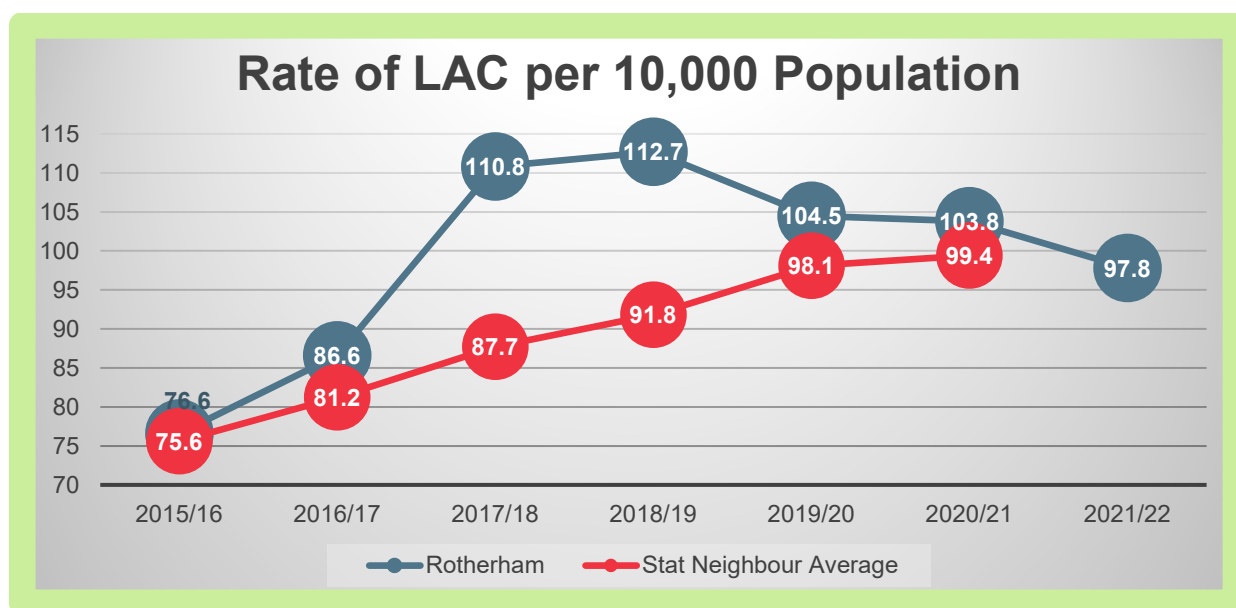
The rate of referrals for Rotherham Council in 2020/21 is 569 per 10,000 of children which was lower than the Statistical Neighbours average of 613 and higher than the national average of 494.

Looked After Children needing homes

As of 31 March 2022, there were 563 Looked After Children and 293 Care Leavers.

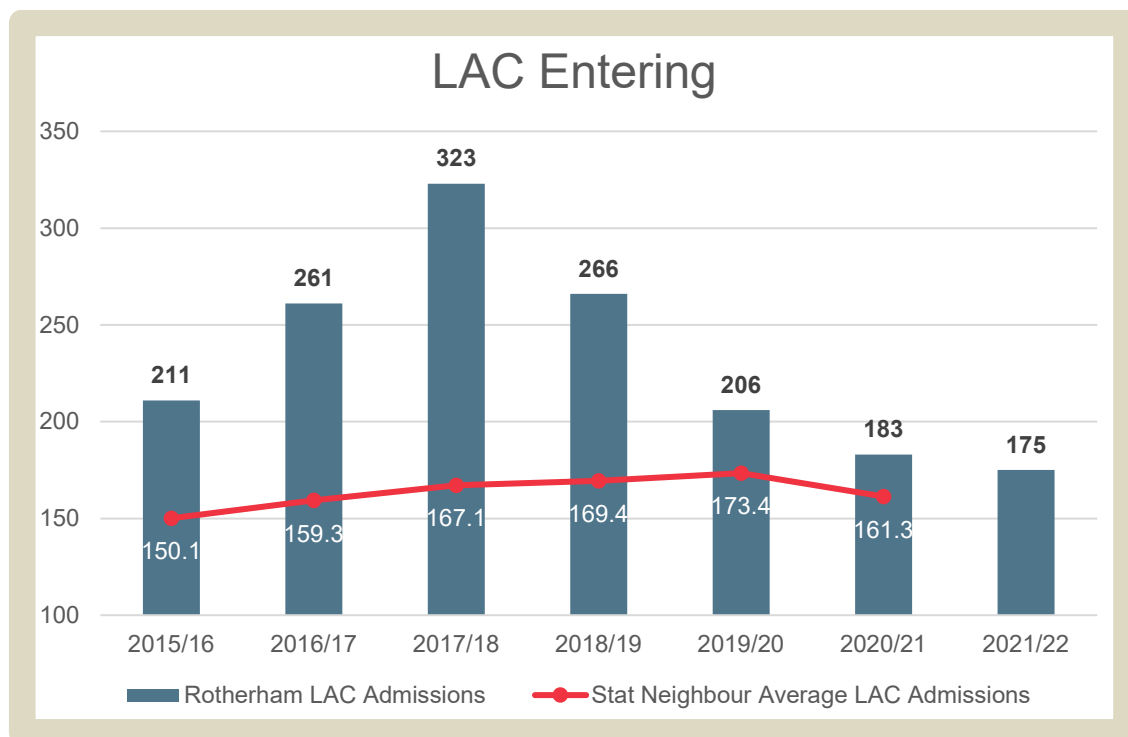
- 90% of these children are in care as a result of abuse or neglect
- 10% are in care due to family dysfunction, absent parenting, the family being in acute stress, parental disability or illness, socially unacceptable behaviour or the child's disability or illness

The rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population has been safely reducing since 2019 from 112.7 to 97.8 per 10,000 (children under 18). This remains higher than the national rate. Over the last three years the trend has increased in Local Authorities which are Rotherham's statistical neighbours.



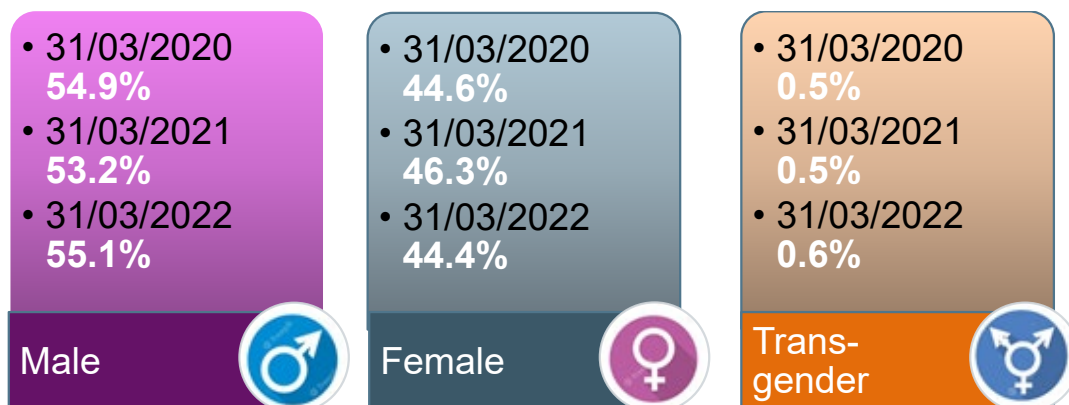
During the Covid-19 pandemic Rotherham children and young people's services maintained the help that was being provided to families through early help and child in need plans as

well as continuing to recognise and respond to keep children safe from harm. This ensured the safe continuation of the reduction in the number of children entering care. Delays in court proceeding extended the period some children needed to be cared for.



Gender profile of Looked After Children

The number of looked after children identifying as male, female or transgender has remained relatively stable over the last three years with more than half consistently identifying as male.



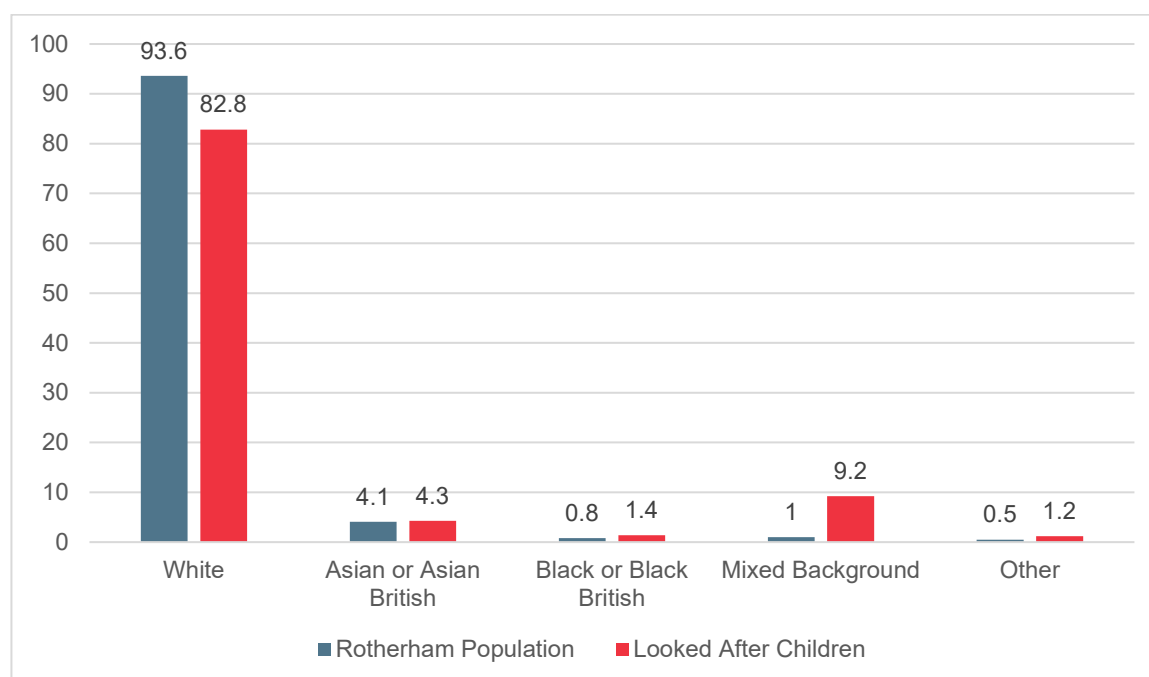
Age profile of Looked After Children

The biggest proportion of looked after children in Rotherham are aged 10 to 15 years old, this has been consistent over the last three years at just over 40%. During 2021 there was a slight increase in the proportion of children under 1, however this has now reduced again. The proportion of children aged 1 to 4 year olds has steadily decreased over the last three years and young people who are aged 16 have seen an increase in the same period.

AGE of LAC			
	31/03/2020	31/03/2021	31/03/2022
Under 1	6.2%	7.5%	5.7%
1 to 4	15.6%	14.9%	13.1%
5 to 9	18.9%	19.1%	18.3%
10 to 15	42.7%	41.0%	42.1%
16 and over	16.6%	17.6%	20.8%

Ethnicity of Looked After Children

The majority of looked after children are from White backgrounds, followed by children from mixed backgrounds (9%). Children from mixed backgrounds are over-represented among looked after children when compared to that of the population as a whole. At the end of March 2022 an increased number of looked after children in Rotherham are unaccompanied asylum seeker children than in previous years.



Looked After Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The proportion of looked after children with a disability has remained relatively stable over the last three years.

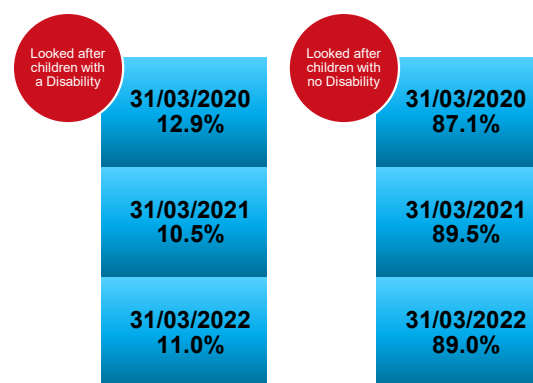
Between 31st March 2020 and 31st 2022 there was a 1.9% decrease in this cohort. Rotherham's position currently shows 11% for children

that are looked after have a disability (47 children).

Of the children identified with a disability the main need identified is learning (34%) followed by a those with a diagnosis of Autism or Asperger's syndrome (25.5%).

As of 31st March 2022, the largest proportion of looked after children in Rotherham who are identified with a disability are aged 11 and over (76.6%) which is a continuing trend from last year.

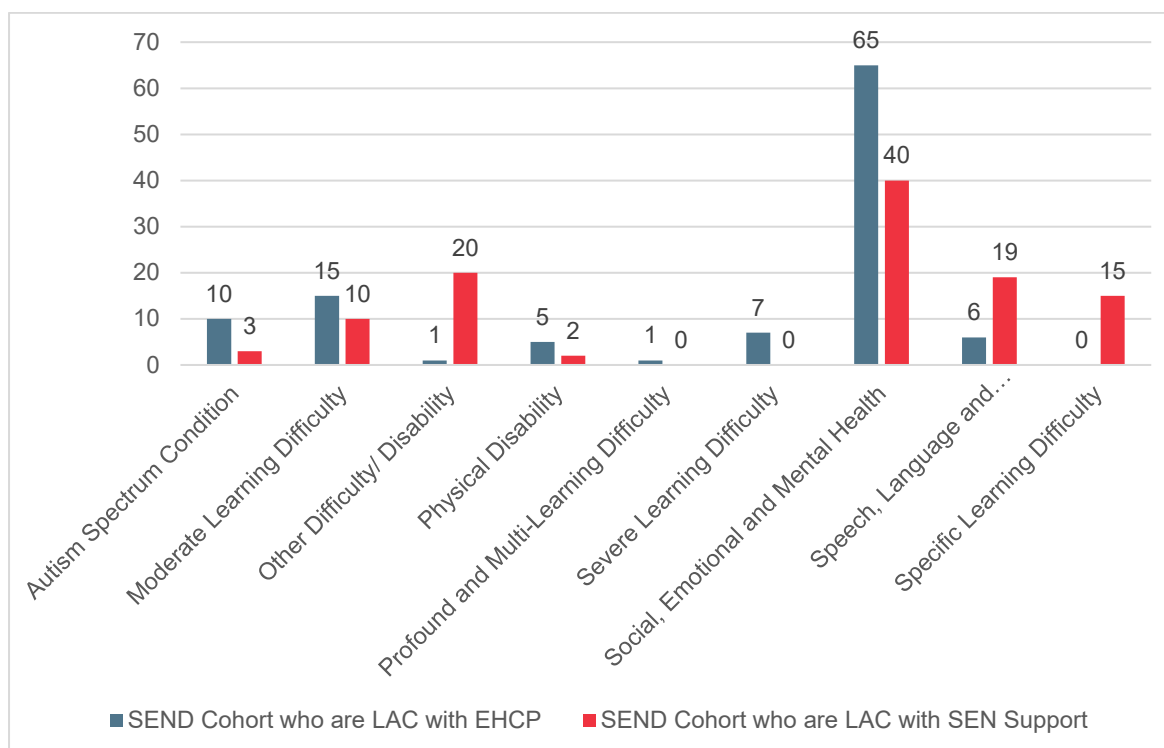
74.5% of children with a disability are White British which is slightly lower than the looked after children population as a whole (83%).



110 looked after children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) have an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP) and an additional 110 are identified with needing Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support.

The majority of looked after children in Rotherham with an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP) have a primary need of Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH).

Most looked after children in Rotherham who are identified with needing Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support also have a high level of primary need being SEMH. Speech, Language & Communication (SLC) Difficulty and Specific Learning Difficulty are the next two highest identified needs for this cohort of children.



Looked After Children and education

Looked after children and young people are supported to be successful in their education and employment through the Virtual School, who along with our education partners work proactively at the earliest stage possible to enable them to grow and progress. Clear, targeted and timebound Personal Education Plans (PEP) support the tracking of each child's progress and provide a clear window into their progress as they journey through care.

Looked After Children's emotional and behavioural health

In March 2020 comparative scores for Looked After Children in Rotherham were higher than in other parts of the country, reflecting a complex level of emotional need. Rotherham showed an overall score of 14.0 where 1-13 is normal and 14-16 is borderline, this score put Rotherham into the 3rd quartile. Nationally the score was 13.7.

Looked After Children at risk of exploitation

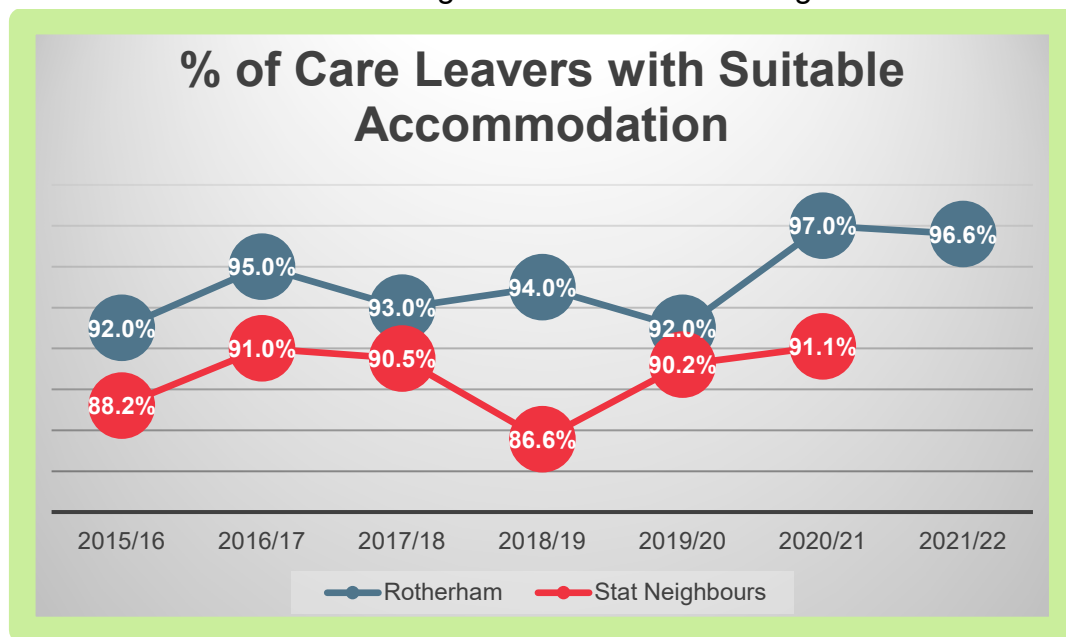
On 31 March 2022 26 looked after young people in Rotherham were assessed as being at risk of exploitation. Specialist multi-agency support is coordinated through the Evolve Service. Risk assessment informs support and decision making regarding suitable homes for children.

Care Leavers

On 31 March 2022, there were 293 Care Leavers in Rotherham.

AGE of Care Leavers	
	31/03/2022
16 to 18	56%
19 to 21	42.5%
22 to 25	1.5%

The percentage with a suitable home has increased over the last three years and Rotherham continues its trend of remaining above its Statistical Neighbours.

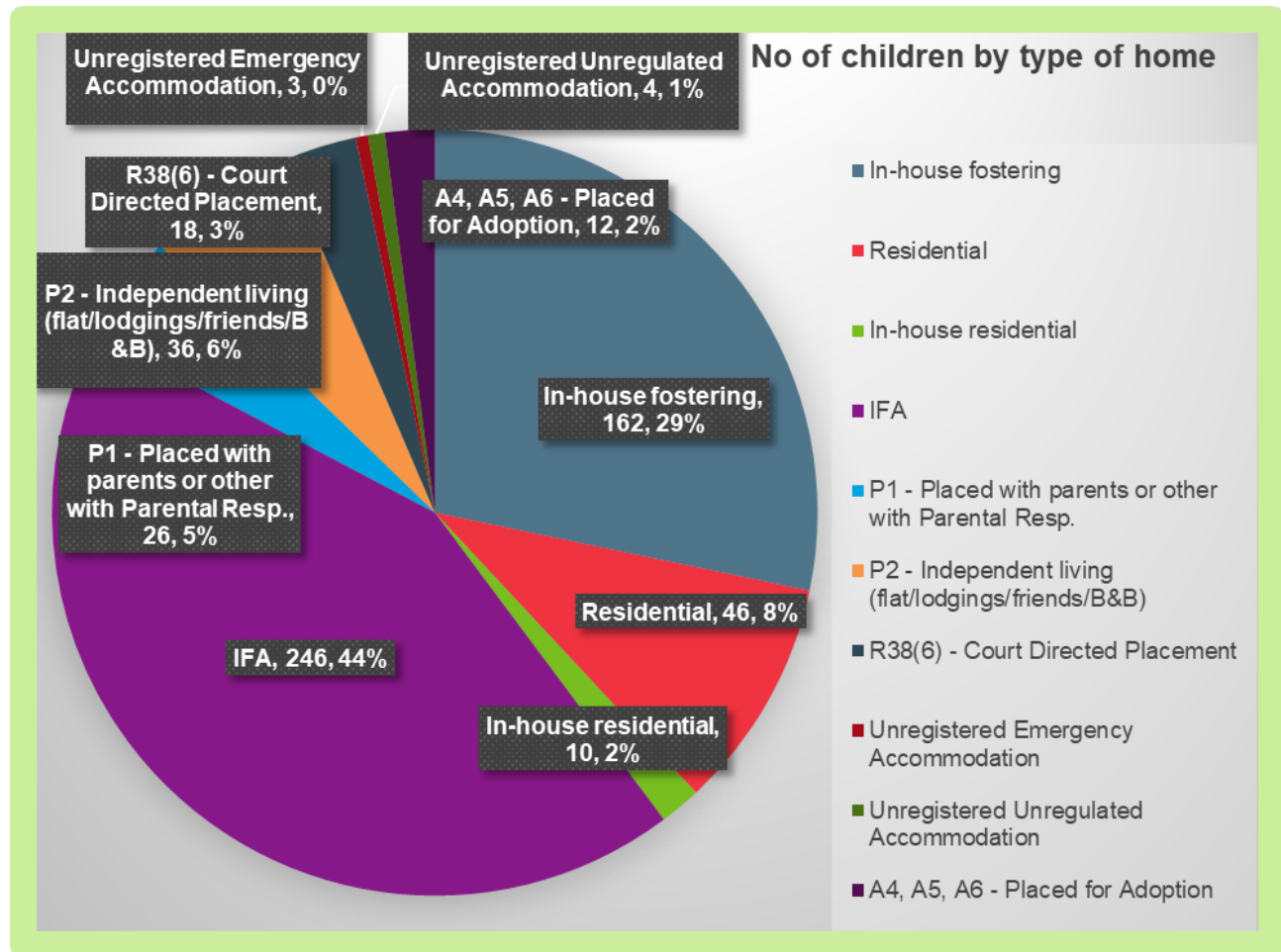


Stability of a home for young people leaving care shows the majority have had no moves or only 1 move over the last 12 months (82.9%) with 98.3% having 3 moves or less. The 3 young people with 6 moves or more are aged between 22 and 24 making up 1.7% over the overall care leavers cohort.

7. Homes for children in care of the Local Authority

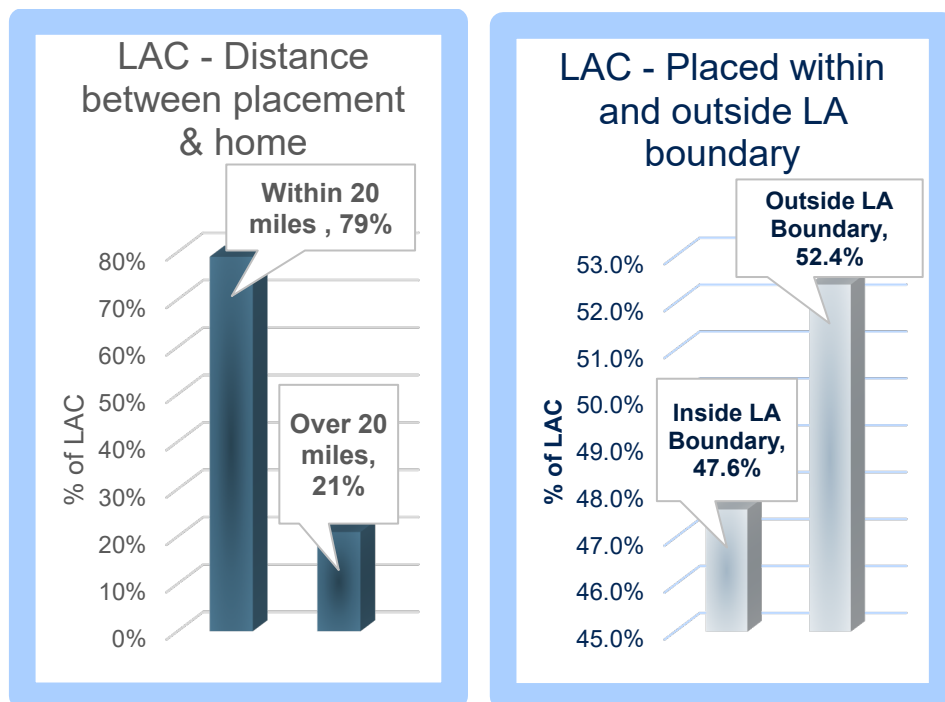
Review of Current Provision and market analysis

Rotherham Council operates within a mixed economy of internal and external provision. Homes for children are commissioned through framework and spot purchasing arrangements, some of which are regional. Despite additional investment in recruitment, and a targeted campaign to attract in-house foster carers, In-house foster homes (162) account for 29% of the total looked after children population, compared with 65% nationally.

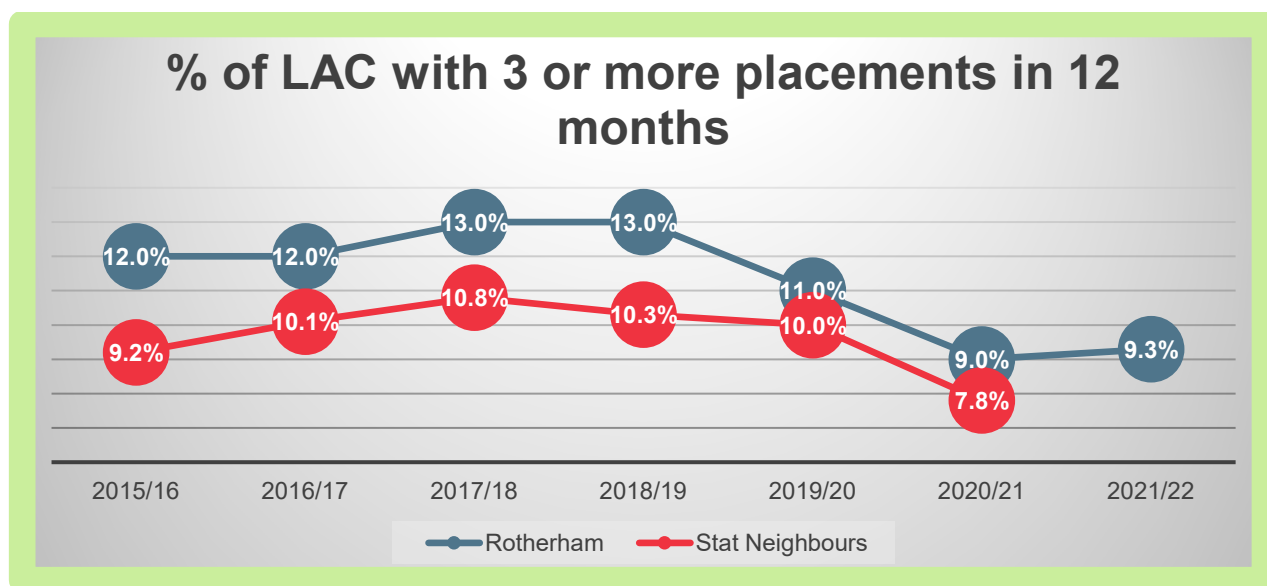


Despite work to stimulate local residential provision, there are limited private residential homes in borough, particularly when compared to local authorities across Yorkshire and Humberside.

79% of looked after children are in placements which are within 20 miles of home, with 21% of placements currently being more than 20 miles away.



Although the rate of looked after children with three or more homes within twelve months has been slowly declining over recent years and is in line with the national rate at 9%, Rotherham's rate remains higher than our statistical neighbours.



Independent Fostering Agencies

At the end of March 2022, of the 563 looked after children, there were 408 children in fostering homes (all-types), which is 73% of the LAC population. Of the 408, 60.3% of children are placed with independent fostering agencies compared to 35% nationally.

Of the 246 children placed in an Independent Fostering Agency home at the end of March 2022, the largest cohort of children, 110 (44.7%) are aged 11 to 15, with 182 (74%) aged 5 to 15.

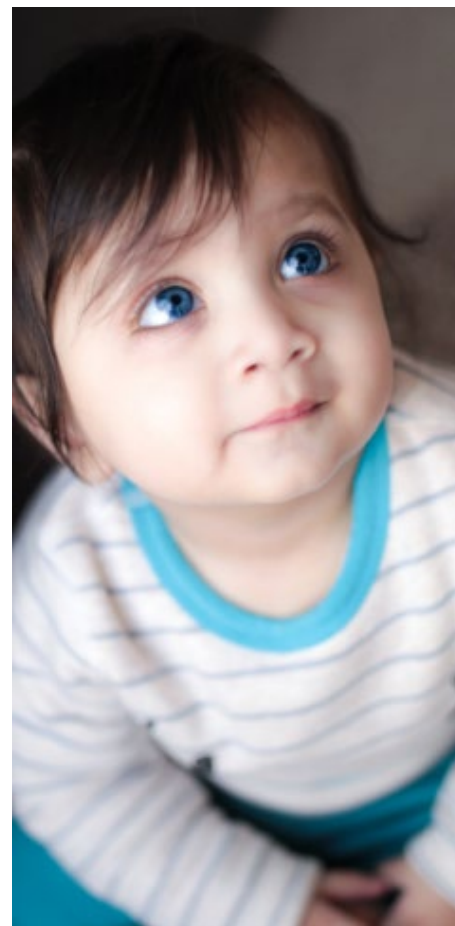
In-house Fostering

Of the 408, 39.7% of children are placed with in-house foster carers compared to 65% nationally.

Of our fostering families (162), 124 of them have children who are placed with approved carers (including kinship) with a further 38 placed with family and friends (Regulation 24).

Of the 162 children placed in In-house fostering, the ages are quite evenly spread with the largest amount of 29% in the age range 11 to 15, 27.2% in the age range 5 to 10 and 19.8% in the age range of 1 to 4.

In-house foster carers benefit from a comprehensive support offer. In addition to their supervising social worker, in-house foster carers can access a dedicated fostering adviser, Support Helpline, Support groups, Mockingbird Programme, Virtual drop in sessions and Buddy Foster Carers. The Therapeutic Team provide consultation and direct intervention from psychologists and therapists without waiting lists. A robust training offer supports in-house foster carers. In-house foster carers are part of a fostering community including Foster Carer Forum, Birth Children's Support Group, Regular free community events & celebrations, Local Fostering Association, Dedicated Facebook groups, Membership to the fostering network, LGBT foster carers membership to New Family Social and Community Newsletters.



Rotherham is a member of the White Rose Fostering Framework. The framework has four lots of which placements can be called from:

- Lot 1 – Standard Costs
- Lot 2 – Standard with Additional Needs
- Lot 3 – Intensive Support
- Lot 4 - Specialist placement 1 - parent and child fostering (fee based on age of child)
- Lot 4 - Specialist Placement 2 - parent and child Assessment (fee based on age of child).

The White Rose Consortium is in the process of developing sub-regional Quality Hubs, for the purpose of delivering its quality assurance/service improvement work via these hubs. This will complement our own quality assurance framework.

Residential homes

There are 56 children in Residential homes (In-house and OOA) which equates to 10% of the overall LAC population.

- 9 Private providers manage 12 children's homes.
- 5 Private providers manage 7 homes for young people aged 16 and above.
- Rotherham MBC manage 3 Children's homes, 1 Short Breaks home and 1 home for young people aged 16 and above.



Residential care homes (56) have most children over the age of 11 (89.3%), with 30 children aged 11 to 15 (53.6%) and 20 children aged 16 and over (35.7%). The remaining 6 are between 5 and 10 (10.7%).

293 young people are in post 16 years accommodation. The highest percentage were in independent living arrangements (32%) with the majority of them aged between 18 and 20 (86%).

Rotherham is a member of the White Rose Residential Child Care Framework which has:

1. Standard residential placements
2. Specialist residential placements
3. Specialist residential placements with education
4. Parent and child residential placements.

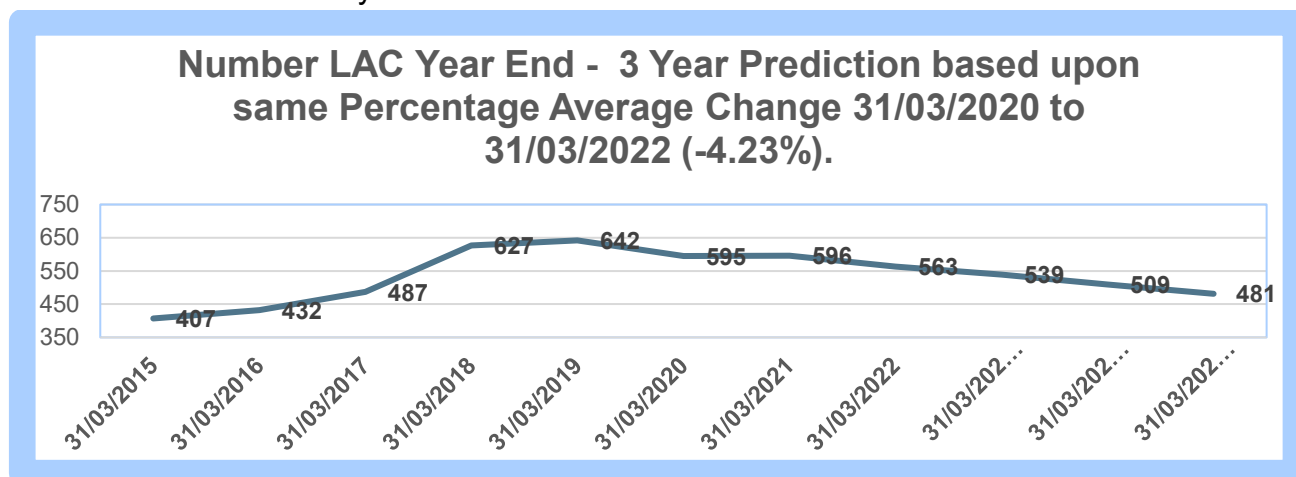
The commissioning activity is shared between the participating local authorities using shared procedures.

Rotherham has its own framework with providers of homes for young people aged 16 and above. This works well and will be supportive with regards to the planned regulation in this sector.

8. Future Need Projections

Number of Looked After Children

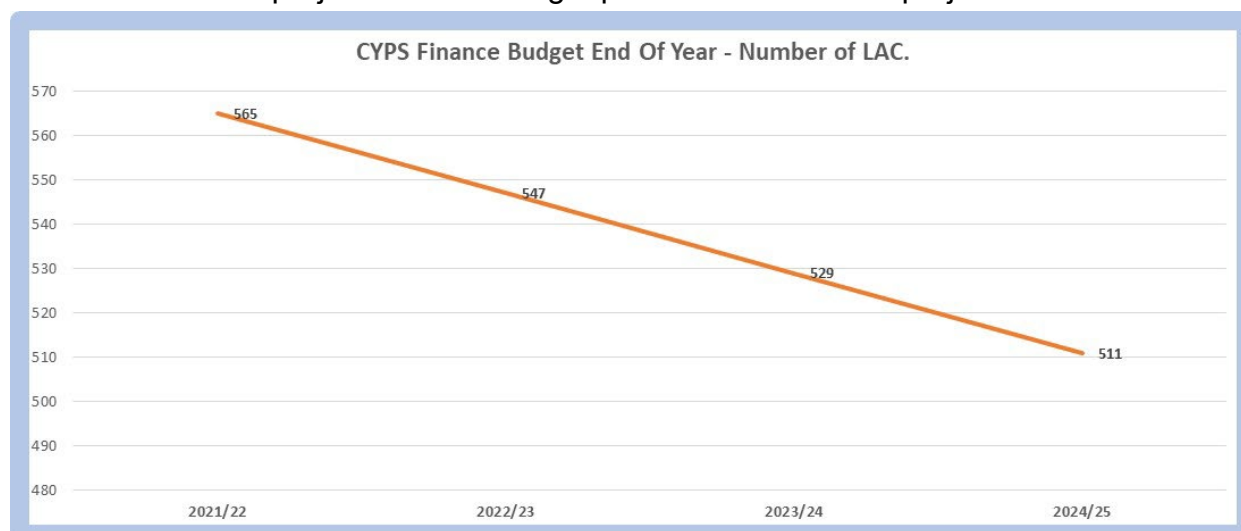
Based upon the average percentage change (taken from the numbers over the last seven years) the three-year prediction is a continued reduction in the number of Looked After Children in Rotherham by -4.23%.



The safe continuation of the reduction in the number of children entering care is reflective of the support that has continued to be provided to families, regardless to the covid-19 pandemic. This needs to be considered in the context of an increasing population. Rotherham has a greater proportion of under 15s than the national average (17.7% compared to 17% respectively): and the number of young people increased from 46,000 in 2011 to 47,100 in 2021 (a 2.4% increase). Implementation of the national transfer scheme has seen Rotherham receive an increased number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Children are remaining in care for longer.

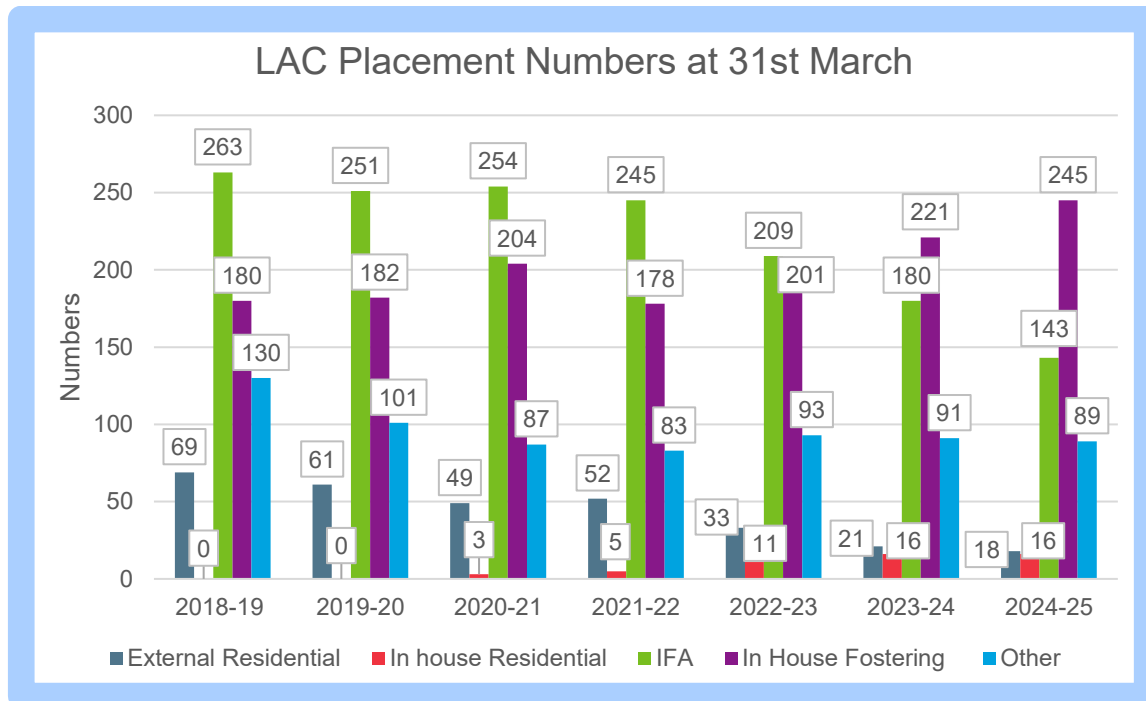
Looked After Children Projection

Based upon the prediction above a safe continued reduction in the number of looked after children has been projected. The budget plan is based on this projection.



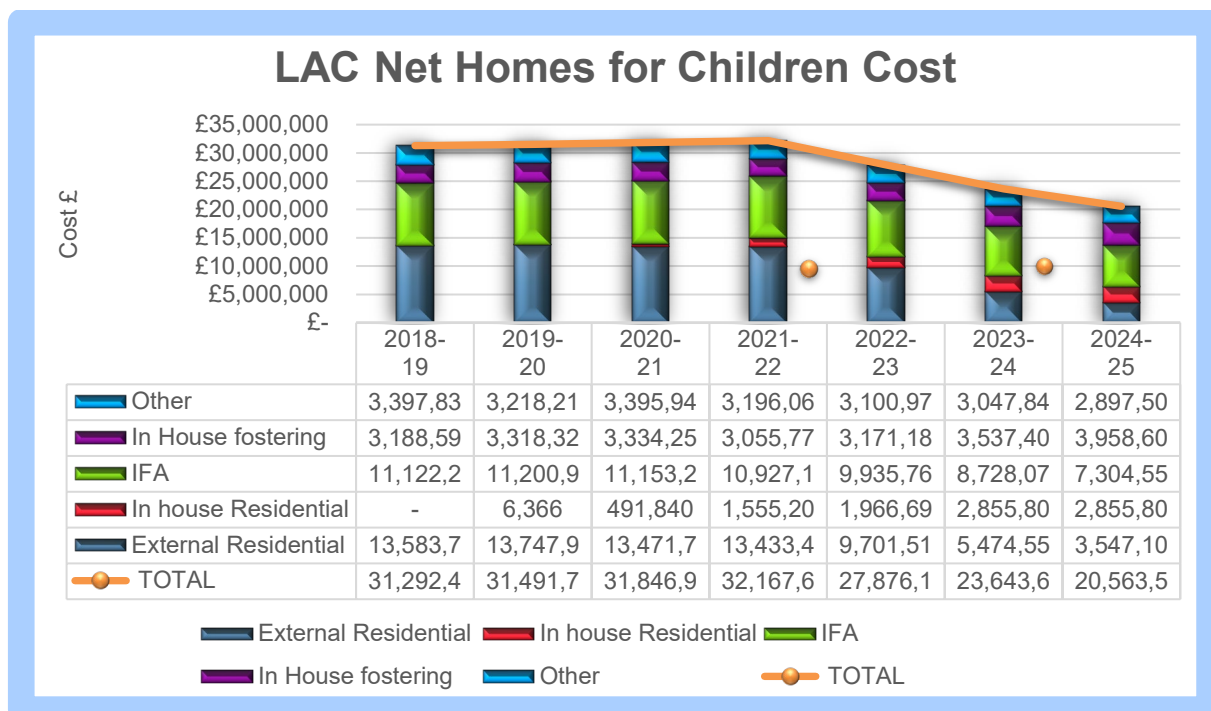
Homes for children Projection

Based upon a linear projection (taken from the numbers over the last three years) the three year prediction sees a continued reduction in the use of external residential homes, an increase in the use of in-house residential homes and a reduction in the use of Independent Fostering Agency fostering families and increase in the use of in-house fostering families.



Annual Expenditure Projection (2025)

Based upon the linear projection of homes for children above the three-year prediction sees a continued reduction in the expenditure on homes for Looked After Children.



9. Aspirations

Based on the analysis of local need and in line with the promises we have made to looked after children and care leavers; we have identified the following aspirations for the period of strategy. The delivery plan will be developed with key milestones for each of the objectives and outcome measures documented. Progress against the delivery plan will be reported to the Corporate Parenting Board. The aspirations will be reviewed annually by the Corporate Parenting Board based on updated annual sufficiency data and local / national drivers.

Our aspirations over the next five years are to:

- More Young People aged 10+ are able to be cared for safely in their families and communities.
- Children and young people have access to a range of homes (internal and external options) that meet their needs and support them to achieve their potential.
- All services take the Rotherham Family Approach to ensure all Rotherham children and young people are “resilient, successful and safe”, evidenced by Quality Assurance activity.
- Children and young people are able to access the support they need when they need it because Health, Education and Care Services share a joint understanding of the needs of children and young people in Rotherham and use this to inform commissioning and service delivery.
- Children and Young People and their families and carers are able to access CAMHs assessment and intervention when needed.
- Children, young people, families, and carers benefit from additional social value in Rotherham e.g., more employment opportunities.
- More children, young people and families benefit from additional support to improve outcomes and access employment.

10. Measures of Success

Aspiration	Outcome Measure (How will we know when we have done it)
More Young People aged 10+ are able to be cared for safely in their families and communities.	Reduction in the number of LAC Increased number of diversions from care - edge of care - duty – locality Increased number of children re-unified with parents / family members (PWP)
Children and young people have access to a range of homes (internal and external options) that meet their needs and support them to achieve their potential.	Reduction in the additionality of support within a child's placement (reduction in costs) Increased number of LAC in homes for children in Rotherham or within a 20-mile radius Increased number of approved in-house foster carers / homes for children Increased number of children living with an in-house foster carer Increased % of children in a family-based setting (reg 24/38(6)/PWP) Increased % of our LAC who are in foster homes for children within a 20-mile radius Increased number of children / young people in in-house residential provision (at capacity) Increased number of residential beds available in planned timescales A reduction in the number of LAC placed in out of authority residential provision Zero CYP in an unregistered / unregulated placement Stabilise the number of children who have had 3 homes for children or more in 12 months An improvement in the timeliness of review Pathway Plans to support transition planning Increased number of young people supported through the House project
All services take the Rotherham Family Approach to ensure all Rotherham children and young people are "resilient, successful and safe", evidenced by Quality Assurance activity.	Quality Assurance Framework in place.
Children and young people are able to access the support they need when they need it because Health, Education and Care Services share a joint understanding of the needs of children and young people in Rotherham and use this to inform commissioning and service delivery.	Updated Joint Commissioning Strategy
Children and Young People and their families and carers are able to access CAMHs assessment and intervention when needed.	LAC CAMHs pathway established.
Children, young people, families and carers benefit from additional social value in Rotherham e.g. more employment opportunities.	Number of commissioned contracts achieving social value
More children, young people and families benefit from additional support to improve outcomes and access employment.	Increased Number of families achieving significant and sustained progress through the supporting families programme.

11. Delivery Plan

Looked After Children and Care Leaver Promise	Aspiration	Objective (What do we want to do)	Action Owner (Who will be responsible)	Timescale (When will it be done by)	Outcome Measure (How will we know when we have done it)
All Promises	All services take the Rotherham Family Approach - "would this be good enough for my child?" to ensure all Rotherham children and young people are "resilient, successful and safe", evidenced by Quality Assurance activity.	Promote the Rotherham Family Approach to commissioned services.	William Shaw	2023-2028	Quality Assurance Framework in place.
		Develop and deliver the Quality Assurance Framework to measure the use and impact of the Rotherham Family Approach with children and young people.	William Shaw	March 2023	
Promise 1 - We will help you to live in a safe place where you are protected from harm	Children and young people have access to a range of homes (internal and external options) that meet their needs and support them to achieve their potential.	Commission homes, interventions, and services that are high quality, compliant, regulated and deliver best value.	William Shaw	2023-2028	Reduction in the additionality of support within a child's placement (reduction in costs) Increased number of LAC in homes for children in Rotherham or within a 20-mile radius
		Transform the offer to Rotherham Council foster carers to ensure all children, young people and families receive the help they need	Rebecca Wall	December 2022	Increased number of approved in-house foster carers / homes for children Increased number of children living with an in-house foster carer
		Continued development and delivery of in-house residential children's homes, promoting residential care as an intervention not a destination	Rebecca Wall	March 2024	Increased % of children in a family-based setting (reg 24/38(6)/PWP) Increased % of our LAC who are in foster homes for children within a 20-mile radius
		Work collaboratively with external residential and fostering providers to	William Shaw	June 2023	Increased number of children / young people in in-house residential provision (at capacity)

		ensure all homes for children meet the required regulatory requirements and provide assurance of the quality outcomes delivered			Increased number of residential beds available in planned timescales A reduction in the number of LAC placed in out of authority residential provision Zero CYP in an unregistered / unregulated placement
		Ensure all homes for children meet the required regulatory requirements and provide assurance of the quality outcomes delivered by the Council.	Rebecca Wall	2023-2028	Stabilise the number of children who have had 3 homes for children or more in 12 months
		Contribute to the delivery of the foster carer recruitment programme in line with development within the Independent Review of Children's Social Care.	William Shaw	March 2023	An improvement in the timeliness of review Pathway Plans to support transition planning Increased number of young people supported through the House project
		Contribute to the delivery of collaborative approaches, frameworks, and bodies to manage the market effectively in line with development within the Independent Review of Children's Social Care.	Helen Sweatton	2023-2028	
Promise 8 - We will help you to be happy and healthy	Health, Education and Care Services share a joint understanding of the needs of children and young people in Rotherham and use this to inform commissioning and service delivery to ensure children and young people are able to access the support	Develop joint strategic needs analysis, commissioning processes and funding arrangements alongside partners.	Helen Sweatton	December 2023	Updated Joint Commissioning Strategy

	they need when they need it				
	Children and Young People and their families and carers can access CAMHs assessment and intervention when needed..	Develop a CAMHs pathway to improve access to assessment and intervention for looked after children.	Helen Sweaton	June 2023	LAC CAMHs pathway established.
Promise 9 - We will help you to explore and be ready for the world of work	Children, young people, families and carers benefit from additional social value in Rotherham e.g. more employment opportunities.	Enable social value principles and outcomes to be integrated into the whole commissioning cycle for services for children and young people.	William Shaw	2023-2028	Number of commissioned contracts achieving social value
Promise 1 - We will help you to live in a safe place where you are protected from harm	More Young People aged 10+ are able to be cared for safely in their families and communities.	Develop and Deliver the Early Help Strategy	David McWilliams	December 2022	Reduction in the number of LAC Increased number of diversions from care - edge of care - duty – locality Increased number of children re-unified with parents / family members (PWP)
		Increase capacity in Family Group Conferencing	David McWilliams	April 2023	
		Develop 'Wrap around' Edge of Care Services for families with young people aged 13+	Monica Green	January 2023	
Promise 9 - We will help you to explore and be ready for the world of work	More children, young people and families benefit from additional support to improve outcomes and access employment.	Expand the Supporting Families program.	David McWilliams	April 2023	Increased Number of families achieving significant and sustained progress through the supporting families' programme.

END

This page is intentionally left blank

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title

Title: LAC Sufficiency Strategy

Directorate: Children and Young People's Services

Service area: Looked After Children

**Lead person:
Helen Sweaton**

**Contact number:
07554436546**

Is this a:

☒

Strategy / Policy

☐

Service / Function

☐

Other

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy sets out how Rotherham Children and Young People's Services will fulfil its role as a Corporate Parent and meet its statutory sufficiency duty by providing good quality care, effective parenting and support to children and young people in and leaving care.

It describes the principles that are applied when seeking to commission the provision of secure, safe and appropriate accommodation and support, to children in care and care leavers over the next three years.

The Strategy provides the underpinning needs analysis that will inform market

management, seeking to ensure that there is the right mix of provision available to meet the needs of children and young people and that this provision mix provides positive outcomes and value for money.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	x	
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	x	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>	x	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>	x	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>	x	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>	x	
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

If you have answered **no** to **all** the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

As at 31 March 2022, there were 563 Looked After Children and 293 Care Experienced Young People.

- 90% of these children are in care as a result of abuse or neglect
- 10% are in care due to family dysfunction, absent parenting, the family being in acute stress, parental disability or illness, socially unacceptable behaviour or the child's disability or illness

29% (162) Looked After Children live in in-house fostering homes, 44% (246) live in independent fostering agency homes, 8% (46) live in residential homes and 2% (10) live in in-house residential homes.

See Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2023 - 24 for further demographic detail and information.

Rotherham's Looked After Children will have protected characteristics. All care planning will take account of the needs of the individual child and seek to match their needs with an appropriate placement. Issues around race, disability, maternity, belief, gender and sexual orientation are carefully considered in the referral matching process when deciding where looked after children and young people are placed.

The Looked After Children's Council meets regularly. The LAC Council have influenced the development of this strategy, the priorities and delivery plan.

Information regarding ethnicity, age, disability and SEN and gender will inform service development and commissioning intentions to secure homes for children that will best meet their individual needs.

Based on this information our priority areas over the next three years are to:

- More Young People aged 10+ are able to be cared for safely in their families and communities.
- Children and young people have access to a range of homes (internal and external options) that meet their needs and improve their outcomes.
- All services take the Rotherham Family Approach to ensure all Rotherham children and young people are "resilient, successful and safe", evidenced by Quality Assurance activity.

- Children and young people are able to access the support they need when they need it because Health, Education and Care Services share a joint understanding of the needs of children and young people in Rotherham and use this to inform commissioning and service delivery.
- Children and Young People and their families and carers are able to access CAMHs assessment and intervention when needed.
- Children, young people, families and carers benefit from additional social value in Rotherham e.g. more employment opportunities.
- More children, young people and families benefit from additional support to improve outcomes and access employment.

In addition to Looked After Children delivery of the Strategy may impact on other groups:

Rotherham has an existing community of Foster Carers. RMBC meet with this group regularly to ensure that their voice can inform future planning for new recruitment initiatives as well as support package that is available to Foster Carers. Becoming a Foster Carer provides an employment opportunity to Rotherham residents. All initiatives to recruit more Foster Carers should aim to increase the diversity of the Foster Carer profile across all protected characteristics; this will support children and young people to achieve positive outcomes as placements that are a good match will be available.

Rotherham currently works with a number of Independent Fostering Agencies and engages with this group via a Provider Forum.

Plans to open new residential provision within the borough may have an impact on the wider community. Robust arrangements to consult with the community will be considered as part of the commissioning process with new providers in the borough.

• **Key findings**

Looked after children are some of Rotherham's most vulnerable children. This proposal will seek to improve the health, social care and education outcomes and address inequalities for these children.

The updated LAC Sufficiency Strategy 2023 - 2027 sets out a clear need analysis that helps to support work to meet the needs of Looked After Children in the borough. The work will have a positive impact in terms of addressing the diversity of this cohort through a broader range of placement options.

Work to open new residential provision in the borough may be perceived negatively by local communities. Consultation and engagement work will need to be implemented carefully and sensitively. The Local Authority will maintain oversight of this through the commissioning process and ensure that Elected Members are included in the process.

• **Actions**

A range of approaches will be used to ensure that looked after children play a key part in delivery of the strategy. The LAC Council have been involved with the development of the strategy and influence decision making and delivery.

Frontline staff, partner agencies, foster carers and parents / carers have been and will

also be consulted and be able inform the development and implementation.

In summary, these are:

- To continue engagement with the Looked After Children's Council
- To continue to engage with Rotherham Foster Carers
- To continue to engage with the Independent Foster Carer Forum
- To ensure that consultation and engagement with the public is embedded in all plans to open new residential provision in the borough.

Further Equality Impact Analysis will be completed as required as part of the delivery associated with the Strategy.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	Completed
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	September 2022
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	William Shaw CYPS Head of Commissioning

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Helen Sweaton	Assistant Director Commissioning and Performance	Updated and agreed 19/08/22

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	25 August 2022
Report title and date	Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	17 October 2022
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement	25 August, 2022

This page is intentionally left blank

User guidance:

- The first section of this form guides users through considering major areas where emissions are likely to occur. If emissions are impacted in a way not covered by these categories, please identify this at the bottom of the section
- The first section should be filled as such:
 - **Impact:** identify, in relation to each area, whether the decision of the proposal does the following: *reduces emissions*, *increases emissions*, or has *no impact on emissions*. If it is uncertain this section can be labelled *impact unknown*
 - If **no impact on emissions** is identified: no further detail is needed for this area, but can be added if relevant (e.g. if efforts have been made to mitigate emissions in this area.)
 - **Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions:** two sections deal respectively with emissions from the Council (including those of contractors), and emissions across Rotherham as a whole. In both sections please explain any factors that are likely to reduce or increase emissions. If **impact unknown** has been selected, then identify the area of uncertainty and outline known variables that may affect impacts.
 - In most cases there is no need to quantify the emission impact of an area after outlining the factors that may reduce or increase emissions. In some cases, however, this may be desirable if factors can be reduced to a small number of known variables (e.g. if an emission impact is attached to a known or estimated quantity of fuel consumed).
 - **Describe any measures to mitigate emission impact:** regardless of the emission impact, in many cases steps should be taken in order to reduce mitigate all emissions associated with each area as far as possible; these steps can be outlined here (For example: if a proposal is likely to increase emissions but practices or materials have been adopted in order to reduce this overall impact, this would be described here).
 - **Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out:** in this section outline any steps taken to monitor emission levels, or steps taken to monitor the factors that are expected to increase or reduce emission levels (for example, if waste or transport levels are being monitored this would be described here)
- A **summary paragraph** outlining the likely overall impacts of the proposal/decision on emissions should then be completed - this is not required if the proposal/decision has no impact across all areas.
- The supporting information section should be filled as followed:
 - Author/completing officer
 - **Research, data, or information** may refer to datasets, background documents, literature, consultations, or other data-gathering exercise. These should also be added to the **supporting documents** section of the cabinet report

-
- Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports
 - Prior to publishing reports, Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to climate@rotherham.gov.uk for feedback
 - Report authors may also use the above email address to direct any further queries or to access further support regarding completing the assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	N/A				
Emissions from transport?	N/A				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Impact unknown	Potential increase in domestic refuse from the Council owned children's homes.	Potential increase in domestic waste if bringing additional children into Rotherham; unknown at this time.	Each home will have access to recycling bins.	
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Impact unknown	Potential increase in emissions from housing if bringing additional children into Rotherham; unknown at this time.		For new residential homes, any replacements required (e.g. heating) will be future-proofed for triple-A rating.	
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase in emissions	Emissions associated with renovating new residential homes.	Minimal increase relative to overall emissions from construction across Rotherham.		
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Impact unknown			Attempts will be made to maximise planting trees on any new residential homes; feasibility to be determined	

Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:
N/A

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy sets out how Rotherham Children and Young People's Services will fulfil its role as a Corporate Parent and meet its statutory sufficiency duty by providing good quality care, effective parenting and support to children and young people in and leaving care.

It describes the principles that are applied when seeking to commission the provision of secure, safe and appropriate accommodation and support, to children in care and care leavers over the next three years.

The Strategy provides the underpinning needs analysis that will inform market management, seeking to ensure that there is the right mix of provision available to meet the needs of children and young people and that this provision mix provides positive outcomes and value for money.

The development of residential settings is a priority within the strategy, this means there will be some low level impact in terms of car use for staff getting to the home/ their place of work and transporting children. There will also be an increase in refuse from the individual homes as they support children and staff potentially.

In order to monitor and mitigate the impact the distances travelled will be monitored and the settings will access electric vehicles.

Supporting information:

Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	William Shaw Head of CYPS Commissioning
---	--

Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	
---	--

If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
---	--

Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	
--	--

This page is intentionally left blank

Public Report with Exempt Appendices
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet - 17 October 2022

Report Title

Operational Delivery of LAC Sufficiency Strategy - New Residential Provision
Progress Report

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

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

Report Author(s)

Helen Sweaton Assistant Director Commissioning, Quality and Performance
Monica Green Assistant Director Children Social Care
William Shaw Head of Commissioning and Transformation Programmes

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides an update on the in-house children's residential development that was agreed at Cabinet on 17 February 2020. Previous progress updates have been reported to Cabinet in June 2020 and September 2021.

The children's residential development responds directly to Rotherham Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) strategic intention to reduce the number of external residential placements for our children and ensure more Rotherham looked after children (LAC) and young people are placed within Borough, close to their family and community networks.

The new provision, along with foster care, third party placements, semi-independent provisions, and other family-based placements, will provide a mixed economy of arrangements which will seek to effectively meet Rotherham's statutory duties, outlined in the Sufficiency Strategy 2019-2022

Recommendations

1. To approve the following changes to the children's residential development plan across phases one to three:

- a) Register one bed emergency accommodation children's home with flexible Statement of Purpose (SOP) to meet a variety of current and future sufficiency need.
- b) Change phase three from 2 x 4-bed homes to 4 x 2-bed homes to better meet current demand, improve occupancy rate and cost efficiency.

To agree to receive a further report regarding, a potential fourth phase of the children's residential development, which incorporates:

- c) A potential further 2 x 2-bed homes (Subject to Open Children's Homes DfE funding bid – Decision due Mid-October 22).
2. That the Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport be authorised to negotiate the remaining acquisitions required and complete necessary transactions, in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer, Strategic Director Children's and Young Peoples Services, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, and the Assistant Director of Legal Services.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Part A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Exempt Appendix

Appendix 3 Exempt - List of Homes and Addresses

Background Papers

Looked After Children's (LAC) Sufficiency Strategy 2020-22
Operational Delivery of LAC Sufficiency Strategy Cabinet Report 17th February 2020
Operational Delivery of LAC Sufficiency Strategy - New Residential Provision Progress Report June 2020
Operational Delivery of LAC Sufficiency Strategy - New Residential Provision Progress Report September 2021
Pathways to Care: Extensions and Adaptations to Homes of Foster Carers, Special Guardians and Adopters – (revised policy 2021) Cabinet Report 16 August 2021

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

Yes - Appendix 3 is exempt. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12A para1 this information is exempt as it relates to individuals and could identify where our Looked After Children are living.

Operational Delivery of LAC Sufficiency Strategy - New Residential Provision Progress Report

1. Background

1.1 The Cabinet report dated 17 February 2020 outlined Rotherham Children and Young People's Services strategic intention to reduce external residential placements and ensure more Rotherham looked after children and young people are placed within the Borough, close to their family and community networks. Cabinet approved three phases of the development to deliver 16 residential beds and 2 emergency beds across 7 registered settings. Previous progress updates have been reported to Cabinet in June 2020 and September 2021.

1.2 Phase One milestones agreed in the February 2020 Cabinet report were:

- A 4-bed home and 1-bed emergency accommodation (5 beds in total) to be operational by Autumn 2020.

Phase Two milestones agreed in the June 2020 Cabinet report were:

- Two x 2-bed homes and 1-bed emergency accommodation (5 beds in total) to be operational in March 2021.

Phase Three proposed milestones agreed in the September 2021 Cabinet report were:

- Two further 4-bed homes (8 beds in total) to be operational between October 2022 and 2023/24.

1.3 In September 2021 Cabinet also agreed a further report be presented in 12 months or on the submission of the Ofsted registration for the homes in phase three (whichever is sooner).

1.4 This report contains the 12 monthly update on the new residential provision as part of the operational delivery of the LAC sufficiency strategy.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Progress overview

The following has been achieved across the residential implementation programme:

Accommodation

- 3 new children's homes and 1 emergency home purchased or acquired.
- Children's homes adapted and fitted out to meet the specification informed by young people, Children's Social Care and Ofsted.
- Four home names chosen by children and young people – Pegasus, Beech Tree, Quarry House, and Phoenix.

Workforce

- Residential Operations Manager recruited supporting capacity to drive implementation and maintain high standards.
- 4 managers and 44 staff recruited.
- 25 months recruitment campaign including digital marketing campaign and advertisement through specialist Trade magazines, Community Care and Young People Now.
- 30 assessment centres held to support recruitment.
- 12 weeks of induction training provided to staff covering evidence based therapeutic interventions and approaches including Therapeutic Crisis Intervention, Signs of Safety and Rotherham Family Approach.

Registration and Regulation

- 3 homes successfully registered with Ofsted.
- 3 homes rated as Good by Ofsted, following inspection.

Placements

- The residential homes can support up to 8 children and young people and are currently caring for 6.
- The 8 beds have been utilised by 9 children since the settings opened.
- 2 children and young people have been supported to 'step down' from residential care into foster care settings.

2.2 Phase One progress update

Phase One Objectives 4-bed home and 1-bed emergency accommodation (5 beds in total)		
Target	Achieved	Next steps
4 bed home Autumn 2020 MET	4 bed home, (Pegasus), registered with Ofsted in July 2020. Full staff team recruited and operational in August 2020. In September 2021 the Statement of Purpose (SOP) of the home and staff team successfully transferred to Quarry House (as per Cabinet report September 2021 section 2.2). In October 2021 Pegasus re-opened and has since been staffed and utilised as a long-term 4-bed residential home.	Open Children's Homes (OCH) DfE funding providing additional therapeutic space. Work to be completed by 23 September 2022. Matching of a third child is due to take place over the next three months. A fourth child will then be introduced.

	<p>Changed SOP to long term residential (as per Cabinet report September 2021 section 2.2).</p> <p>2 beds utilised over this period by 5 children and young people.</p> <p>Ofsted inspection rated Good.</p> <p>Successful OCH DfE match funding bid was approved in November 2021 to provide an additional therapeutic space.</p>	
<p>1-bed emergency accommodation</p> <p>Autumn 2020</p> <p>Revised target Jan 2022</p> <p>BEHIND SCHEDULE</p>	<p>Implementation of 1-bed (Phoenix) delayed due to Ofsted registration challenges (as per Cabinet report September 2021 section 2.2).</p> <p>We have worked with Ofsted to overcome these challenges, and registration has now been submitted as a multi-site attached to Quarry House. This is the route recommended by Ofsted to register multiple settings under one leadership and management structure.</p> <p>This is not a change to the delivery model.</p>	<p>Registration submitted. Planned to be operational in Oct 22</p>

2.3 Phase one learning

The Cabinet report 'Operational Delivery of LAC Sufficiency Strategy - New Residential Provision Progress Report June 2020' and 'Operational Delivery of LAC Sufficiency Strategy - New Residential Provision Progress Report September 2021' outlines the learning in phase one. This continues to influence current and future delivery.

2.4 Phase Two progress update

Phase Two Objectives Phase Two 2 x 2-bed homes and 1-bed emergency accommodation (5 beds in total)		
Target	Achieved	Next steps
2-bed home March 2021 MET	2-bed home (Beech Tree) was registered with Ofsted March 2021. A full staff team has been recruited and became operational in April 2021. First child placed moved on, two children now in home. Ofsted inspection rated Good.	Complete
2-bed home March 2021 COMPLETE	The 2-bed home (Quarry House) was registered with Ofsted September 2021. Step down SOP transferred from Pegasus house (as per Cabinet report September 2021 section 2.2). Staff team operational from September 2021. 2 child residents from October 2021(as per Cabinet report September 2021 section 2.4). Ofsted inspection rated Good. Registration of 1-bed (Phoenix) as a multi-site attached to this home has been submitted to Ofsted. This is the Ofsted recommended route to register multiple settings under one leadership and management structure. This is not a change to the delivery model.	Complete
1- bed emergency accommodation	As agreed in September 2021 Cabinet report alternative HRA property or Council assets have continued to be explored.	This target has been re-profiled to Quarter four 2022/23.

Autumn 2020 Revised target Operational Quarter 2, 2022/23 BEHIND SCHEDULE	A suitable property has now been secured.	
---	---	--

2.5 Phase Two learning

The Cabinet report 'Operational Delivery of LAC Sufficiency Strategy - New Residential Provision Progress Report September 2021' outlines learning in phase two. This continues to influence current and future delivery.

2.6 Phase Three progress update

Work to complete phase two is taking place concurrently to implementing phase three.

- 2.7 Phase three objectives and requirements outlined in previous Cabinet papers involved the acquisition, registration, and operationalisation of 2 x 4 bed residential homes to provide an additional 8 beds for Rotherham children and young people.
- 2.8 Work began on phase three in September 2021 (as per Cabinet report recommendations September 2021).
- 2.9 Recruitment of the Residential Operations Manager and learning from phase one and two has positively influenced recruitment. Rotherham Council has developed a good reputation among residential workers and has successfully recruited and retained experienced and good quality staff to support and care for our children and young people. Recruitment continues to require significant capacity to attract, appoint, induct, and train our residential workforce.
- 2.10 Ofsted stipulate that a child should be 'matched' to any potential home. The best matches happen when a child's individual needs, as well as the skills and experience of carers and the other children in the home, are properly understood and align. Referral and matching of children and young people into multi-occupancy homes, particular large homes (4 bed) is complex, and needs to be managed carefully. This can result in the temporary underutilisation of the larger homes.
- 2.11 For a small number of children with specific high risk and vulnerability or need, larger group living is not appropriate. The availability of smaller or single placement group homes is limited, ultimately impacting on the unit cost.
- 2.12 In addition to referral and matching, having the appropriate space and configuration of the environment in the larger homes is critical to successful utilisation. Sourcing and agreeing properties that meet the specifications agreed by children social care for 4-bed homes has been difficult. Taking the requirements from Ofsted, availability of suitable 4-bed properties and the learning from previous phases on matching children

it is proposed that the phase three objectives are revised to the purchase of 4 x 2-bed homes.

Phase Three Objectives		
Phase Three 2 x 4-bed homes (8 beds in total) (as per Cabinet report September 2021 section 2.6).		
Target	Original Proposal	Next steps
4-bed Children's home Oct 2022 BEHIND SCHEDULE	Implementation plan with timescales developed (as per Cabinet report September 2021 section 2.6). A number of property purchases have fallen through due to challenges in the market, timescales to reach internal agreement and vendor anxiety to sell to Council.	Propose 2 x 2-bed home would better meet need and outcomes for children and young people with complex need, challenging behaviour and hard to place. Revised financial implications for 2 x 2-bed homes is detailed in section 6.
4-bed Children's home 2023/24	A property that delivers 4 beds for children to be purchased across the Borough utilising the agreed capital available. Property will be acquired to meet the specification agreed by children and young people, and the service, incorporating Ofsted requirements. It is proposed that the home will focus on complex need, challenging behaviour and hard to place children and young people.	Propose 2 x 2-bed homes would better meet need and outcomes for children and young people with complex need, challenging behaviour and hard to place. Revised financial implications for 2 x 2-bed homes is detailed in section 6.

Revised phase three objectives with timeline.

4 x 2-bed homes (8 beds in total)

Target	Achieved	Next steps
2-bed Children's home Quarter 1 2023/24		Identify property. Acquire/ purchase. Condition and adaptation work on building. Register with Ofsted. Recruit, induct and mobilise staff team.

2-bed Children's home Quarter 2 2023/24	.	Identify property. Acquire/ purchase. Condition and adaptation works on building. Register with Ofsted. Recruit, induct and mobilise staff team.
2-bed Children's home Quarter 2 2023/24		Identify property. Acquire/ purchase. Condition and adaptation work on building. Register with Ofsted. Recruit, induct and mobilise staff team.
2-bed Children's home Quarter 4 2023/24		Identify property Acquire/ purchase. Condition and adaptation work on building. Register with Ofsted. Recruit, induct and mobilise staff team .

2.13 Phase Four

Previous Cabinet papers identified objectives and requirements for the development of 16 beds in total to enable local, good quality homes for Rotherham children.

2.14 The Independent Review of Children's Social Care by Josh MacAlister in May 2022 highlighted significant pressures and challenges in the local and national sufficiency caused by an over saturated market, increased costs and increasing complexity of need, continuing to create an over-reliance on the external market at a high cost. The development of the OCH DfE Capital Fund is supporting Local Authorities to increase in-house provision.

2.15 Despite the existing plans for the development of 16 residential beds, the Council continues to be over-reliant on the external market at a high cost, both financially and to Rotherham's children who have to live away from Rotherham.

- 2.16 The OCH DfE Capital bid process provides an opportunity to secure 50% contribution to the capital cost to expand and develop additionality to the residential programme. The bid will propose an additional 4 beds across 2 x 2-bed homes.
- 2.17 DfE will announce successful applicants mid-October. The new proposal (which will increase the number of places to 20) would still generate budget savings of £926k as per the original proposal but will have an improved likelihood of success due to the matching and associated occupancy issues that were present with the currently approved four bed properties.

Phase Four Objectives (Subject to approval) Phase Four 2 x 2-bed homes (4 beds in total)		
Target	Achieved	Next steps
2-bed Children's home Quarter 1 2024/25		Identify property. Acquire/ purchase. Condition and adaptation works on building. Register with Ofsted. Recruit, induct and mobilise staff team.
2-bed Children's home Quarter 3 2024/25		Identify property. Acquire/ purchase. Condition and adaptation works on building. Register with Ofsted. Recruit, induct and mobilise staff team.

Learning

2.18 Market Management

- Nationally the number of looked after children has risen, since the pandemic. Demand for beds in privately run children's homes has increased. Recruitment and retention challenges in the care sector have impacted some private providers. This has created unprecedented market conditions and reduced the ability of commissioners to manage the market, resulting in more providers giving 'emergency' notice to end children's placements, fewer placements being available and higher costs

- There are significant pressures and challenges in the local and national sufficiency caused by an oversaturated market, rising costs and increasing complexity of need from looked after children. This has been highlighted in the recent Independent Review of Children's Social Care by Josh MacAlister in May 2022
- Locally, there is a need for residential children's homes, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to place with external providers due to the referral and matching challenges, a lack of provision and high costs
- Regionally, Local Authorities are implementing a move to 2 placement homes
- Increasingly, external providers are giving immediate or short-term notice, presenting a lack of opportunity to identify appropriate accommodation for our looked after children to transition to. Rotherham's internal placement capacity is growing as the residential offer develops, however emergency bridging placements have also been required. There is a cohort of children and young people requiring short term residential care, following an emergency breakdown at home. Whilst individual children stay within this emergency provision for a short term (usually less than 28 days) some children have stayed longer.

2.19 Workforce

- Recruitment to practitioner and manager posts is positive in a competitive market. Recruitment to a large and flexible casual pool of practitioners with the flexibility to meet staffing gaps and pressures, is a challenge.

2.20 Children and Young People

- Referral and matching of children and young people into multi-occupancy homes, particular large homes (4 bed), is complex, and needs to be managed carefully. This can result in the temporary under-utilisation of the larger homes.

2.21 Children's residential homes development

- Current and future profiling of sufficiency would suggest the need for more flexibility in the use of emergency accommodation and additional beds available locally. Varying our statement of purpose for the emergency accommodation would enable more flexibility to meet current and future sufficiency needs.
- Registration of the emergency accommodation with Ofsted was initially problematic as they requested a permanent staff team rather than the use of casual staff as planned, and increased management oversight. Registration of the emergency accommodation as a multi-site, linked to another children's home, supports our plan to have one registered manager overseeing multiple homes and links some permanent staff to the emergency accommodation. It is planned that when the emergency accommodation is in operation, the permanent and casual staff would work across both sites. This is the Ofsted recommended route to register multiple settings under one leadership and management structure.

- In addition to referral and matching, having the appropriate space and configuration of the environment in the larger homes is critical to successful utilisation. The Dinnington extension (secured through OCH DfE funding) will provide additional therapeutic space, making the environment more conducive.
- Sourcing and agreeing properties that meet the specification agreed by children social care, has been difficult. The completion of the due diligence necessary for briefing and seeking approval has created delays in submitting offers to a fast-moving property market. Clarity over the delegated authority to negotiate the property acquisitions would minimise any delays to implementation timescales.
- External market pressures, incorporating the rise in house prices, material, and contractor costs places pressure on our ability to deliver within the original Capital budget agreed in February 2020.
- Pathways to Care provides funding to Local Authority foster carers and adopters to extend their home, or to part fund new home purchases, where it is necessary to do so to meet the needs of looked after children. The Pathways to Care Policy provides a pathway to increase the physical capacity, through accommodation, of a carer to care for a looked after child or to enable a child to be permanently discharged from care. There is capital funding agreed to support the Pathways to Care Policy. The Policy was most recently reviewed and extended by Cabinet in August 2021.
- The Pathway to Care capital budget has been underspent during previous years as the programme has taken time to embed, creating a surplus of funding. Whilst reducing the surplus would reduce the Council's ability to carry out as many foster carer adaptations, it would provide a better use of this resource to support the residential development. Therefore, this is a potential option to use this surplus to support potential cost pressures on phase 3 and the potential phase 4.
- The OCH DfE Capital bid process provides an opportunity to expand and develop additionality to the residential programme. If approved, our bid will propose an additional 4 beds across 2 x 2-bed homes.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

Option 1

3.1 To approve the following changes to the children's residential development plan across phases one to three:

- a) Register one bed emergency accommodation children's home with flexible Statement of Purpose to meet a variety of current and future sufficiency need.

Increased demand for 'emergency accommodation' due to market management issues and changing needs of teenagers suggest a need for flexibility to ensure

our emergency accommodation meets current and future need. A flexible statement of purpose will ensure we have Ofsted endorsement.

- b) Change phase three from 2 x 4-bed homes to 4 x 2-bed homes

Taking the requirements from Ofsted, availability of suitable 4-bed properties and the learning from previous phases on matching children it is proposed that the phase three objectives are revised to the purchase of four x 2-bed homes.

- 3.2 To agree to receive a further report regarding, a potential fourth phase of the children's residential development, which incorporates:

- c) A potential further 2 x 2-bed homes (Subject to OCH DfE funding bid – Decision due Mid-October 22)

There are significant pressures and challenges in the local and national sufficiency caused by an oversaturated market, rising costs and increasing complexity of need of looked after children. This has been highlighted in the recent Independent Review of Children's Social Care by Josh MacAlister in May 2022.

Locally, there is a need for residential children's homes, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to place with external providers due to the referral and matching challenges, a lack of provision and high costs.

The submission of a funding bid presents the opportunity to secure 50% contribution to the Capital cost.

3.3 **Option 2**

Progress Phases One to Three in line with the original Cabinet approval in February 2020.

- 3.4 This option does not respond to the requirements from Ofsted, availability of suitable 4-bed properties and the learning from previous phases on matching children.
- 3.5 This option does not consider the increased demand for 'emergency accommodation' due to market management issues and changing needs of teenagers which suggests a need for flexibility to ensure our emergency accommodation meets current and future need.
- 3.6 This option does not reflect the recent Independent Review of Children's Social Care by Josh MacAlister in May 2022 highlighting current and future pressures and challenges in the local and national sufficiency caused by an oversaturated market, rising costs, and increasing complexity of need of looked after children.
- 3.7 This option does not support maximising funding opportunities through the submission of a funding bid to secure 50% contribution to the capital cost of further development.
- 3.8 Option 1 is the recommended option.

4. Consultation on Proposal

- 4.1 Engagement has taken place throughout implementation with the Lead Member for Children and Young People, CYPS Commissioning, Procurement, Housing, Regeneration & Environment, Adult Services, Fostering and LAC and consultation with children and young people.
- 4.2 A plan is in place, with guidance from Voice, Influence and Participation Lead, for the consultation and engagement of looked after children in the development and implementation of the proposal.
- 4.3 It is recognised that it is critically important that looked after children are effectively engaged and can inform and influence both the plans and implementation.
- 4.4 A communication plan is in place, which covers all key stakeholders including members of the public.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 A project group with task and finish workstreams, with representation from Asset Management, Housing, HR, Commissioning, LAC, Therapeutic Service, Finance, Communications and Performance drives the development and implementation.
- 5.2 Implementation progress, risks and actions are reported into the CYPS Transformation Board, via a LAC Programme Highlight report.
- 5.3 Additional challenge and oversight is provided to the implementation programme via regular reporting into Overview and Scrutiny Committee (as per Cabinet report September 2021 section 5.1).

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

REVENUE - Current Position Phases One to Three

- 6.1 The original budget (approved at Cabinet February 2020) for the delivery of the 16 in-house residential placements and 2 emergency placements was £3.2m, although the delivery of the programme was to be phased across 2020/21 to 2022/23. The delivery of these new homes would generate an estimated £0.8m p.a. of budget savings or £0.9m p.a. of total budget savings and cost avoidance.
- 6.2 Cabinet in September 2021 received an update on the programme including revised cost projections. This increased the required revenue budget for the in-house provision to £3.4m, with budget savings increasing to £0.9m p.a. or total savings and cost avoidance of £1m p.a. The increase in the Council's revenue costs and additional savings were both linked to inflationary impacts, the Council's cost rising due to inflation and market provider costs rising meaning greater savings were estimated. However, at this point the planned delivery of these savings and cost reductions were pushed back, with £365k savings not being delivered until 2023/24.
- 6.3 Phase three of the current plan was to deliver the final two 4-bed homes, bringing the total number of in-house residential placements to 16, these are in the current budget plan for 2023/24 at £693k p.a. per home to run. Due to issues with matching of children

and complexity of need and the success of the 2-bed properties in delivering the projected savings targets, options have been put forward to change the phase 3 proposal from 2 x 4-bed to 4 x 2-bed homes.

- 6.4 Based on these revised proposals the current position for phases one to three is that the revenue costs for these placements are now estimated to be £3.5m p.a. due to further inflationary pressures and will generate £0.8m p.a. budget savings. One of the reasons for the Council's inflated unit cost is the current number of solo placements (8) that CYPS are funding. The reason for solo placement is a mix of the lack of standard residential placements and the complexity of care. The current average unit cost of solo placements is £9,235 per week.
- 6.5 Based on current progress, the 2 bed properties have been a success, with those completed being fully occupied and delivering the projected savings. However, the 4 bed properties present a challenge, Due to under occupancy, since its opening the completed unit has been under the estimated 85% occupancy level, meaning that the projected savings aren't being delivered on this property type.
- 6.6 The impact of the challenges faced to date and the proposed change of the 2 x 4-bed properties becoming 4 x 2-bed properties is that the delivery of projected budget savings is delayed. The original February 2020 Cabinet report project that the £0.8m p.a. budget savings would be fully delivered by the end of 2022/23, however, based on the revised proposal, the projected savings will be full delivered by 2024/25. Whilst this is a delay, the revised plan is more achievable and is based on lessons learnt since the original Cabinet report.

Revenue Implications – New Proposals – Phases One to Three including potential phase Four

- 6.7 Through lessons learned from opening the 4-bed home and the current lack of provision on the external market for residential placements, a new phase four is proposed, that would deliver a further 2 x 2-bed properties, building on the success of the currently completed and active 2 bed properties.
- 6.8 Including this new potential phase 4, the total annual cost of 20 in-house residential and 2 emergency placements would be £4.3m p.a. requiring a budget redirection of £0.8m p.a. to provide for the extra phase four properties noting that the annual cost of 2 beds is more than the annual cost of 4 beds. This additional budget would be funded through re-direction from the external residential placements budget as a consequence of supporting 4 fewer external residential placements.
- 6.9 With the additional Phase 4 (a total of 20 placements) this would still generate budget savings of £0.9m p.a. as per the original proposal but will be more realistic to achieve due to matching and associated occupancy issues that were present with the current approved 4 bed properties.
- 6.10 The £0.9m p.a. budget saving is set against the £5,200 per week external residential budgeted unit cost and is factored into future budget savings. Additional cost avoidance would be achieved if current unit costs continue to rise above the budget value. The current average unit cost for external residential is £5,970 and the cost savings against this rate would be £1.5m p.a., an additional £0.6m p.a. of cost avoidance.

- 6.11 The revised proposal generates the same overall level of budget savings as the September 2021 Cabinet report; however, the complete delivery of these budget savings has been pushed back, with £76k of the final budget savings not being realised until 2025/26. This £76k would fall outside the savings plan approved within the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning.
- 6.12 Under the new proposal 6 x 2-bed homes would be developed. To allow for recruitment of sufficient staff 1 month prior to placement of a child, for induction and training, start-up costs are factored into budgeting. Start-up costs of £216k for the 6 x 2-bed properties (£18k per bed) would be required compared to £52k (£13k per bed) per 4-bed properties (as per Cabinet report September 2021 section 2.6).

CAPITAL - 2022/23 Current Capital Position – Phases One – Three

- 6.13 The original approved Capital allocation was £2m to deliver 5 residential and 2 emergency homes as part of phases one to three. After a successful bid to the DfE, an additional £46k was awarded as 50% match funding for an extension at Pegasus aimed at gaining capacity to place in the 4 bed. This brought the current capital allocation to up £2.046m with 4 homes operationally ready.
- 6.14 Set out below is the current budget and projections against the original plan:

Home	Capacity	Capital Allocation	Spend to Date	Additional Commitment	Balance
		£k	£k	£k	£k
Phase 1					
Pegasus	4 Bed	158	64	94	0
Phoenix Place	Emergency	19	19		0
Sub-Total Phase 1		177	83	94	0
Phase 2					
Beech Tree Lodge	2 bed	346	346		0
Quarry House	2 bed	361	361		0
Middle Lane		47	17	30	0
Emergency Home 2	Emergency	69		69	0
	ICT phase 1 & 2	20		20	0
Sub-Total Phase 2		843	724	119	0
Phase 3					
New - External purchase	4 Bed	654	0	654	0
New - External purchase	4 Bed	372	0	654	-282
Sub-Total Phase 3		1026	0	1308	-282
Total Capital Allocation		2046	807	1521	-282

- 6.15 Currently, the approved capital programme assumes the purchase of 2 x 4-bed homes in phase three, with a budget of £1.026m. The estimated cost to make the homes fit for purpose is £654k each. This places the programme forecast expenditure above the original budget allocation by £282k. This is due to increasing local market conditions related to the purchasing and adapting of properties to the standard required by Ofsted.
- 6.16 As such, if the Council was to continue with this option additional funding would need to be identified in order to complete the 4 bed properties. However, the revised proposal

put forward is to purchase 4 x 2-bed homes instead of the 2 x 4-bed properties, per the new proposals set out below.

Revised Capital Proposal

Phases One - Three

- 6.17 Under the new proposals the Phase Three, 4 bed homes are to be changed to 4 x 2-bed homes. This is to aid with matching of children to reduce the number of void placements. The move to 2 bed homes is also a trend being implemented by regional Local Authorities, for this same reason.
- 6.18 The proposed capital cost for 4 x 2-bed homes is £2.228m an additional capital cost of £920k when compared to the £1.308m required to open 2 x 4-bed homes. This cost is also £1.202m greater than the remaining capital budget of £1.026m available for phase three. However, given uncertainty in the housing markets at present it is planned that the remaining capital budget of £1.026m will be used to make progress with the acquisition of 4 x 2-bed homes, allowing the Council to gain greater clarity on the extra budget requirement before seeking additional external funding or Council resources. Any requirement for additional Council capital resources would need to be considered as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2023/24 and linked capital programme updated.

Phase Four

- 6.19 The final proposal under Phase Four is for a further 2 x 2-bed homes. A bid against the OCH DfE Children's Home programme for 50% match funding of the proposed 2 x 2-bed homes has been submitted. If the Council's bid is successful, a further request will be brought to Cabinet to seek approval for the Council to match fund the bid. The additional capital cost of this proposal would be £1.114m with £557k funded by the DfE subject to a successful capital bid and £557k additional capital from Council funds.

Summary Phases Three and Four

- 6.20 The additional £1.759m capital funding potentially required by RMBC is broken down as follows:
- £282k cost pressures due to current market prices (per original programme)
 - £920k to change proposal from 2 x 4-bed homes to 4 x 2-bed homes
 - £557k to create phase four, 2 x 4-bed homes
- 6.21 The total additional Council capital spend for phases three and four is therefore £2.316m (including the £557k potential DfE bid).
- 6.22 As stated in the body of the report, the Pathway to Care capital budget has been underspent during previous years as the programme has taken time to embed, creating a surplus of funding. At present the expectation is that the additional Council contribution will be taken from the Pathway to Care capital budget rather than seeking an increased Council contribution to the CYPS capital programme.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Sections 22A to 22D of the Children Act 1989 make provision for the accommodation and maintenance of a looked after child. They provide the framework within which decisions about the most appropriate way to accommodate and maintain the child must be considered. The duties and powers of local authorities to provide accommodation under sections 20 and 21 of the 1989 Act are not affected by these provisions.
- 7.2 Where accommodation is provided and there is an element of care being given, the provision must be registered and therefore regulated by Ofsted; this is irrespective of the length of the provision provided.
- 7.3 Section 63 of the Children Act 1989 states that 'no child shall be cared for and provided with accommodation in unregistered children's homes.' Where an unregistered children's care home provides care and accommodation to a child who need care , the person running the home commits an offence. It will be necessary for any provision to be registered.
- 7.4 For clarity, there is provision in law to place a child in an unregulated placement; this is usually where a child (aged over 16) needs support to live independently rather than needing full time care.
- 7.5 To reduce the risks of any legal challenge, the Council needs to ensure that it fully complies with all relevant legislation and properly consults in relation to any proposals set out in this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 In terms of recruitment to the roles it is advised that the open recruitment campaign to be reviewed on a regular basis.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Implications to vulnerable children and young people are covered within the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Equality Impact Assessment was completed and updated as part of the implementation.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 Carbon impact assessment has been completed.
- 11.2 All children's home will have electric cars to support the transport of children and young people placed at the home.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Education, Police and Health partners have been significantly involved in the implementation process and will continue to contribute to the effective delivery of the programme.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 This report relates to two key corporate risks for the Council – the risk of safeguarding failure and the risk of inspection failure in Children’s Services.
- 13.2 The proposal will help improve support for some of our most vulnerable young children and young people in the borough. In addition, this work should reduce the risk of inspection failure in children’s homes and help to improve the overall rating for services for looked after children.
- 13.3 Key operational risks include the risk of not be able to recruit the required qualified and experienced staff, timeliness of Ofsted registration and ability to identify and acquire properties that meet the specifications. All these risks, if realised could cause delay to the overall implementation timescales.

14. Accountable Officers

Helen Sweaton, Assistant Director Commissioning, Quality and Performance
 Monica Green, Assistant Director Children’s Social Care
 William Shaw Head of Commissioning & Transformation Programmes

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	03/10/2022
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	29/09/2022
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	29/09/2022

Report Authors:

Helen Sweaton, Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality
Helen.sweaton@rotherham.gov.uk

Monica Green, Assistant Director, Children’s Social Care
Monica.green@rotherham.gov.uk

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

This page is intentionally left blank

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title

Title: Operational Delivery of LAC Sufficiency Strategy - Proposals to Develop New Residential Provision

Directorate: Children and Young People's Services

Service area: Looked After Children

Lead person: William Shaw

Contact number: 07585 795 977

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☒

Service / Function

☐

Other

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

A proposal to develop a range of in-house residential provision including emergency accommodation for Rotherham looked after children.

The proposal provides an opportunity for Rotherham to invest in residential provision which will;

- Ensure more children and young people are placed in Rotherham close to their communities, families, friends and schools
- Deliver improved outcomes for looked after children
- Develop a service model that encourages step-down to family based placements.

- Provide a local response to the increasing demand for a range of residential placements
- Provide greater flexibility and control of provision
- Reduce placement costs and support the delivery of directorate savings

The in-house residential provision will include a total of 18 residential beds across 9 children's homes. This growth of provision will ensure Rotherham has a similar percentage of in house residential per total looked after children as other local authorities across the region. This will include

- 4-bed residential homes.
- 1-bed regulated and registered short term emergency accommodation homes.
- 2-bed family orientated longer term homes for children with complex needs.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	x	
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	x	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>	x	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>	x	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>	x	

Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>	x	
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

On December 31st 2019 there were 65 Looked after Children in residential placements. This equates to 10.50% of the total LAC population (619 children). Of the 65 children placed in a residential placement on 31st December 2019, 81.54% (53 children) were between the ages 11-16yrs. Of the 65 children placed in a residential placement 49 (75.38%) were placed over twenty miles away.

On 26 August 2021 there were 47 looked after children in residential placements. This equates to 8.2% of the total LAC population (570 children).

On 18 August 2022 there were 55 looked after children in residential placements. This equates to 9.9% of the total LAC population (553 children).

See Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2019-2022 for further demographic detail and information.

CYPS has a strategic intention to reduce out of borough residential placements by the development of in-house children homes, which will

- Ensure more children and young people are placed in Rotherham close to their communities, families, friends and schools
- Deliver improved outcomes for looked after children
- Develop a service model that encourages step-down to family-based placements.
- Provide a local response to the increasing demand for a range of residential placements
- Provide greater flexibility and control of provision

- Reduce placement costs and support the delivery of directorate savings

Issues around race, disability, maternity, belief, gender and sexual orientation will be carefully considered in the referral matching process when deciding where children and young people are placed in the new provision.

Children and young people with the protected characteristics above will be involved with the development of the new provision and services.

- **Key findings**

Looked after children are some of Rotherham's most vulnerable children. This proposal will seek to improve the health, social care and education outcomes and address inequalities for these children.

The proposal will bring Rotherham children back to Rotherham and ensure they are placed (where appropriate) close to their families, schools, friends and local communities.

Children being placed in Rotherham will enable them to access local services, help and support more easily.

The updated LAC Sufficiency Strategy 2022 - 2025 provides detailed information on the profile of looked after children in Rotherham. This information will inform the development and implementation of the proposal.

- **Actions**

A range of approaches will be used to ensure that looked after children play a key part in design, delivery and implementation of the proposal. The LAC Council have been involved with the implementation and influence decision making and development

Frontline staff, partner agencies, foster carers and parents / carers have been and will also be consulted and be able inform the development and implementation.

The proposal has and will involve the recruitment of a significant numbers of new staff for the residential provision. A range of diverse safer recruitment techniques will be used to ensure staff are recruited with the right skills, experience and values.

The development of in-house residential provision including emergency accommodation will ensure that Rotherham looked after children are cared for in a range of settings by consistent, trained and well supported staff.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	30.11.20
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	2.3.22
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	William Shaw CYPS Head of Commissioning

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Jenny Lingrell	Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance & Inclusion	23/1/20
Jackie Mould	Head of Performance, Intelligence and Improvement	23/1/20
Justin Harker Daniels	Assistant Director Commissioning and Performance	Updated and agreed 26/8/21
Helen Sweatton	Assistant Director Commissioning and Performance	Updated and agreed 19/08/22

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	18 th August 2022
Report title and date	Operational Delivery of LAC Sufficiency Strategy - Proposals to Develop New Residential Provision
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	18 th August, 2021

This page is intentionally left blank

User guidance:

- The first section of this form guides users through considering major areas where emissions are likely to occur. If emissions are impacted in a way not covered by these categories, please identify this at the bottom of the section
- The first section should be filled as such:
 - **Impact:** identify, in relation to each area, whether the decision of the proposal does the following: *reduces emissions*, *increases emissions*, or has *no impact on emissions*. If it is uncertain this section can be labelled *impact unknown*
 - If **no impact on emissions** is identified: no further detail is needed for this area, but can be added if relevant (e.g. if efforts have been made to mitigate emissions in this area.)
 - **Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions:** two sections deal respectively with emissions from the Council (including those of contractors), and emissions across Rotherham as a whole. In both sections please explain any factors that are likely to reduce or increase emissions. If **impact unknown** has been selected, then identify the area of uncertainty and outline known variables that may affect impacts.
 - In most cases there is no need to quantify the emission impact of an area after outlining the factors that may reduce or increase emissions. In some cases, however, this may be desirable if factors can be reduced to a small number of known variables (e.g. if an emission impact is attached to a known or estimated quantity of fuel consumed).
 - **Describe any measures to mitigate emission impact:** regardless of the emission impact, in many cases steps should be taken in order to reduce mitigate all emissions associated with each area as far as possible; these steps can be outlined here (For example: if a proposal is likely to increase emissions but practices or materials have been adopted in order to reduce this overall impact, this would be described here).
 - **Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out:** in this section outline any steps taken to monitor emission levels, or steps taken to monitor the factors that are expected to increase or reduce emission levels (for example, if waste or transport levels are being monitored this would be described here)
- A **summary paragraph** outlining the likely overall impacts of the proposal/decision on emissions should then be completed - this is not required if the proposal/decision has no impact across all areas.
- The supporting information section should be filled as followed:
 - Author/completing officer
 - **Research, data, or information** may refer to datasets, background documents, literature, consultations, or other data-gathering exercise. These should also be added to the **supporting documents** section of the cabinet report

-
- Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports
 - Prior to publishing reports, Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to climate@rotherham.gov.uk for feedback
 - Report authors may also use the above email address to direct any further queries or to access further support regarding completing the assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	No impact				
Emissions from transport?	Increase in emissions	Use of cars to transport children in placement to school and activities.	Use of cars to transport children in placement to school and activities. This increase will be minor in proportion to overall transport emissions across Rotherham.	Electric vehicles to be purchased for use at homes.	Collected by Fleet.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Impact unknown	Potential increase in domestic refuse from the Council owned children's homes.	Potential increase in domestic waste if bringing additional children into Rotherham; unknown at this time.	Each home will have access to recycling bins.	
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Impact unknown	Potential increase in emissions from housing if bringing additional children into Rotherham; unknown at this time.		Any replacements required (e.g. heating) will be future-proofed for triple-A rating.	
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase in emissions	Emissions associated with renovating the building.	Minimal increase relative to overall emissions from construction across Rotherham.		

Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Impact unknown			Attempts will be made to maximise planting trees on properties; feasibility to be determined	
Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields: N/A					

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The aim of the project is to bring children back into the Rotherham area, or to prevent them to moving out of area. The development of residential settings in Rotherham means there will be some low level impact in terms of car use for staff getting to the home/ their place of work and transporting children. There will also be an increase in refuse from the individual homes as they support children and staff potentially. In order to monitor and mitigate the impact the distances travelled will be monitored and the settings will access electric vehicles.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	William Shaw Head of CYPS Commissioning
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 17 October 2022

Report Title

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Special Education Needs and Disability Sufficiency (SEND) Phase 4

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

Yes

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.
nathan.heath@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

To seek approval to move forward with Phase 4 of the Rotherham Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) programme of activity:

Recommendations

1. That approval be granted for the proposal to create 10 additional SEND resource bases in mainstream education and thus creating a minimum of 100 additional SEND places across this phase of SEND sufficiency.
2. That approval be granted for the proposal to enhance both mainstream and specialist SEND accessibility, through targeted investment in schools to enhance their ability to meet a wider level of SEND needs within their individual education settings.
3. That the 2022/23 High Needs Capital Allocation be used to fund these proposals in line with Safety Valve Capital Application submitted to the DfE.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Part A Initial Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 2 Part B Equality Analysis Form
Appendix 3 Environment Impact Review

Background Papers

SEND Sufficiency Phase 3 Cabinet Report – November 2020

Safety Valve Cabinet report – April 2022

Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs - Safety Valve Agreement

Dedicated Schools Grant Management Template

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

N/A

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Special Education Needs and Disability Sufficiency (SEND) Phase 4

1. Background

- 1.1 In Rotherham 19.7% of pupils have a statutory plan of Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND) with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) or are receiving SEND support (previously school action and school action plus). This compares to an average of 17.4% across all English Metropolitan Boroughs. In order that the educational needs of children and young people in the borough with SEND can continue to be met, the Council has a responsibility to create a sufficiency of education provision to meet the needs of all pupils.
- 1.2 From 2018 onwards, Cabinet has approved three previous phases of SEND Sufficiency, each targeted at addressing incremental rises in SEND cohorts and creating or improving specialist education provision in order that Rotherham is best placed to have education provision within the Borough that meets the needs of all children, young people, and young adults with identified SEND needs.
 - In 2018, phase one of the Sufficiency Programme focused on increasing special school places in the Borough as indicated by the rapid growth in demand for all specialist provision. These plans led to increases in places at The Willows School (including post-16 provision), Kelford School and Abbey School.
 - The second phase of SEND Sufficiency focused on the need for more targeted provision for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and led to the development of new units at Wales High School, Wath Victoria Primary School, Brinsworth Academy and increased places at Milton School. There was also investment identified for post-16 provision at Thomas Rotherham College. As a consequence of this investment Rotherham has been better able to meet the needs of local children with autism and to place them in local schools.
 - Phase three created specialist provision for children and young people with Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) needs who were previously placed in Pupil Referral Units. Through the DfE Free School Presumption Process, Elements Academy opened in September 2022. This phase also looked at redeveloping an existing special school in the Borough through significant investment in rebuilding the upper part of Newman Special School which is no longer fit for the purpose of the current education delivery and will be complete in July 2023.
- 1.3 As part of the Rotherham involvement within the Department of Education (DfE) – Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) – High Needs Deficit – Safety Valve Agreement, the Council has worked closely with the DfE to share and develop our strategic planning in order that the sufficiency of SEND places in the Borough is aligned to a sustainable financial plan to support the DSG High

Needs budget moving to a balanced position across the lifespan of the Safety Valve Agreement.

- 1.4 In March 2022 following Cabinet approval, Rotherham entered into a Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE. As part of this agreement, additional SEND Capital of £4.32m was provided to Rotherham to support the development of SEND provision in the Borough and enact it's strategic plans as set out in the Safety Valve Agreement. This funding is in addition to the £3.16m High Needs Provision 2022-2023 capital allocations that are proportionally awarded to all local authorities. Within the Safety Valve negotiations between the Council and the DfE, the capital requirements needed to enact the Council's Safety Valve agreement were shared with the DfE and these plans sit within the Dedicated School Management Plan which is submitted to the Education Funding and Skills Agency (ESFA) and was scrutinised by DfE within Safety Valve negotiations.
- 1.5 The key strategic aim set out within the Safety Valve Agreement is to enhance mainstream SEND capacity to meet a wider level of need across all schools and mitigate the need for children, young people, and young adults to be educated in settings outside the Borough and promote inclusive practice. Specialist SEND education provision placement for children and young people in Independent Special Schools outside Rotherham has a higher cost base and consistently does not provide stronger educational outcomes.
- 1.6 The proposed focus of SEND Sufficiency phase 4 is to work closely with schools within the Borough and the DfE to create 10 additional SEND resource bases within mainstream education settings which would create a minimum of 100 additional SEND places over the next 3 academic years.
- 1.7 The proposed profile of provision informed by current SEND needs and provision mapping would be to create the following:
 - 2 Primary phase Social Emotional Mental Health resource base provisions – 20 places in total.
 - 2 Secondary phase Social Emotional Mental Health resource base provisions – 20 places in total.
 - 2 Primary phase Communication and interaction resource base provisions -20 places in total.
 - 2 Secondary phase Communication and interaction resource base provisions -20 places in total.
 - 2 Secondary Moderate Learning Difficulty resource base provisions - 20 places in total.
 - Total minimum places – 100 places.
- 1.8 The second proposed aspect of SEND sufficiency phase 4, is to support School Access Issues (in both Mainstream Schools and Special Schools) creating two funding streams which would be accessible through application and assessment for schools to request capital investment to support the schools to meet a higher threshold of SEND need through adaption to existing buildings and allow a wider level of complexity of need to be met within individual settings.

- 1.9 The accessibility funding streams would create two funds of £375k per annum (total – £1.5m in each funding stream, £3m in total) across 4 years, one for special schools and one for mainstream settings. The proposal would allow schools to apply for capital investment to adapt buildings, classrooms, or other education buildings so that children with a higher threshold of SEND can be accommodated. All consideration for investment would seek capital contributions from schools and academies. The focus of this investment is to support our schools to be inclusive to a wider level of needs than they can currently accommodate and dissipate the need to place pupils outside the Borough in Independent Special Schools due to complex needs that cannot be currently met in our existing school stock.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Direct engagement with the school system including updates to Schools Forum, Secondary and Primary Head teacher's forum, has had substantial interest in this phase of SEND Sufficiency. The proposed model of supporting further development of mainstream SEND resource bases is favoured by the significant majority of local areas in supporting growth of SEND cohorts and supporting mainstream inclusion. All schools successful in developing a mainstream resource base would have to undertake a significant change to their designation and funding agreements, which would have to be approved by the DfE through the Regional Schools Commissioners Advisory Board.
- 2.2 All schools making applications to host a mainstream resource base will have to submit a detailed expression of interest which evidences the ability to deliver the SEND provision needed and provided provision against the recurrent High Needs funding provided per pupil. All provision will also have to achieve key performance indicators as agreed against funding agreements, this includes attendance, educational performance, and outcomes of a child or young person's education, health care plan.
- 2.3 A mapping exercise has been undertaken to examine the current spread of resource bases across the Borough and the capacity within the current school's estate to increase capacity to host resource bases.
- 2.4 This proposed phase of SEND Sufficiency will look to repurpose existing school buildings, refurbish blank school capacity, and build purpose built spaces in schools to create the 10 new resource bases. The capital requested for the proposed resource base aspect of this phase of SEND sufficiency is £3.3m.
- 2.5 Key stakeholders including parent and carers, finance, commissioning, health colleagues, and education professionals will support the final decision making for the schools chosen to host the new SEND resource bases.
- 2.6 There are currently no allocated capital funding streams held by the Council to manage accessibility issues in either mainstream settings or special schools, any request for significant adaption to buildings are considered against LA maintained schools capital allocations, School Growth Basic Need

Funding or High needs provision capital allocations which have a clear focus on creating additional pupil places and not physical adaptations to buildings.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 **Option 1:** Consideration has been given to not creating additional SEND resource base places and not investing in mainstream/special school accessibility. This option of doing nothing would place a significant financial risk on the Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Budget as those pupils with identified SEND needs would still need specialist education support or school buildings that need significant adaptations. Should this provision not be available in the Borough then education provision would need to be accessed outside of Rotherham.
- 3.2 Not investing in SEND provision through the proposed investment in SEND Resource bases and the Accessibility investment across mainstream/special schools, places a risk within the school's system in Rotherham that it would not be appropriately equipped to meet the demands of the incremental growth in SEND cohorts evident in the Borough. This would directly impact on outcomes for children, young people, and young adults with SEND.
- 3.3 **Option 2 (preferred option):** The proposal to create 10 additional SEND resource bases in mainstream education and thus creating a minimum of 100 additional SEND places across this phase of SEND sufficiency. This would enhance SEND provision in the Borough, supporting the delivery of the High Needs Safety Valve Agreement.
- 3.4 The proposal to enhance both mainstream and specialist SEND accessibility through targeted investment in schools to enhance their ability to meet a wider level of SEND needs within individual education settings. This would enhance the quality of SEND provision in the Borough and support educational outcomes for children and young people. The proposal would also mean that children can continue to have their needs met locally.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 All appropriate updates have been provided by RMBC ahead of this phase of SEND Sufficiency with key discussion the DfE, key updates have also been provided to Schools Forum, School leaders forums, and associated partners including SEND Partnership Board.
- 4.2 Further formal consultation would be undertaken with key stakeholders for all new resource bases that open at individual schools as part of DfE significant change applications and would lead to adaptations to academy funding agreements. This would be overseen by individual schools as part of their application to the DfE to host a SEND resource base provision.
- 4.3 As part of work that the Council undertakes as part of the wider SEND place based partnership, a series of listening events are held with Parent and Carers across key areas of development across SEND. Previous listening events have included development of the Social, Emotional, Mental Health

Free School, SEND Local Area Inspection, and Newman School development. Plans are in place for a listening event for SEND Sufficiency Phase 4, in order that parents and carers are fully involved in appropriate consultation and are able to support co-producing this phase of SEND Sufficiency in the Borough.

- 4.4 Ongoing updates linked to SEND Sufficiency and performance data are provided to Improving Lives Select Committee. This phase of SEND Sufficiency will also have oversight from Improving Lives Select Committee.

5. **Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 Expression of interest from schools to host a SEND resource based provision will take place across autumn term 2023, with a proposed rollout from Easter 2023 onwards, with current school sites that will be repurposed and needing less physical adaption opening in the first instance, followed by a staged approach across building projects.
- 5.2 Accessibility funding would be open for application from schools from January 2023, future years would take into consideration the outcome of key points of transition with applications for funding to correlate with start of each academic year.

6. **Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 The generic High Needs Capital allocation of £3.16m has been increased by £4.32m specifically to support delivery of the Safety Valve programme following a capital application to the DfE.
- 6.2 The SEND Phase 4 sufficiency proposals form part of the Safety Valve programme. As outlined in the report these works, if agreed, would cost £6.3m and be funded from the revised 2022/23 High Needs Capital allocation of £7.48m.
- 6.3 Should the proposals not be approved the Council will not deliver its commitments under the Safety Valve Programme and the revenue cost pressures within the DSG would increase further.

Capital

The two proposals are summarised as follows:

- 6.4 **Create 10 Additional Resource Centres** through use of existing school buildings, refurbish blank school capacity and build purpose-built spaces, with an estimated capital cost of £3.3 million.
- 6.5 **School Access Issues** for significant adaptation to buildings. A fund of £3 million over 4 years created and shared equally between Mainstream Schools (£375k per annum) and Special Schools (£375k per annum). All consideration for investment would seek capital contribution from schools and academies.

- 6.6 Re-purposing buildings and significant adaptations will ensure the borough is equipped to meet the demands of the gradual growth in SEND cohorts.

Revenue - Dedicated Schools Grant

- 6.7 Resource bases are funded from both the Schools Block and the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant at an average cost of £14k per place. Through the creation of this provision, it will reduce the need for special school places which cost on average £22k and the need for independent sector places which cost on average £65k per annum.
- 6.8 The introduction of resource bases will assist Rotherham SEND pupils to continue to access education in the borough with no need to access provision outside. Enhancing borough wide provision would avoid financial risk on the Dedicated School Grant. Set up costs of the resource units would be funded from the High Needs Block.
- 6.9 Where there is a need to secure third party organisations to deliver the works required to fulfil the recommendations detailed in this report, these will need to be procured in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty upon a local authority to secure sufficient schools to provide primary and secondary education in their area and they should have particular regard to securing special education provision.
- 7.2 Following the enactment of The Children and Families Act 2014, the Local Authority retains responsibility for commissioning services for children and young people with SEN or a disability. The Local Authority is required to keep the provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities under review, including its sufficiency (Section 315 of the Education Act 1996), and to promote wellbeing and improve quality, working in conjunction with parents, young people and providers. This Act and its associated guidance is clear that, when considering any re-organisation of provision, decision makers must be clear how they are satisfied that the proposed alternative arrangements will lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for children with SEN or a disability.
- 7.3 In order to minimise the risk of legal challenge, the Local Authority should ensure that it is fully compliant with all relevant legislation in this area and that it continues to satisfy its statutory duties through its decision making. Furthermore, the Council should also ensure that it continues to make decisions that satisfy the terms of the Safety Vale Agreement attached as appendix 1 to this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There is no direct HR implication within this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Additional Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) places created within the borough give more children and young people the opportunity to access high quality provision to meet their educational needs and in line with parental wishes.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Children and Young People with SEND are disproportionately represented across a range of education and inclusion measures. The SEND sufficiency phase 4 aims to provide specialist education provision that supports identified cohorts with SEND needs to have enhanced education opportunities and provide support in order that all children and young people have the strongest possible preparation for Adulthood.
- 10.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment is appendix 3 to this report.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 All areas of SEND Sufficiency, Student place planning and educational placements have a direct environmental impact, consideration of this element is informed in provision development and provision enhancement in the Borough due to the direct impact this will have to limiting students travelling outside the Borough. This would support reduced emissions of CO₂.
- 11.2 Wider consideration of indirect implications or unintended consequence of work in this area has on CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change is considered across all partners as the Council are committed to long term targets to mitigate these areas of concern in the Borough.
- 11.3 An environmental impact assessment has been completed and is appendix 5 to this report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Ongoing updates are provided to key stakeholders including Parent/carers forum, health leaders, school leaders, Schools Forum, and other associated stakeholders.
- 12.2 Development of specialist SEND provision in the Borough will enhance SEND practice for all SEND need types in the Borough and will support areas of focus to enhance SEND capacity across education system in Rotherham enhancing SEND provision in Rotherham schools.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Across all areas of this phase of SEND Sufficiency the council will adhere to guidance and advisory outline provided to Local Authorities by DfE in relation to significant changes or changes of designation for schools. Regular update meetings are held with DfE, and this will support forward planning across this phase of SEND Sufficiency.
- 13.2 Across all key decisions and internal processes, decision making has had oversight of SEND Sufficiency Board which involves all key internal parties including legal, assets, HR, procurement, transport, finance, commissioning, and education specialists.

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	03/10/2022
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	29/09/2022
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	29/09/2022

Report Author: Nathan Heath, Assistant Director, Education & Inclusion
nathan.heath@rotherham.gov.uk

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

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title

Title: SEND sufficiency phase 4

Directorate: CYPS

Service area: Education and Inclusion

Lead person: Nathan Heath

Contact number: 01709 254821

Is this a:

☒ **Strategy / Policy**
☐ **Service / Function**
☐ **Other**

If other, please specify:

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

To seek Cabinet approval to move forward with Phase 4 of the Rotherham Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) programme of activity.

Proposals are to:

Create 10 additional SEND resource bases in mainstream education and providing a minimum of 100 additional SEND places across this phase of SEND sufficiency and enhance both mainstream and specialist SEND accessibility, through targeted investment in schools to enhance their ability to meet a wider level of SEND needs within their individual education settings.

To enhance both mainstream and specialist SEND accessibility, through targeted

investment in schools to enhance their ability to meet a wider level of SEND needs within their individual education settings.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	X	
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	X	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>	X	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>	x	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		X

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

If you have answered **no** to **all** the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

(think about the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)

Equality and diversity has been considered at all key stages of the SEND sufficiency programme (SEND sufficiency 1, 2 and 3) and will continue to be considered across phase 4.

- **Key findings**

(think about any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)

In Rotherham 19.7% of pupils have a statutory plan of SEND (Education Health Care plan) or are receiving SEN support (previously school action and school action plus). This compares to an average of 17.4% across all English metropolitan boroughs. In order that the educational needs of children and young people in the borough with SEND can continue to be met, the council has a responsibility to create a sufficiency of education provision to meet the needs of all pupils.

The send sufficiency phase 4 programme will further enhance and support the statutory duty placed on the Local Authority to meet the needs of children with SEND needs in schools / settings.

- **Actions**

(think about how you will promote positive impact and remove/reduce negative impact)

Wide ranging consultation has taken place across SEND Sufficiency phases 1,2 and 3 and this work has informed and also highlighted the requirements for SEND sufficiency phase 4 programmes work to further enhance opportunities for pupils.

Schools / settings will be invited to bring forward proposals to the LA to meet the need for additional SEND places in the borough.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:

August 2022

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:

9.9.22

Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Nathan Heath Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion
---	--

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Nathan Heath	Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion	August - September 2022
Julie Day	Head of SEND	August - September 2022
Dean Fenton	Head of Access to Education	August - September 2022
SEND strategic board		August - September 2022

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	August - September 2022
Report title and date	SEND sufficiency phase 4
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Scheduled for Cabinet for October 2022
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	September 2022

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: SEND sufficiency phase 4	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 9.9.22	
Directorate: CYPS	Service area: Education and Inclusion
Lead Manager: Nathan Heath	Contact number:
Is this a: <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
<i>Nathan Heath</i>	<i>RMBC CYPS</i>	<i>Asst Director of Education and Inclusion</i>
<i>Dean Fenton</i>	<i>RMBC CYPS</i>	<i>Head of Access to Education</i>
<i>Julie Day</i>	<i>RMBC CYPS</i>	<i>Head of SEND/Inclusion</i>
<i>SEND Strategic Board</i>	<i>Multi Agency</i>	

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance
Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

To seek Cabinet approval to move forward with Phase 4 of the Rotherham Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) programme of activity:

To create 10 additional SEND resource bases in mainstream education creating a minimum of 100 additional SEND places across this phase of SEND sufficiency.

To enhance both mainstream and specialist SEND accessibility, through targeted investment in schools to enhance their ability to meet a wider level of SEND needs within their individual education settings.

What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)

As part of developing proposals for SEND sufficiency programmes phases 1,2 and 3 equalities impact assessments were completed in line with DfE requirements aligned to the free school presumption process for SEND phase 3 and in line with RMBC requirements for SEND sufficiency phases 1 and 2. The Equality impact assessments were appendix's to subsequent cabinet reports.

There has been wide reaching and ongoing consultation with stakeholders since the development of SEND sufficiency phase 1 proposals including:

Parents/carers
 Parents / carers Forum
 Community engagement
 Schools
 Pupil Referral Units
 Elected Members
 DfE
 Ofsted
 Staff

<p>Stakeholder consultation at all stages of the process across the 3 previous phases of SEND sufficiency and ongoing work has supported the development of proposals for SEND sufficiency phase 4 requirements to continue to meet the needs of pupils with SEND needs.</p> <p>Regular reporting to SEND strategic board.</p> <p>Communications and engagement strategy.</p>	
<p>Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?</p> <p><i>None identified</i></p>	
<p>What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?</p> <p>A multi – agency SEND Strategic Board retains oversight of proposals, implementation and impact.</p>	
<p>Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p>	<p><i>There has been ongoing engagement across SEND Sufficiency phases 1,2 and 3 which has continued to develop proposals for phase 4 with continuous sessions with stakeholders such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sponsors / schools</i> <i>Staff</i> <i>Elected members</i> <i>Local residents</i> <i>Parent/carer forum</i> <i>Parents/children who will be attending the schools / settings</i> <i>Neighbouring schools across the authority</i> <i>Wider community engagement</i> <i>Transport</i> <i>Ofsted</i> <i>DfE</i> <i>Schools Forum</i> <i>Education Consultative Committee</i> <i>Rotherham Education Strategic Partnership</i> <p><i>The ongoing engagement has been used as part of the process to bring about the proposals for SEND Sufficiency phase 4 developments</i></p>
<p>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p>	<p><i>Staff in both the LA and schools/settings have been involved (as above) and where necessary / appropriate this has also included involvement from wider staffing including RMBC HR, legal, Finance, Asset Management, planning and RMBC Education and Inclusion</i></p>

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

In Rotherham 19.7% of pupils have a statutory plan of SEND (Education Health Care plan) or are receiving SEN support (previously school action and school action plus). This compares to an average of 17.4% across all English metropolitan boroughs. In order that the educational needs of children and young people in the borough with SEND can continue to be met, the council has a statutory responsibility to create a sufficiency of education provision to meet the needs of all pupils.

The work to create new education places across the previous SEND sufficiency programme phases 1,2 and 3 and proposals for phase 4 support the LA's statutory duty to meeting the needs of pupils impacted.

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?

No – places created under the SEND sufficiency strategy are for pupils with identified SEND needs. The SEND sufficiency strategy aims to create additional local places to support pupil needs.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?

Yes – the SEND sufficiency programme creates more specialist provision meaning children who will attend are able to access specialist provision in borough in line with their needs.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

As part of the ongoing SEND sufficiency strategy work, wider community consultation and parent/carer representation is sought when developing sufficiency plans. The SEND sufficiency strategy and phase 1, 2 and 3 programmes to create additional capacity have been received and supported positively as they create resources for children with specific needs within borough. The ongoing work has helped to identify the additional capacity required to further enhance this work in SEND sufficiency phase 4.

There has been ongoing consultation with all stakeholders since the commencement of SEND Sufficiency phase 1 to ensure any concerns have been addressed in advance of development and implementation of the previous phases. This work will continue across SEND sufficiency phase 4.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

Title of analysis: Establishment of Elements Academy
Directorate and service area: <i>Children and Young People's Services – Education and Inclusion</i>
Lead Manager: Nathan Heath
Summary of findings:
<i>The opening of the new Elements Academy seeks to provide permanent school places aligned to the needs of the children who will be attending and in line with Education, Health and Care Plans. Places allocated at the school are via statutory EHCP process. Wide reaching consultation has not raised any issues or concerns.</i>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
<p>The proposed profile of provision informed by current SEND needs and provision mapping would be to create the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Primary phase Social Emotional Mental Health resource base provisions – 20 places in total • 2 Secondary phase Social Emotional Mental Health resource base provisions – 20 places in total • 2 Primary phase Communication and interaction resource base provisions - 20 places in total 	A, D, S, GR, RE,	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Secondary phase Communication and interaction resource base provisions -20 places in total • 2 Secondary Moderate Learning Difficulty resource base provisions -20 places in total <p>Total minimum places – 100 places</p>		
The second proposed aspect of SEND sufficiency phase 4, is to support School Access Issues (in both Mainstream Schools and Special Schools) creating two funding streams which would be accessible through application and assessment for schools to request capital investment to support the schools to meet a higher threshold of SEND need through adaption to existing buildings and allow a wider level of complexity of need to be met within individual settings.		

***A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

6. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.		
Name	Job title	Date
Nathan Heath	Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion	9.9.22
CYPS DLT		

Cllr Victoria Cusworth	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	
------------------------	--	--

7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this Equality Analysis relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date Equality Analysis completed	9.9.22
Report title and date	<i>SEND Sufficiency Stge 4</i>
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	

Appendix 3 – SEND Sufficiency phase 4

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	No change	Emissions will remain at similar levels to current across the borough. The proposed new SEND resources will be a mixture of repurposed existing space in existing school buildings and small extensions to existing buildings.	Emissions overall will remain at similar levels as the pupils will remain in Rotherham.	Adaptations to existing buildings / extensions to existing buildings to create the additional SEND capacity across the borough will be completed to current building code and overseen by asset management service.	Monitoring of transitions of pupils will be facilitated and monitored via EHCP process / SEND protocols. The local governing bodies will also hold oversight of the establishment and running of the new provisions.
Emissions from transport?	Impact unknown	There may be some variations to journey travel for children with SEND to enable them to attend the new provisions. Some journey's may increase and others decrease. Transport journeys will be evaluated by RMBC Corporate Transport Unit and EHCP team.	Pupils travel to school in line with their EHCP / travel to school plan. Any changes to school placement are determined via the EHCP process / placement in a SEND resource and transport implications considered at that point.	Mitigating measures are considered via the individual pupils travel to school plan and monitored by the Transport team.	Transport to school arrangements are kept under review by the Corporate Transport Unit. Ongoing monitoring / assessment by Transport Unit.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	No change	There will be no change in the overall amount of waste generated by schools overall compared to present.	Waste levels across the borough will remain at similar levels to present.	Schools have a waste management process	Impact will be monitored by the school governing body and LA.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Emissions from construction and/or development?	Impact unknown	The proposed new SEND resources will be a combination of refurbished existing school space and small school expansions and designed to existing building code.	There will be some short term impact during development phase. This will be overseen by Asset Management Service.	Work will be planned and overseen by Asset Management Service.	Monitoring will be coordinated by Asset Management Service and Governing Bodies.
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	No change	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:

None

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

Transport implications of school transport arrangements are kept under review by Corporate Transport Unit.
Emissions overall will remain at similar levels.

Supporting information:

Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Dean Fenton Head of Access to Education, CYPS
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	

Public Report with Exempt Appendices
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 17 October 2022

Report Title

Fostering Fees and Allowances 2022

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

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

Report Author(s)

Monica Green, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care

Monica.green@rotherham.gov.uk

Helen Sweaton, Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality

Helen.sweaton@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report seeks to improve the care experience for children in Rotherham by ensuring that wherever possible they are looked after in a foster family environment. This means children can be cared for and stay connected, closer to their families, schools, communities, and services that know them best. In the spirit of this ambition, to retain existing Foster Carers and recruit new ones, the Council's Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) is seeking approval to revise and increase its 'offer' for Foster Carers regarding the fees and allowances that they receive.

In December 2021 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) agreed a target of 145 children to be living in fostering families by March 2022. As of June 2022, RMBC have 120 fostering families caring for 123 children. Between April 2021 and March 2022, 11 fostering families were recruited against a target of 24. In this period 34 fostering families ceased fostering for RMBC. Across England, the average loss in a year is 13% and these losses are anticipated nationally due to changes in circumstance, retirement, and achieving permanence for children. In Rotherham this would equate to 26, highlighting that the numbers of carers resigning or being deregistered is higher at 34. In Rotherham the majority of foster carers left due to changes in circumstance (age/retirement, changes in family, health, or achieving permanence / staying put for children). However, 6 of the fostering households who left RMBC in 2021 - 2022 highlighted that financial remuneration was not

commensurate to the role, with 3 leaving to go to an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) and a further 3 leaving the profession.

The continued pull from IFA's coupled with the current rises in cost of living means that foster carers are attracted to the enhanced fees paid by IFA's, especially if they are willing to support teenagers, step down from residential placements or larger sibling groups.

In order to make RMBC more competitive in the foster carer market, and encourage foster carers to join, stay and offer more children a family home, benchmarking activity has been completed. RMBC's Digital Marketing is provided by an independent marketing agency who regularly analyse the market. This benchmarking activity, described in full in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, highlighted that when compared to an IFA or other Local Authorities the RMBC offer is less competitive in relation to payments linked to mileage, third and subsequent placements and enhanced fees when supporting complex young people.

The service recognises that fostering could open a change in their career for professionals such as teachers and other public services. To achieve the aspirations to have more carers with this skill set, the council need to ensure the offer is commensurate to their salary, especially when they able to offer homes to sibling groups, teenagers or young people stepping down from residential care.

The proposals set out in this report identify how the Council's financial 'offer' for foster carers can be improved, which is key to retaining existing foster carers and increasing the numbers the Council has, to support older children or larger sibling groups. The plan to achieve this ensures an attractive financial package that benchmarks positively in the region.

Recommendations

That approval be given to make the following changes to improve the financial offer for Foster Carers to support retention and recruitment of Foster Carers:

1. To change the service model to provide a financial package for foster carers based on the needs of the child/ young person as well as the skills of the foster carer
2. To make the following changes to the fees and allowances that foster carers receive:
 - a) 100% of skills payment to be paid for all children placed
 - b) Increase to foster carer mileage rate from 40p per mile to align to employee rates, currently 45 pence per mile
 - c) Agreement to the revised Day Care payment
 - d) Uplift of the skills payments aligned to the annual inflationary uplift in the national fostering maintenance allowance
 - e) Agreement to the complex care payment allowance e.g., for Step down to Foster Care and Emergency Foster Care for Teenagers in crisis

- f) Agreement to the Enhanced payment allowance e.g., Children with complex behaviour and/ or health needs

List of Appendices Included

Exempt Appendix 1 - RMBC Benchmarking Fostering Fees, Allowances and Offer
Appendix 2 - Digital Recruitment Market Analysis
Appendix 3 – Current Fostering allowances
Appendix 4 – Proposed Fostering allowances
Appendix 5 – Analysis of Foster Carer Allowances
Appendix 6 – Transfer Protocol for foster carers
Appendix 7 – Equality Impact Assessment checklist
Appendix 8 – CO2 Assessment

Background Papers

Cabinet Paper Revised Foster Carer Fees and Allowances June 2019
LAC Sufficiency Strategy 2019 -2022

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

Yes or No? If yes, use text below.

Yes - Appendix 1 is exempt. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12A para1 this information is exempt as it relates to commercially sensitive information.

Fostering Fees and Allowances 2022

1. Background

- 1.1 One of the key priorities for Rotherham Council, and a key ambition as corporate parents, is to recruit, retain and grow the best inhouse foster carers locally. This links to the Council Plan theme: Every child able to fulfil their potential.
- 1.2 It is well understood that the needs of children and young people can only be met effectively if they live in an environment that provides a high quality of care and support. In general, this is achieved within a family home setting. Additionally, this is also the most cost-effective placement. It also follows that, wherever possible, children and young people should be placed within their own community which enables them to continue to have some consistency in their education and the maintenance of key relationships with the people and community who are important to them, thus promoting a strong sense of self, and connectivity, fundamental to ensuring they are resilient, successful, and safe.
- 1.3 As of the 31.5.22 Rotherham Council had 542 children in care. 79% of Rotherham's LAC population are in family-based settings, however more children are placed with foster families via an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) than with in-house foster carers. Rotherham has a shortage of all foster placements but particularly of placements for children requiring enhanced care, adolescents and for larger siblings' groups. There are too many children and young people placed out of borough or in residential placements because there are not enough local placements.
- 1.4 A review was undertaken in May 2022 including regional benchmarking exercise which has taken place led by the Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Quality. This included consultation with other Local Authorities within the Yorkshire region. The exercise and subsequent proposals highlighted options to enhance the current foster care offer. The current foster carer financial offer is included in Appendix 3, where an IFA carer transfers to RMBC the offer is described in Appendix 6.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The current financial offer for foster carers is made up of a foster carer skills payment (based on the skill level of the foster carer regardless to the needs of the child), a child age related allowance, a flat day care rate and mileage rate, all of which is demonstrated in Appendix 3.
- 2.2 Benchmarking activity, described in full in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, highlighted when compared to an IFA or other Local Authorities the RMBC offer is less competitive in relation to payments linked to mileage, third and subsequent placements and enhanced fees when supporting complex young people.

2.3 Foster Carer Skills Payment

Currently the RMBC skills payment is paid at 100% for the first and second placement then at 50% for 3rd and subsequent payments. Benchmarking identified a range between £50 and £102.10 for skill level 1 and 2, between £86.71 and £277.76 for skill level 3 and between £112.21 and £468.48 for skills level 4. The feedback from foster carers identified 3 existing fostering families who would consider extending their approval if the full skills payment was offered for a third child. Appendix 5 details analysis of foster carer allowances explains how the skills payments are allocated and includes regional benchmarking associated with skills payments and feedback from foster carers.

The proposed uplift position is to pay 100% of the skills payment for the 3rd plus child. This would be £100.00 at level 1, £125.00 at level 2, £175.00 at level 3 and £360.00 at level 4.

Currently 8 children are placed as a 3rd or 4th in-house fostering placement. Implementing this proposal would increase the cost of these placements by circa £87.50 per week per child. For the 8 children this equates to £36.4k per annum.

3 additional carers have been identified to date, who would be willing to take an additional child subject to the new payment offer. Against a standard IFA placement this would save £81k per annum for 3 placements.

2.4 Foster Carer Mileage

The current foster carer mileage rate is 40p per mile. Appendix 2 references mileage within the benchmarking exercise. Rotherham Council Employees received an increase in the mileage rate in April 21 to the HMRC tax free rate of 45p.

It is proposed an increase in the foster carers' mileage to align to employee rates, currently 45 pence per mile, this will bring Rotherham Council more in line with other Councils and agencies.

2.5 Day Care

The current day care rate paid across the board regardless of the age or need of the child/young person is £3.50 per hour.

Foster carer day care is often used to support placements and carers where there are emergencies, to support in house placement of large sibling groups and for when children have been excluded from school. Whilst several of RMBC's carers often support each other as part of the wider fostering community, there are times where day care support as a more formal offer to support a child at risk of placement breakdown.

Feedback from foster carers is that the current hourly day care rate is not comparable to other payments made to domiciliary /childcare settings which

provide care to children. For this reason, they are reluctant to offer to support, this is especially the case for older children. The proposal is to increase this payment to strengthen the formal support available.

Appendix 5, analysis of foster carer allowances concludes the RMBC rate is not competitive. Neighbouring Authorities and IFAs pay a day care rate based on the age of the child and skill level of the carer. The day rate is calculated by dividing the weekly basic rate and Skills rate by 7.

It is proposed RMBC implement the same payment rate.

Age 0-4	Level 1 - £32.32
Age 5 -10	Level 2 - £37.56
Age 11-15	Level 3 - £49.00
Age 16+	Level 4 - £80.91

A formal day care offer would be used to prevent placement breakdowns as part of a wider package of support.

2.6 **Complex Care Payment**

RMBC does not currently offer an increased payment to foster carers caring for children with more complex needs e.g., children who have previously been in residential care, teenagers in crisis requiring emergency care.

Appendix 5, analysis of foster carer allowances concludes some children who no longer need residential care are unable to 'step down' to foster care due to limited availability of foster carers. In addition, if an unplanned/emergency occurs which results in a teenager being unable to stay with their parents/carers, if no alternative can be found, they may have to be cared for in an unregistered emergency placement or may progress straight to residential care. This means teenagers requiring step-down and unplanned/ emergency care are not cared for in a family placement.

The use of unregulated placements are decisions that are made where there is clear evidence that the immediate risk to the child outweighs the risks of placing a child in an unregistered placement, this is always a last resort and is robustly supervised and overseen by a Social Work Service Manager.

A pilot step down to foster care offer has already delivered one successful step down and a second placement due to progress in September 2022.

The proposed payment package would involve a skills level 4 payment of £360 per week, a complex payment of £200 per week, and the child's age-related weekly allowance, giving a total cost of £790 per week. In comparison an emergency placement cost is on average £8,400 per week, and an external residential placement is on average £5,200 per week.

The fostering team aim to recruit one household to provide unplanned emergency care to teenagers in crisis in the 3rd and 4th period of current financial year and a further household in 2023/2024.

The service aim to grow an estimated 12 placements linked to step down over the next 12 months. These would be a mix of new carers and current carers who already foster for RMBC, as this offers a progression for carers beyond the current skills level 4.

This proposal may attract in house foster carers to offer teenage placements and increase the number of children placed inhouse, avoiding the costly use of an IFA at £59,000 per annum, or an external residential placement at £271,000 per annum, an inhouse step down package at a cost is £39,000 per annum. This would be a targeted area of focus to identify in-house or recruit new foster carers to consider this and is currently a gap in provision.

2.7 **Enhanced Payment**

RMBC does not currently offer an increased payment to foster carers caring for children with more complex needs e.g. children with complex behaviour or health needs.

Appendix 5 concludes an over-reliance on IFA carers for children with disabilities or complex health needs, teenagers on the edge of residential care, children who are assessed at high risk of Child Exploitation, children who potentially pose a risk of sexually harmful behaviour/sexualised behaviour or children with history of violent behaviour towards adults/carers.

The proposed payment package would involve a skills level 4 payment of £360 per week, a complex payment of £100 per week, and the child's age-related weekly allowance, giving a maximum total cost of £690 per week. In comparison an IFA placement is £1150.

The offer for foster carers would contribute to the aim within the 2022/23 fostering budget profile to reduce IFA placements. This is an ambitious target however the benefits for the child and the budget savings it will create both a positive impact.

3. **Options considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 **Option 1: (Recommended Option) That approval be given to the following changes to the Offer for Foster Carers to support retention and recruitment of Foster Carers to ensure more children are looked after in a family environment, including those with enhanced needs, adolescents and for larger sibling groups.**

1. Approval is requested to change the service model to provide a financial package for foster carers based on the needs of the child/ young person as well as the skills of the foster carer.
2. Approval is requested to make the following changes to the fees and allowances that foster carers receive:
 - a. 100% of skills payment to be paid for all children placed.

- b. Increase to foster carer mileage rate from 40p per mile to align to employee rates, currently 45 pence per mile.
- c. Agreement to the revised Day Care payment.
- d. Uplift of the skills payments aligned to the annual inflationary uplift in the national fostering maintenance allowance.
- e. Agreement to the complex care payment allowance e.g., for Step down to Foster Care and Emergency Foster Care for Teenagers in crisis.
- f. Agreement to the Enhanced payment allowance e.g., Children with complex behaviour and/ or health needs.

It is anticipated that implementing the above changes would support the retention and increase the placement capacity of current foster carers, in particular supporting RMBC to grow carers who are willing to care for the borough's most complex young people. In addition, the improved remuneration and fostering offer will attract and incentivise new foster carers to join the Council.

The complex needs and enhanced needs payments would support and encourage new or existing foster carers to provide care for a broader spectrum of children with more complex need. Rationale for the changes to the fees and allowances requested for each offer is included in section 2.

Financial implications for the changes to the fees and allowances requested for each offer is detailed in section 6.

3.2 **Option 2: Retain the existing Foster Carer Fees and Allowances.**

This would not incentivise new or existing foster carers to provide enhanced care and/ or increase the number of in-house foster carers available or help reduce the current reliance on independent fostering agencies and residential care.

3.3 **Option 1 is the recommended option.**

4. **Consultation on proposal**

4.1 In consultation and feedback with Foster Carers in their annual review, support meetings and exit interviews they told us about what made them stay with Rotherham; what the challenges were and how they saw the offer could be strengthened. The diversity of offer proposed in this report highlights that some foster cares want to offer more, but to do so they need to change their circumstances and while they are not solely motivated by finance, they are more likely to offer more, if the payments they receive more 'fairly' reflect the level of care they provide and their skillset and experience.

4.2 In addition, Supervising Social Workers, and the staff in the team around placements, have been consulted on what works. In relation to the Stepdown/ diversion from residential care offer the feedback has been positive. Being able

to offer a more enhanced and complex package of finance to reflect a young person's changing needs via an inhouse foster carer has been piloted as a positive success and the aim is to continue to grow this option in house. Despite agreeing with an IFA that they would support stepdown to foster care placements, they have struggled to deliver on this offer, despite having the agreement and flexibility of the pay framework in place.

- 4.3 Overall liaison with the service and foster carers highlights that the proposed change to fees and allowances would result in increased capacity.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Subject to approval, the revised payment structure will be introduced from 1st of November 2022.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The Fostering budget is a key element of the CYPS budget plan over the next three financial years, with a revised plan and profile set in September 21 to grow the number of children with in-house foster carers and reduce the number of children with Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA). The estimated profile to be achieved by the end of 2022/23 is set out in the table below:

Placement Type	2022/23		Movement	Current No.	Revised Gap
	01/04/22	31/03/23			
In-house Fostering	129	145	16	111	34
IFA	230	209	-21	250	-41
Total	359	354		361	

Whilst the service was rebased in September 21 with a reduced targeted growth of foster carers the number of in-house carers and available placements have continue to reduce. The benchmarking activity, described in full in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, highlighted that whilst in most areas the RMBC offer is competitive compared to other LA's, amendments to allowances are required in relation to payments linked to mileage, third and subsequent skills payments and enhanced fees when supporting complex young people.

The current budgeted annual unit cost of an in-house placement is £19.2k and £45.6k for an IFA, and it is therefore imperative that RMBC achieve the profile above, which is proposed to continue in future years.

The 2022/23 budget saving based on a phased reduction is £389k and the full year effect is £650k when using the planned 1 April 2022 placement numbers and moving to numbers planned at 31 March 2023 per the above table.

Placement Type	No's (Estimated 1/4/22)	Annual Cost (based on 1/4/22 estimated number)	22/23 Budget	22/23 Net Budget Savings	FYE Budget Savings
In-house Fostering	129	2,481,960	2,645,611	163,651	307,840
IFA	230	10,488,920	9,935,761	553,159	- 957,684
Total		12,970,880	12,581,372	389,508	- 649,844

It is imperative that the fees and allowances for in-house foster carers continue to be competitive to enable the growth in in-house foster care to be achieved over the next three years and associated reduction in IFA placements.

- 6.2 While the report identifies increases in payments and allowances the overall expectation is an invest to save model. **The initial cost of the proposals would be £45k linked to aligning existing carers to the revised fees and allowances policy.**

Further costs would only be incurred at the point of recruitment of an in-house carer to the specific placement type, though as outlined throughout the report, the additional cost to grow in house placements is much less than the cost of an IFA, which would reduce in number.

As part of the ongoing recruitment drive it is advised that the skills payments have an annual inflationary uplift from 2023/24 financial year, aligned to the percentage annual increases already in place for the national fostering maintenance allowances.

As set out in the proposals below costs would only be incurred at the point of recruitment of an in-house carer to the specific placement type. Funding of the proposals would be through the reduction of cost pressures on the IFA and emergency placements budgets and would further support delivery of the CYPS budget plan.

- 6.3 **Increase placement capacity by paying 100% for all children placed** – The budgeted cost of a standard IFA placement is £45.6k against a standard Rotherham Council offer of 19.2k per annum. This offer increases in house foster carer capacity and 3 carers have been identified to date subject to the new payment offer which against a standard IFA placement would save £81k per annum for 3 placements.

This offer would be extended to all current carers with 3+ children in place at an immediate cost of 36k.

- 6.4 **Increase foster care mileage in line with HMRC rates** –The increase proposed would be in line with Rotherham Council employees and HMRC rates and forms part of the Rotherham offer to carers the aim being to attract more in house carers and reduce the number of de-registrations per the 2022/23 budget plan. Cost impact is 9k per annum.

- 6.5 **Day care offer for foster carers** - day care is used for several reasons one of which is placement stability the aim being to keep a child in, in house foster care and not escalate to an IFA placement. For information the cost of placement breakdown from in house fostering to IFA care is circa £27k per annum per placement. No assumed cost reductions as this is about cost avoidance, preventing placement breakdown.

6.6 **Complex Care Payment**

Stepdown to Foster Care offer - Against an external IFA stepdown package of £73k per annum, the Rotherham Council offer at £39k would reduce costs by £34k per place per annum.

Emergency Foster Care for teenagers offer

Unregulated emergency support at a cost of £8,400 per week is one of the most expensive placements. Against the proposed in-house carer cost of up to £790 per week this would reduce cost pressures of £396k per annum against the emergency budget, where an emergency placement is avoided.

The aim of these carers is to provide short term support which would avoid the need for an emergency placement and enable the young person to transition back home.

- 6.7 **Enhanced Foster Care Payment** - to offer an enhanced financial package to Rotherham Council carers at £33k per annum against an enhanced IFA rate of £59k for 12 carers this would represent an annual net savings of £312k. (The service has estimated 12 placements being supported with an enhanced payment based on the levels of placement breakdowns linked to enhanced need and where a possible additional payment could have prevented this).

7. **Legal Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 The current proposals demonstrate that Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council has implemented a fair approach in that it has considered amounts paid by neighbouring local authorities, whilst also taking into account the recommended national minimum payments for allowances, to devise proposals which will assist in improving services and carrying out its statutory duties towards its looked after children.

8. **Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no specific HR implications identified in the report. However, benchmarking of neighbouring authorities has taken place to ensure that Rotherham Council remain competitive within the region.
- 8.2 The Mileage rate for employees was changed in April 2022 to reflect the HMRC current mileage rate, therefore by increasing to 45p would align to the HMRC and Rotherham Council policy.

9. **Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 The proposal seeks to attract additional foster carers and placements and

retain and grow current foster carers to increase the opportunity for all Rotherham children and young people to be placed within their own community. This will enable them to continue to have contact with the people and community of the most importance to them, promoting a strong sense of self, fundamental to resilience in later life.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 In supporting and caring for children who cannot safely live at home with their parents, there are requirements under equalities and human rights legislation, embedded into Care Planning Legislation that children should be cared for within local communities who can support their religious and cultural identity (Human Rights Articles 7 & 8). The proposals in this report seek to further grow and develop local Rotherham in-house foster carers, to ensure that the Council can offer children placements in their home community, increasing their sense of cultural identity. An equalities impact assessment is included as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 10.2 The proposed changes to fees and allowances have been developed following consultation with foster carers (at the Foster Carer Forum) and benchmarked against regional Local Authorities and private fostering providers. The overall implication in terms of enhanced skill level fees and diversifying the offer is felt by current Rotherham Council foster carers to be support to future recruitment and retention of foster carers.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 Placements at distance equate to children, families and staff having to travel further to see family, be at school and to ensure the Council deliver its corporate parenting duties. Therefore, any increase in having children placed with local inhouse foster carers, supports a reduction in travel and associated emissions. A carbon impact assessment is included as appendix 2 to this report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1. The proposals contained in this report aim to ensure more Rotherham looked after children can remain in local family-based placements. This may mean that initially there is additional demand on partners and their services, as needs have been met outside of the Rotherham area previously. However, the aim is for this to be steady growth incrementally implemented with partners, which ultimately supports more children to be placed within Rotherham, ensuring that the partners who know the children and their families support children within their communities and schools.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Any potential risks are mitigated by the developing approach to foster recruitment and the recruitment resource identified. The revised fees and allowances will support the drive to further attract, retain and develop Rotherham Council's in-house foster carers. This will then reduce the Council's dependency upon using Independent Fostering Agency placements (IFA's),

placing the Council in a stronger and more competitive position as a Local Authority Fostering Service.

14. Accountable Officers

Monica Green, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care
Rebecca Wall, Head of Service CIC

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	29/09/22
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	29/09/22

Report Author: Monica Green, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care
Monica.green@rotherham.gov.uk

Helen Sweatton, Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality
Helen.sweatton@rotherham.gov.uk

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

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Competitor analysis & VP

Competitors LAs - highlighted VPs

Rotherham	Doncaster	Barnsley
<p>"Be part of Rotherham Council's fostering family" "Rotherham families supporting Rotherham children"</p> <p>On average, our foster carers earn £442 per week 24/7 dedicated social worker and lots more support Comprehensive training and development opportunities</p> <p>14 days paid leave Skills to Foster training Over 80% of our foster carers would recommend fostering with Rotherham to their friends A community of fostering families Freebies and great discounts for fostering families</p>	<p>"We are proud to foster for Doncaster"</p> <p>Support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week Not for profit Fostering placements exclusively for Doncaster Council Proud to be local Excellent training opportunities Be part of a fostering family and the Doncaster Foster Carers Association</p>	<p>"Can you offer a loving home to a child" "Could you be the person we're looking for?"</p> <p>List of courses offered to foster carers Weekly and skills based payments Expert social worker A experienced foster carer mentor 24 hour help on the phone Free membership to the National Fostering Network Membership to the Association of Barnsley Foster Carers Access to services such as CAHMS</p>

Competitors LAs - highlighted VPs

Rotherham	Sheffield	Wakefield
<p>"Be part of Rotherham Council's fostering family" "Rotherham families supporting Rotherham children"</p> <p>On average, our foster carers earn £442 per week 24/7 dedicated social worker and lots more support Comprehensive training and development opportunities</p> <p>14 days paid leave Skills to Foster training Over 80% of our foster carers would recommend fostering with Rotherham to their friends A community of fostering families Freebies and great discounts for fostering families</p>	<p>"Foster Sheffield's Future" "Make a real difference to the life of a Sheffield child" "When you join our trusted team"</p> <p>Starting salary of £257 - £379 per week for level one carers Additional allowances including Payments for special occasions Mileage allowance Local training and support activities Your own social worker Foster carer mentors Psychological support services 24-hour support & support groups Online forum Social activities Recognition for your experience and commitment</p>	<p>"Be my career" "Improve the lives of children in the Wakefield district"</p> <p>Competitive financial package Comprehensive training package Personal support worker A range of benefits 100% not for profit Gain qualifications</p> <p>Payments: Weekly payment Skills based payment Holidays and special occasions Additional allowances</p>

Competitors IFAs - highlighted VPs

Rotherham	Compass Fostering	Orange Grove Foster Care
<p>"Be part of Rotherham Council's fostering family" "Rotherham families supporting Rotherham children"</p> <p>On average, our foster carers earn £442 per week 24/7 dedicated social worker and lots more support Comprehensive training and development opportunities</p> <p>14 days paid leave Skills to Foster training Over 80% of our foster carers would recommend fostering with Rotherham to their friends A community of fostering families Freebies and great discounts for fostering families</p>	<p>"Join a foster care agency which is big enough to support, small enough to care"</p> <p>Become part of a welcoming, supportive community of professionals 24/7 support from friendly local staff A generous regular fostering allowance Tax exclusions Friendly, local, supportive network Focus group meetings and National Carer Forums Planned days out FosterTalk membership Dedicated SSW</p>	<p>"Tailoring fostering to your family"</p> <p>Worked with foster parents of over 20 years Very personal approach A partnership of support Individual growth through training We nurture quality Generous financial package Regular placement opportunities Local relationships with national back up</p>

Competitors IFAs - highlighted VPs

Rotherham	NFG	Tact Fostering
<p>“Be part of Rotherham Council’s fostering family” “Rotherham families supporting Rotherham children”</p> <p>On average, our foster carers earn £442 per week 24/7 dedicated social worker and lots more support Comprehensive training and development opportunities</p> <p>14 days paid leave Skills to Foster training Over 80% of our foster carers would recommend fostering with Rotherham to their friends A community of fostering families Freebies and great discounts for fostering families</p>	<p>Fast track fostering application - could you be an approved foster carer within 2 months?</p> <p>National fostering expertise Local foster carer support Foster carer training, delivered locally</p> <p>Foster care pay in the region of £22,000 per year Bridging retainer payments Recommend us bonus</p> <p>High street downloads through the Hub Max Card discounts Fostering Network membership New Family Social membership West End shows discounts Foster carer ID card School tuition</p>	<p>The UK’s largest dedicated fostering charity Not for profit</p> <p>Provide a voice for young people Never pressure our carers to take a placement 24/7 foster carer support</p> <p>Generous fostering allowance Comprehensive training and development New education service Care leavers support</p> <p>Wide UK coverage Partners, not providers</p>

Competitors - Local Authority pay offer

Rotherham	Wakefield	Doncaster	Barnsley
<p>Fees headline: £442/week Retention fee: N/A Paid Annual Leave: Yes Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: Birthdays, special occasions, holiday grant Mileage: Yes Clothing Allowance: Yes Additional grants: Pocket money for LAC</p>	<p>Fees headline: £179-594/week Retention fee: N/A Paid Annual Leave: N/A Therapeutic team: N/A Holiday allowance: Birthdays, holidays and occasions Mileage: Yes Clothing Allowance: Initial Additional grants: Initial costs for school trips and health expenses</p>	<p>Fees headline: £463/week Retention fee: In exceptional circumstances Paid Annual Leave: N/A Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: N/A Mileage: Some travel expenses Clothing Allowance: N/A Additional grants: Settling in costs, school trips</p>	<p>Fees headline: £232-558/week Retention fee: N/A Paid Annual Leave: Yes Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: N/A Mileage: N/A Clothing Allowance: N/A Additional grants: N/A</p>

Competitors - Local Authority pay offer

Rotherham	Bradford	Leeds	Sheffield
<p>Fees headline: £442/week Retention fee: N/A Paid Annual Leave: Yes Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: Birthdays, special occasions, holiday grant Mileage: Yes Clothing Allowance: Yes Additional grants: Pocket money for LAC</p>	<p>Fees headline: £561/week Retention fee: 12 week between placements Paid Annual Leave: Yes Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: Birthdays, summer holidays and religious holidays Mileage: N/A Clothing Allowance: N/A Additional grants: Essential equipment inc. car seats</p>	<p>Fees headline: £142-470/week Retention fee: N/A Paid Annual Leave: Yes Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: Birthday, holidays and occasions Mileage: N/A Clothing Allowance: N/A Additional grants: School holidays</p>	<p>Fees headline: £257-£379/week Retention fee: N/A Paid Annual Leave: Yes Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: Birthdays, special occasions, annual holiday grant Mileage: Yes Clothing Allowance: Yes Additional grants: Specific to child's development</p>

Competitors - IFA pay offer

Rotherham	Capstone	NFA	Compass
<p>Fees headline: £442/week Retention fee: N/A Paid Annual Leave: Yes Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: Birthdays, special occasions, holiday grant Mileage: Yes Clothing Allowance: Yes Additional grants: Pocket money for LAC</p>	<p>Fees headline: £400/week Retention fee: N/A Paid Annual Leave: Yes Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: N/A Mileage: N/A Clothing Allowance: N/A Additional grants: Some tax benefits can be claimed</p>	<p>Fees headline: £400-600/week Retention fee: Yes Paid Annual Leave: Yes Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: N/A Mileage: N/A Clothing Allowance: N/A Additional grants: N/A</p>	<p>Fees headline: £370-460/week Retention fee: N/A Paid Annual Leave: Yes Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: N/A Mileage: N/A Clothing Allowance: N/A Additional grants: N/A</p>

Competitors - IFA pay offer

Rotherham

Fees headline: £442/week

Retention fee: N/A

Paid Annual Leave: Yes

Therapeutic team: Yes

Holiday allowance: Birthdays,
special occasions, holiday grant

Mileage: Yes

Clothing Allowance: Yes

Additional grants: Pocket
money for LAC

TACT

Fees headline: £367-521/week

Retention fee: N/A

Paid Annual Leave: Yes

Therapeutic team: N/A

Holiday allowance: Birthdays,
special occasions, annual
holiday grant

Mileage: During training

Clothing Allowance: N/A

Additional grants: **Playgroup,
dietary allowances, loss of
second carer income fee, long
service award, referral bonus**

FCA

Fees headline:

£346-385/week

Retention fee: N/A

Paid Annual Leave: Yes

Therapeutic team: Yes

Holiday allowance: N/A

Mileage: N/A

Clothing Allowance: N/A

Additional grants: N/A

Gaps in Universal offer

- Council Tax Exemption
- Retention and bridging fees
- Loyalty payments
- Referral offer/Bonus offer
- Opportunities to level up
- 16 weeks approvals
- Fast track

bright sparks

Thank you!

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 3: Fostering current fostering fees and allowances - 2022

Foster Carer Skills Payment – Per Week

	Child 1	Child 2	Subsequent placements
Skill level 1	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 50.00
Skill level 2	£ 125.00	£ 125.00	£ 62.50
Skill level 3	£ 175.00	£ 175.00	£ 87.50
Skill level 4	£ 360.00	£ 360.00	£180.00

Child Age related Allowance - Per Week

Age Band	RMBC Rates	Government Minimum Fostering Allowance
0-4 years	£ 141.00	£ 141.00
5-10 years	£ 156.00	£ 156.00
11-15 years	£ 189.37	£ 177.00
16+	£ 230.30	£ 207.00

Fostering day care rate:

All ages per hour £3.50

Fostering Mileage rate:

40 pence per mile

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 4: Proposed fostering fees and allowances – 2022 - 2024

Foster Carer Skills Payment – Per Week
(Subsequent placements now at same rate as
Child 1 and 2)

	Child 1	Child 2	Subsequent placements
Skill level 1	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
Skill level 2	£ 125.00	£ 125.00	£ 125.00
Skill level 3	£ 175.00	£ 175.00	£ 175.00
Skill level 4	£ 360.00	£ 360.00	£ 360.00

Child Age related Allowance - Per Week (No change)

Age Band	RMBC Rates	Government Minimum Fostering Allowance
0-4 years	£ 141.00	£ 141.00
5-10 years	£ 156.00	£ 156.00
11-15 years	£ 189.37	£ 177.00
16+	£ 230.30	£ 207.00

Independent Fostering Protocol

Allowance		Duration	
Complex placement (Skill Level 4 +£200 per week)	£560.00 + Age related allowances (see table above)	Up to 12 months, then reduces to enhanced payment	
Enhanced payment (Also continues to receive current skills payment and age related allowance)	£100.00	Reviewed every 6 months	

Fostering day care rate:

(Calculated at 1/7 basic rate + 1/7 of Skills rate)

1/7 of Basic Allowance Rate	1/7 of Skills
Age 0-4 = £18.04	Level 1 - £14.28
Age 5 -10 = £19.71	Level 2 - £17.85
Age 11-15 = £24.01	Level 3 - £25.00
Age 16+ = £29.46	Level 4 - £51.48

Fostering Mileage rate:

45 pence per mile (aligned to employee mileage rate).

Appendix 5

Analysis of Foster Carer Allowances**Skills Payment**

The current Skills Framework sets out a four level Payment For Skills (PFS).

The model has minimum entry requirements for new carers at each level (1 lowest, 4 highest) and also allows existing carers to progress up through the levels if they meet the Task, Skills, and Competencies (TSC) requirements. A weekly skills fee is paid to carers in addition to weekly maintenance allowance payments. Currently this skills payment is paid at 100% for the first and second placement then at 50% for 3rd and subsequent payments.

The current Rotherham Council skills framework agreed by Cabinet in 2019 means that carers who offer a home to more than two children receive a 50% reduction in their weekly skills payment for any additional child placed. The rationale for this is that prior to 2019 a skills payment was paid as a single payment to the foster carer assessed to have reached a level of expertise and ability, in the 2019 it was agreed that the weekly skills payment would be uplifted and paid for the first two children but would be “capped” for any subsequent children placed.

Feedback from foster carers and regional benchmarking has highlighted that RMBC could make a small adjustment to allowances linked to third and subsequent placement allowances and be able to increase the number of placements current foster carers offer.

The Council have benchmarked fostering allowances across the Yorkshire and Humber region, the benchmarking was completed across the region to demonstrate the variance.

Rotherham Current Skill level payment for 3rd plus child	Lowest regional Payment for 3rd plus child	Highest regional payment for 3rd plus child	Proposed RMBC Uplift Position for 3rd plus child
Skill level 1 £50	£50.00	£102.10	£100.00
Skill Level 2 £62.50	£61.21	£102.00	£125.00
Skill Level 3 £87.50	£86.71	£ 277.76	£175.00
Skill Level 4 £180	£112.21	468.48	£360.00

The service has already identified 3 fostering families who would consider extending their approval if the full skills payment was offered for a third child.

Currently 8 children are placed as a 3rd or 4th in-house fostering placement. Implementing this proposal would increase the cost of these placements by circa £87.50 per week per child (£36.4k per annum).

A 50% payment for a third placement decreases the likelihood of attracting established IFA foster carers to Rotherham.

Foster carer mileage

When Rotherham looked after children need transport, e.g., for family time with siblings/ birth parents it is best if this is provided by adults who they trust and know them well. Often foster carers transport the looked after children living with them to key appointments and education.

The current foster carer mileage rate is 40p per mile.

All Rotherham Council Employees received an increase in the mileage rate in April 21 to the HMRC tax free rate of 45p, but the increase was not applied to foster carers as they are not direct employees of Rotherham Council.

Day Care

Foster carer day care is often used to support placements and carers where there are emergencies, to support in house placement of large sibling groups and for when children have been excluded from school. Whilst several of our carers often support each other as part of the wider fostering community, there are times where day care support as a more formal offer to support a child at risk of placement breakdown.

Feedback from foster carers is that the current hourly day care rate is not comparable to other payments made to domiciliary /childcare settings which provide care to children. For this reason, they are reluctant to offer to support, this is especially the case for older children. The proposal is to increase this payment to strengthen the formal support available

The current day care rate paid across the board regardless of the age or need of the child/young person is £3.50 per hour.

Comparisons has been made with our neighbouring LA's and IFAs, our rates are not competitive. Both pay foster carers 1/7th of the basic and 1/7th skill payment to provide care and focused respite to children who are risk of placement breakdown or on the edge of care.

The proposal is we implement the same payment rate.
(Calculated at 1/7 basic rate + 1/7 of Skills rate)

Age 0-4 Level 1 - £32.32

Age 5 -10 Level 2 - £37.56

Age 11-15 Level 3 - £49.00

Age 16+ Level 4 - £80.91

A formal day care offer would be used to prevent placement breakdowns as part of a wider package of support.

Complex care payment

RMBC does not currently offer an increased payment to foster carers caring for children with more complex needs e.g., children who have previously been in residential care, Teenagers in crisis requiring emergency care

Step down to Foster Care

Some children's needs are initially met by residential care however for most children residential care will not be their forever home or long-term solution. Rotherham Council work hard to identify children who no longer need residential care to 'step down' to foster care. This means children are not out of a family setting for longer than necessary and the cost of care is less. Despite lengthy and focused work with IFA providers, the service has not been able to identify any IFA agency to support us with any successful or lasting stepdown arrangements.

This led the service to develop and pilot an RMBC Rotherham step down to foster care offer, which included bespoke support and additional allowances. To date we have had one successful step down and a second placement due to progress in September 2022.

The stepdown offer includes a competitive payment package; a skills level 4 payment of £360 per week and a complex need payment of £200 per week, for the first 12 months, reviewed every 3 months. This is accompanied by a support package delivered by the designated Supervising Social Worker for Step down, guided by the fostering mapping assessment and includes a bespoke training offer for foster carers.

The service would aim to grow an estimated 12 placements linked to step down over the next 12 months. These would be a mix of new carers and current carers who already foster for RMBC, as this offers a progression for carers beyond the current skills level 4.

This proposal may attract in house foster carers to offer teenage placements and increase the number of children placed inhouse, avoiding the costly use of an IFA at £72.5k per annum, or an external residential placement at £270.5k per annum , an inhouse step down package at a cost is £39k per annum. This would be a targeted area of focus to identify in-house or recruit new foster carers to consider this and is currently a gap in provision.

Emergency Foster Care for Teenagers

When an unplanned/ emergency occurs which results in a teenager being unable to stay with their parents/ carers, if no alternative can be found, they may have to be cared for in an unregistered emergency placement or may progress straight to residential care. This means teenagers requiring unplanned/ emergency care are not cared for in a family placement. The use of unregulated placement should not happen and is only used as a last resort, when working with a child or young person who is in crisis and their safety is at immediate risk., rigorous assessments and plans are developed. These are on balance decisions that are made where there is clear evidence that the immediate risk to the child outweighs the risks of placing a child in an unregistered placement and is always a last resort and is robustly supervised and overseen by a Social Work Service Manager.

The offer of support to foster carers for teenagers, delivered by the fostering service, would involve bespoke training to support foster carers to work with the young person, their family and other significant people to support reunification.

The payment package would involve a skills level 4 payment of £360 per week, a complex payment of £200 per week, and the child's age-related weekly allowance, giving a total cost of £750 per week. In comparison an emergency placement is £8,400 per week, and an external residential placement is £5,200 per week.

The fostering team aim to recruit one household in the 3rd and 4th period of current financial year and a further household in 20223/2024.

Enhanced payment - Foster Care

A small number of children with enhanced needs e.g., complex behaviour or health needs, which can place additional demands and pressures on carers, have to wait too long to find their forever family-based placement. If the only family-based placement available is with an IFA provider this can mean children have to move away from their family network, community, and school.

The criteria for an 'enhanced care' payment would be, teenagers on the edge of residential care, children with disabilities or complex health need, children who are assessed at high risk of CSE/ CCE, children/YP who potentially pose a risk of sexually harmful behaviour / sexualised behaviour or children/YP with history of violent behaviour towards adults/carers. These children are already linked with universal and more specialist services such as, health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health service and the Rotherham Therapeutic Team.

The weekly Out of Area/Residential panel would review the level of enhanced or complex payments as a minimum every 6 months, and it is anticipated that with support the presenting needs of the young person will reduce, and the additional enhanced/ complex payments would reduce.

An enhanced foster care offer for Rotherham Council Foster Carers would involve an enhanced carer payment, £33k per annum. For children with enhanced needs this would avoid the use of an IFA placement at £59k per annum.

The offer for foster carers would contribute to the aim within the 2022/23 fostering budget profile to reduce IFA placements. This is an ambitious target however the benefits for the child and the budget savings it will create both a positive impact.

This page is intentionally left blank

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Safeguarding, Children and Families

Protocol relating to Foster Carers who wish to transfer to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

This protocol comes into effect once the foster carers have notified their Fostering Service of their decision to transfer.

The protocol has been developed by the Local Authority taking into account:-

The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 and 2013.

The Children Act 1989 Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations, Volume 2, 2010 and 2015.

Embedded in the protocol is the National Minimum Standards 2011.

1. Underlying Principles.

- 1.1** Foster cares have a right to transfer to alternative fostering services and RMBC will uphold their rights in treating carers with respect and in processing their application in a fair and equitable manner which accords with the 2013 Regulations.
- 1.2** RMBC will take into consideration the views of a child in placement, their parents and associated agencies linked to the child's Care Plan.

2. Aim

- 2.1** RMBC's aim is to facilitate the smooth transition of foster carers to the Local Authority within a timely framework which ensures statutory compliance and affords the foster carers a transparent assessment.

3. Transition Process

- 3.1** At the point when a foster carer has reached the decision to transfer to RMBC, they should notify the relevant fostering service in writing.
- 3.2** Thereafter, RMBC will formally submit a written request to access the records relating to the foster carers assessment and approval subject to their prior consent.
- 3.3** If the foster carers refuse to give consent to access their records, the Agency needs to determine what 'records of concerns' they should share with RMBC.
- 3.4** If there are no issues of concern, then the foster carer's right to confidentiality is upheld.

- 3.5 The Fostering Service should grant access to the records within a period of 15 days, after receipt of the written notification.
- 3.6 RMBC will then commence a comprehensive re-assessment at Stage 1 and 2 of the procedure, whereby, they will obtain a creditable and accurate reference testimony relating to the foster carers history and level of competence with the previous Agency.
- 3.7 The primary responsibility to notify the child's placing authority/ authorities of the foster carers decision to transfer to RMBC rests with that individual fostering service.
- 3.8 A principle of good practice is for the foster carers to provide verbal notice to the child's or children's social worker. This will allow for a period of preparation and the invoking of the care planning, placement and Case Review Regulations by the child's/children's Independent Reviewing Officer.

4. Protocol Meeting

- 4.1 To be convened by the Recruitment Team Manager in consultation with the Agency.
- 4.2 Attendance requirements
Fostering Team Manager
Allocated Assessing Social Worker
Agency Supervising Social Worker
Agency Team Manager
RMBC LAC Social Worker
Foster Carers
- 4.3 The purpose of the meeting is to carefully map out each stage of the transfer and to ensure the foster carers are in agreement and fully informed.

5. Foster Panel

- 5.1 A foster carer cannot be approved by more than one fostering service at the same time.
- 5.2 Therefore, foster carers transferring to RMBC must ensure their approval has ended by their prior Agency before approval by RMBC.
- 5.3 Foster Panel and RMBC Agency Decision Maker will enter into close communication, to ensure a foster carer experiences a seamless transition from their prior Agency to becoming an approved RMBC foster carer.
- 5.4 RMBC Foster Panel and the Local Authority's Agency Decision Maker will enter into close communication to ensure foster carers experience a seamless transition from their prior Agency to becoming approved RMBC Foster Carers, in which there is no period of overlap in their Registration status.

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: Fostering Fees and Allowances	
Directorate: CYPS	Service area: Looked after Service
Lead person: Rebecca Wall Monica Green	Contact number: 01709 822588 07867338542
Is this a:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>This report seeks to improve the care experience for children in Rotherham by ensuring that wherever possible they are looked after in Rotherham in a foster family environment. This means children can be cared for and stay connected, closer to their families, schools, communities, and services that know them best. In the spirit of this ambition, to retain existing and recruit new Foster Carers, Rotherham CYPS is seeking approval to revise its 'offer' for Foster Carers in regard to the fees and allowances that they receive.</p>

Recruitment and retention of foster carers is a key priority within the Sufficiency Strategy 2019 -2022 and the updated 2023-2027 Strategy. As of the 31.5.22 Rotherham Council had 542 children in care. 79% of Rotherham's LAC population are in family-based settings, however more children are placed with foster families via an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) than with in-house foster carers.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		X
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		X
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		
The policy seeks to clarify and make transparent the fees and allowances trying to		

positively impact on the availability of foster carers for children looked after on a positive way

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

- **Key findings**

- **Actions**

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:

NA

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:

NA

Lead person for your Equality Analysis
(Include name and job title):

NA

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name

Job title

Date

Rebecca Wall

Head of Children in Care

03.08.22

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record

keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	10.2.21
Report title and date	Pathways to Care :Extensions and Adaptations to Homes of Foster Carers, Special Guardians and Adopters – (revised policy 2021
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	To progress to Cabinet on 22.3.21
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	11.2.21

User guidance:

- The first section of this form guides users through considering major areas where emissions are likely to occur. If emissions are impacted in a way not covered by these categories, please identify this at the bottom of the section
- The first section should be filled as such:
 - **Impact:** identify, in relation to each area, whether the decision of the proposal does the following *reduces emissions*, *increases emissions*, or has *no impact on emissions*. If it is uncertain this section can be labelled *impact unknown*
 - If **no impact on emissions** is identified: no further detail is needed for this area, but can be added if relevant (e.g. if efforts have been made to mitigate emissions in this area.)
 - **Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions:** two sections deal respectively with emissions from the Council (including those of contractors), and emissions across Rotherham as a whole. In both sections please explain any factors that are likely to reduce or increase emissions. If **impact unknown** has been selected, then identify the area of uncertainty and outline known variables that may affect impacts.
 - In most cases there is no need to quantify the emission impact of an area after outlining the factors that may reduce or increase emissions. In some cases, however, this may be desirable if factors can be reduced to a small number of known variables (e.g. if an emission impact is attached to a known or estimated quantity of fuel consumed).
 - **Describe any measures to mitigate emission impact:** regardless of the emission impact, in many cases steps should be taken in order to reduce mitigate all emissions associated with each area as far as possible; these steps can be outlined here (For example: if a proposal is likely to increase emissions but practices or materials have been adopted in order to reduce this overall impact, this would be described here).
 - **Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out:** in this section outline any steps taken to monitor emission levels, or steps taken to monitor the factors that are expected to increase or reduce emission levels (for example, if waste or transport levels are being monitored this would be described here)
- A **summary paragraph** outlining the likely overall impacts of the proposal/decision on emissions should then be completed - this is not required if the proposal/decision has no impact across all areas.
- The supporting information section should be filled as followed:
 - Author/completing officer
 - **Research, data, or information** may refer to datasets, background documents, literature, consultations, or other data-gathering exercise. These should also be added to the **supporting documents** section of the cabinet report

-
- Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports
 - Prior to publishing reports, Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to climate@rotherham.gov.uk for feedback
 - Report authors may also use the above email address to direct any further queries or to access further support regarding completing the assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	No impact				
Emissions from transport?	Decrease in emissions	Placing more children locally in Rotherham should reduce the of cars for staff who work for the council as SW's and IRO's are not required to drive to as many out of area placements from their office base	Will support a reduction in the transportation of children in placement to school and activities should reduce as children will not need to be transported from out of area to access their school or family time.	N/A	N/A
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	No Impact				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	No increased Impact				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	No impact				

Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	No impact				
Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields: N/A					

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The aim of the project is to bring children back into the Rotherham area, or to prevent them to moving out of area. Currently a number of our children are outside of Rotherham and some outside of the south Yorkshire area The growth of the inhouse foster carers in the Rotherham borough will mean that their will be a direct impact on reduce milage and care use for social workers and linked to children being transported to school or family time.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Rebecca wall Head of Children in Care
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form, please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	

This page is intentionally left blank

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 17 October 2022

Report Title

Rotherham Local Heritage List

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Jonathan Bell, Assistant Conservation Officer
01709 823811 or jon.bell@rotherham.gov.uk

Winsze Lam, Planning Policy Officer
01709 822874 or winsze.lam@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Local heritage lists identify locally valued heritage assets, nominated mainly by members of the public and local interest groups. Such a list includes heritage assets that are not nationally designated (for example, not listed buildings or scheduled monuments) but have local value and/or heritage interest. The Council does not currently have a process in place for establishing and maintaining a local heritage list. As such, local heritage listing is recommended to help identify heritage assets that would warrant consideration in the planning process.

South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS), as a joint service for the whole of South Yorkshire, has been awarded Government funding to lead on the establishment of a local heritage list for Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. In discussion with officers from the four authorities, and using guidance produced by Historic England, SYAS has proposed a local heritage listing process to be followed by each authority. The process will ensure that nominations received are appropriately assessed prior to inclusion onto the local heritage list. The outcome will give greater weight to the protection of locally valued heritage assets when making planning decisions.

The report sets out the proposed process for local heritage listing, including delegation to the Head of Planning and Building Control to allow for efficient and timely changes to the list.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet notes the production of a local heritage list for the whole of South Yorkshire in general and Rotherham in particular.
2. That, in order to compile the full Rotherham Local Heritage List, Cabinet approves the proposed process for local listing as set out in the report.
3. That Cabinet approves delegation to the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, to include, amend or delete heritage assets on the Rotherham Local Heritage List.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 South Yorkshire Local Heritage List – Assessment Criteria
Appendix 2 South Yorkshire Local Heritage List – Assessment Process Terms of Reference
Appendix 3 Equality Part A – Screening
Appendix 4 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

National Planning Policy Framework

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>

Rotherham Local Plan 2013-2028

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/planning-development/guide-local-plan/1>

Local heritage listing: Identifying and Conserving Local Heritage (Historic England)

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/local/local-designations/>

Local heritage list Campaign: Announcement of Successful Areas

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-heritage-list-campaign-call-for-expressions-of-interest/local-heritage-list-campaign-guidance>

South Yorkshire Local Heritage List website

<https://local-heritage-list.org.uk/south-yorkshire>

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

N/A

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Rotherham Local Heritage List

1. Background

- 1.1 Central Government and Historic England encourage local authorities to maintain local heritage lists that identify heritage assets (such as buildings, parks & gardens, archaeological sites etc.) that are valued by the local community. Such assets can then be better considered in the planning process when new development is proposed.
- 1.2 Although local listing provides no additional planning controls, local heritage list sites and buildings would be a material consideration when determining planning applications, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Paragraph 203 of the NPPF states:

“The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.”
- 1.3 In the Council’s adopted Local Plan, Policy SP 45 Locally Listed Buildings states:

“The Council will seek to ensure and encourage the preservation and enhancement of Locally Listed Buildings and will use its powers where possible to protect their significance, character and setting...”
- 1.4 Creating a local heritage list is a way for local councils and communities to identify and celebrate historic buildings that enrich and enliven their area. Local heritage lists sit within a continuum of measures for identifying and protecting heritage, which includes national designations such as listed buildings, scheduled monuments, and conservation areas.
- 1.5 The production of a local heritage list requires time, money and staff resources that have previously been unavailable, particularly since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, supported by Historic England, is running a campaign to encourage local heritage listing by providing funding to 22 areas to develop new or update existing lists.
- 1.6 South Yorkshire is one of the areas selected and the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS), as a joint service, is leading on the project for Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. This has given a window of opportunity to create a local heritage list for Rotherham using not only in-house expertise but also the greater resources of SYAS and the conservation officers of the adjoining local authorities.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 To allow local heritage listing to go ahead in Rotherham, a process needs to be established and adopted by the Council that should be sustainable in the long term. Following discussions with all four local authorities, a process that will ensure consistency in local listing across South Yorkshire is proposed and similar steps towards adoption are being taken by the other authorities. Adopting the proposed process will allow nominated local heritage assets to be assessed collectively and be included onto the South Yorkshire local heritage list even after the pilot project funding period ends.
- 2.2 The Historic England advice note on local heritage listing recommends a process to be followed by all local authorities. The suggested process adapted for South Yorkshire is as follows:
1. The use of seven standard selection criteria to select suitable heritage assets, weighted to reflect the distinct historic character of South Yorkshire (see Appendix 1).
 2. Seeking public nominations for heritage assets that could be suitable for inclusion via the dedicated website.
 3. Carrying out a public consultation (over a minimum of four weeks), once sufficient nominations have been received, seeking additional information on the nominated heritage assets. This consultation phase will also allow anyone with any objection to a possible local listing to respond.
 4. Holding an assessment panel meeting to consider public nominations received against the selection criteria.
 5. Taking the recommendations of the panel to the relevant South Yorkshire Head of Planning for approval.
- 2.3 To ensure the process continues to include the community, as well as conservation officers from the four South Yorkshire local authorities and SYAS officers, the panel can include members of relevant groups and societies. For example, Rotherham Civic Society, that has previously carried out valuable work of their own on local heritage list, has chosen to be a nominator.
- 2.4 The local heritage list identifies buildings that are not recognised by national statutory designations but have local value and heritage interest meriting consideration in planning decisions. Inclusion on a local heritage list delivers a sound, consistent and accountable way of identifying local heritage assets to support planning decisions and good strategic planning for the area and to the benefit of owners and developers wishing to understand local development opportunities and constraints.
- 2.5 In order to make the best use of resources, the South Yorkshire project focuses on undesignated heritage assets outside areas that already have a level of protection, eg Conservation Areas or Registered Parks and Gardens.

Similarly, where neighbourhood plans have established their own local heritage list, this project will only consider those types of heritage asset that were not considered for inclusion.

- 2.6 A further positive outcome of the project is the linkage with the South Yorkshire Historic Environment Record. The adoption of a new digital platform for the creation, enhancement and long-term maintenance of local heritage lists will support information flow into the record. This will help ensure that information can be stored about candidate assets that are not then added to a local heritage list, encouraging wider community engagement with the process as all information gathered will be seen to be of value.
- 2.7 Once a local heritage list for South Yorkshire is established, there will also be the issue of how best to protect those buildings and structures identified. At present, local listing does not affect the requirements for planning permission. Some buildings can be demolished without planning permission and local listing does not affect that, although an Article 4 Direction issued by the local planning authority can reinstate the requirement for planning permission for demolition of a locally listed buildings and sites. Central Government is considering amending the legislation in order to further protect local heritage list sites and buildings, although further details are awaited.
- 2.8 One of the additional purposes of the project is to identify and submit any local heritage listed sites and buildings that may be suitable for national listing. So far, several candidates for national listing have been identified both in South Yorkshire and Rotherham.
- 2.9 Local heritage lists can also be identified through the creation of neighbourhood plans. Most neighbourhood plans identify locally listed buildings and confirmation has been received from Historic England that these then become the definitive local heritage list for their particular town or parish.
- 2.10 In Rotherham, the Dinnington and Wickersley Neighbourhood Plans have been adopted as part of the Local Plan and the draft Maltby Neighbourhood Plan has completed its first round of public consultation. Officers work with town and parish councils preparing neighbourhood plans in order to bring some consistency on assessment criteria. This has been productive and worthwhile as the buildings identified will then feed into the South Yorkshire local heritage list.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Option 1: adopt the local heritage list process

Adopting the process will mean that, for the first time, Rotherham will have a process that allows a local heritage list to be compiled and maintained. This process will also ensure consistency across South Yorkshire.

- 3.2 As local heritage listing is essentially community-led, adopting the process will mean that everyone will be able to get involved with the heritage of their

area. Identifying local heritage assets ahead of development proposals will help identify concerns that should be considered through the planning process. This, in turn, will ensure the council is more aware of potential concerns at an early stage, helping guide development management decisions and pre-application advice.

3.3 Obtaining the relevant delegation to the Head of Planning and Building Control would allow local heritage listing to proceed in an efficient and timely manner.

3.4 **Option 2: decline to take forward the local heritage list process**

Although there is no statutory requirement for the Council to maintain a local heritage list, not doing so increases the risk that non-designated heritage assets of local significance are not being considered in the planning process. This increases the risk of local communities feeling their concerns about locally valued buildings are not taken into account.

3.5 With the financial support of Government available, adopting the process is a good opportunity to ensure consistent approach to local heritage listing by all the South Yorkshire local authorities. Not doing so would be a missed opportunity.

3.6 Option 1 is the recommended option.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 For local heritage listing to be successful, it relies on the involvement of local people. Communal value is a key consideration in the assessment of nominations. As such, engagement and consultation has been undertaken from the outset. At the expression of interest stage potential local stakeholders, such as local heritage and archaeological societies, were contacted to assess the level of support for the project. Once confirmation was received that the project was going ahead, these community groups have also been consulted on the approach and methodology.

4.2 Draft assessment criteria were circulated widely, and comments received were then used to fine tune the weighting of the criteria to be used. Information has also been disseminated publicly through the local heritage list website, news stories, social media, and online workshops to make residents aware of the initiative and to call for and encourage input.

4.3 It is intended that consultation will continue through these channels at key points, particularly to call for comments and additional information on potential candidates for local listing once sufficient nominations have been received. This public consultation phase is helpful as it will allow for any errors in supporting information to be identified.

4.4 Community input is also sought for the assessment process, with members of relevant local societies being invited to participate in the assessment panel.

- 4.5 Local people will, therefore, be key to both nominations and good decision making with regard to the local heritage list.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The pilot project is being delivered by SYAS as a regional planning partnership for South Yorkshire. SYAS report to a Joint Advisory Committee, made up of members of the four local authorities and key community groups on an assessment panel.
- 5.2 Because of the short-term nature of the project, it is proposed to establish a monitoring group of local authority partners that will meet monthly to ensure scrutiny of the project. As continuing consistency with new and reviewed listing proposals across South Yorkshire is essential, SYAS has approached the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, to establish if they could act as an umbrella for such a panel.
- 5.3 Subject to approval by Cabinet, officers in the Planning Service will be responsible for implementing the adopted process for the Rotherham Local Heritage List.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.
- 6.2 The production of a Local Heritage List including specifically the aspects for Rotherham including the relevant processes will be funded from existing approved budgets.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Agreement to the officers' recommendations in the report would assist in safeguarding local heritage assets in the community. Local heritage listed sites and buildings would be a material consideration when determining planning applications as set out at paragraph 203 of the National Planning Policy Framework 20 July 2021.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 The proposals do not have a direct impact on current staffing resources.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no direct implications arising from the report. The South Yorkshire local heritage list project presents an opportunity for young people to engage with their local environment and nominate buildings they feel should be valued and protected.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 The Rotherham Local Heritage List will help to deliver the policies set out in the Local Plan. Specifically, it will implement the commitment in Policy SP 45 Locally Listed Buildings to produce and maintain a local list.
- 10.2 The published Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA) that supported the preparation, examination and adoption of the Rotherham Local Plan provide a comprehensive Equalities Assessment of all the policies of the Local Plan.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 Local listing of sites and buildings, where it leads to their retention, can help to address the climate emergency by negating the need for demolition and new development, which are processes that use significant amounts of energy and result in emissions.
- 11.2 In the long term, it can be more difficult to achieve high levels of energy performance in older buildings than in new builds.
- 11.3 There are therefore potentially either positive or negative effects, and schemes will need to be assessed at the relevant Planning and Building Regulations application stage in terms of their compliance with the Council's policies.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Adoption of the recommended process will ensure consistency with the approach to local heritage listing by all the South Yorkshire local authorities.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The level of protection afforded by local heritage listing depends on how the local heritage list is prepared. The sounder the basis for the addition of an asset to the local heritage list, the greater the weight that can be given to preserving the significance of the asset. Publication of clear selection criteria that relate to the definition of significance in the National Planning Policy Framework to support the listings, is essential to achieving effective protection.
- 13.2 The absence of any particular asset from the published local heritage list does not necessarily mean that it has no heritage value. It might be the case that the asset is yet to be identified or does not currently meet the criteria for inclusion. A particular asset may only be identified when a planning application comes forward, in which case its significance can be assessed against the published selection criteria, and it may be treated as a non-designated heritage asset in the decision making process. It is good practice to regularly review and update the local heritage list, at which point any newly identified assets meeting the selection criteria can be added.

- 13.3 Discussions on the pilot project have concluded that any use of Article 4 Directions would be down to the discretion of individual planning authorities as it can be both time consuming and costly. It is not practical to issue a blanket Article 4 Direction for the whole list therefore this power will have to be used on a case by case basis reacting to perceived threats to retention of the asset, should these arise.
- 13.4 Both public and private interests are to be considered in the exercise of the Council's powers and duties. The Council must, therefore, carefully consider the balance to be struck between individual rights and the wider public interest in protecting heritage assets that have local special interest, which contribute to the character and local distinctiveness of the area.

14. **Accountable Officers**

Simon Moss, Assistant Director – Planning, Regeneration and Transport

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	03/10/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	29/09/22
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	29/09/22

*Report Authors: Jonathan Bell, Assistant Conservation Officer
01709 823811 or jon.bell@rotherham.gov.uk*

*Winsze Lam, Planning Policy Officer
01709 822874 or winsze.lam@rotherham.gov.uk*

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

This page is intentionally left blank

South Yorkshire Local Heritage List- Assessment Criteria

Asset type	Age	Rarity	Architectural & Artistic Interest	Archaeological Interest	Historic Interest incl. Social & Communal Value	Landmark Status	Group Value
<i>HE Criteria – see: Local Heritage Listing: Identifying and Conserving Local Heritage Historic England</i>	<i>The age of an asset may be an important criterion; the age range can be adjusted to take into account distinctive local characteristics or building traditions.</i>	<i>Appropriate for all assets, as judged against local characteristics.</i>	<i>The intrinsic design and aesthetic value of an asset relating to local and/or national styles, materials, construction and craft techniques, or any other distinctive characteristics.</i>	<i>An asset may provide evidence about past human activity in the locality, which may be in the form of buried remains, but may also be revealed in the structure of buildings or in a designed landscape, for instance.</i>	<i>An asset may have significant historical association of local or national note, including links to important local figures. Social and communal interest is a subset of historic interest with special value in local listing, e.g. adding to the ‘collective memory’ of a place.</i>	<i>An asset with strong communal or historical associations, or because it has especially striking aesthetic value, may be singled out as a landmark within the local scene.</i>	<i>Groupings of assets with a clear visual design or historic relationship.</i>
Buildings/ Structures (Non-commemorative)	Does the asset date from before the 1850s, e.g. is it shown on the 1 st edition OS map (and is not nationally listed), or is it a more recent building of merit, e.g. relating to key local industries, businesses or infrastructure, or to emerging	Is the asset rare for the local area, or rare in the sense that it is a good surviving example of a particular type of structure?	Does the asset have a distinctive design, or some architectural/ artistic elements, that give it merit? Candidate buildings may have been designed by a known architect or be the work of a known engineer or may be distinctive	Does the asset contain significant original building fabric and/or authentic features that would help us to understand its past development and use? Does other such evidence survive, e.g. artefacts from	Does the asset have an association with a historic person, group or culture, or with historic events, or is it a place that helps to tell the story of social change, or help create a sense of belonging?	Is the asset a place that is a well-known landmark to the community, contributing to the landscape or townscape, or local identity in a positive way?	Does the asset have additional value from being part of a planned or designed group or having a historic relationship with other heritage assets?

	municipal identity and provision?		because they use characteristic local materials or design elements.	use of the building, or contemporary or historic written, drawn or photographic records?			
Parks & gardens & designed landscapes	Was the park/garden formed before about 1750 with at least a proportion of the original layout still evident; or was it laid out between about 1750 and the 1850s, e.g. is it shown on the 1 st edition OS map, with enough of the layout surviving to reflect the original design; or is it more recent but relatively intact and with a special quality or historic interest, e.g. designed landscapes associated with emerging municipal identity and provision?	Is the asset rare for the local area, or rare in the sense that it is a good surviving example of a particular type of designed landscape?	Was the asset designed by a known landscape architect, designer, gardener, or plants expert, or does it have a design relating to local styles or have other distinctive local characteristics, including use of local materials?	Does the asset have potential for archaeological evidence to survive for earlier phases of design or associated structures, that would help us understand its historic development? Does other such evidence survive, e.g. contemporary or historic written, drawn or photographic records?	Does the asset have an association with a historic person or group or culture, or with historic events, or is it a place that helps to tell the story of social change or help create a sense of belonging?	Is the asset a place that is a well-known landmark to the community, contributing to the landscape or townscape, or local identity in a positive way?	Does the asset have additional value from being part of a planned or designed group or having a historic relationship with other heritage assets?

Archaeological sites	Is the site definable in extent and in terms of period of origin or use/occupation?	Is the site likely to be well preserved, such as containing visible earthworks or structures, or with clear cropmark or geophysical evidence, or from recorded excavation evidence or associated finds.	Does the asset have potential to contain remains of architectural or artistic interest? (<i>May not be relevant to this asset type</i>)	Could the asset hold evidence to help us understand the lives or culture of people in a particular period of the past, or help us understand a particular former activity, e.g. does it relate to a significant theme identified in the South Yorkshire Historic Environment Research Framework (see https://researchframeworks.org/syrf/)?	Does the asset have any association with historic events, or is it of other historic interest, e.g. appearing in historic accounts? Does it have a social or communal interest, e.g. contributing to understanding of a community's origins?	Is the asset a place that is a well-known landmark to the community, contributing to the landscape or townscape, or local identity in a positive way?	Does the asset have additional value from forming part of a known archaeological landscape? Does it have a relationship with other heritage assets?
Commemorative Monuments/Memorials/Statues	Does the asset commemorate events of national or more local significance and is it more than 30 years old?	Is the asset rare for the local area, or rare in the sense that it is a good surviving example of a particular type of structure?	Does the asset have architectural or artistic merit? Was it designed by a known architect or designer?	Could the asset provide insight into past human activity? (<i>May not be relevant to this asset type</i>)	Does the asset have an association with a historic person or group or culture, or with historic events? Does it commemorate something or someone of especial significance to the local community, , helping to create a sense of belonging?	Is the asset a well-known landmark to the community, contributing to the landscape or townscape, or local identity in a positive way?	Does the asset have additional value from being part of a planned or designed group or have a historic relationship with other heritage assets?

Places/Areas	Is the place definable in extent and having a particular historic character whose origin is more than 30 years old?	Is the place rare, or unique, in terms of the period or event it represents, or survival of component elements?	Does the place have architectural, design or artistic merit?	Does the place have the potential to contain evidence that would contribute to our understanding of, the historic development of an area?	Does the place have an association with a historic person or group or culture, or with historic events, or is it a place that helps to create a sense of belonging?	Is the place a well-known landmark to the community, contributing to the landscape or townscape or local identity in a positive way?	Does the place have additional value from component elements forming a planned or designed group or having a historic relationship with other heritage assets?
---------------------	---	---	--	---	---	--	--

South Yorkshire Local Heritage Listing Project – Assessment Process Terms of Reference.

The assessment of heritage assets nominated for inclusion on the South Yorkshire Local Heritage List will be decided based on 7 set criteria (based on those in Historic England's Advice Note 7, HEAN7: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/local-heritage-listing-advice-note-7/>). Each nominated asset will be assessed by a local panel before submission to the relevant Local Planning Authority for approval. The local panel will consist of Conservation and Archaeology Officers, from the local authorities, and representatives of relevant heritage groups or other local experts. This document sets out how this assessment process will work.

Asset Assessment

Prior to the commencement of the assessment process, a list of nominated heritage assets will be made publicly available and the local community will be invited to offer further comments and additional information on the assets included.

Heritage Assets will then be assessed against relevant criteria relating to Age, Rarity, Architectural & Artistic Interest, Archaeological Interest, Historical Interest - including Social & Communal Value, Landmark Status and Group Value. The extent to which an asset meets each criterion will be judged on whether it clearly meets the criteria, may meet the criteria or does not meet the criteria. The panel will also be mindful of the assets ability to be conserved for future public use or enjoyment. Locally listed status may not be appropriate for assets scheduled for demolition or removal.

Example of assessment against a criterion: if a historic building has a distinctive design, some architectural/ artistic elements that give it merit, it was designed by a known architect, is the work of a known engineer or is distinctive because it uses characteristic local materials or design elements, it would clearly meet the Architectural & Artistic Interest criterion and be marked 'Yes'. If it has only one of the above characteristics or limited information is supplied, but the asset is thought to meet this criterion through the expertise of the panel members, the asset would be marked as 'Maybe'. If there is no information supplied or the information does not give evidence for any of the above, it would not meet the Architectural & Artistic Interest criterion and be marked 'No'.

It is anticipated that all the criteria may not apply to some assets, meaning they could only meet 5 or 6 of the 7 criteria. In order to avoid some assets being disadvantaged, each nominated heritage asset will require a 'Yes' or 'Maybe' in any 5 of the 7 criteria before it is considered suitable for Local Heritage Listing.

The assessment score will be based on the information submitted as part of the nomination process and from the public consultation, supported by the expertise of members of the assessment panel.

Assessment Panel

The assessment of assets and decisions on candidate status will be carried out by a panel of local heritage specialists and professionals. The panel will include Conservation and Archaeology Officers, representing the four Local Planning Authorities, and relevant local heritage experts for the South Yorkshire area.

Depending on the assets submitted for assessment, local experts will be drawn from a pool of individuals with expertise in local history, industrial history, historic parks & gardens, historic buildings, archaeology and historic landscapes.

It is expected that the panel will usually consist of 7-8 members but will be considered quorate with 5 members. In the rare event that one of the Local Planning Authorities is not represented by a Conservation Officer, an officer from the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service will represent that Authority - having consulted with the absent Conservation Officer before the panel meeting. In the even rarer event of there not being a representative from one of the four Local Planning Authorities, then decisions on candidates for that area will be rolled over to a subsequent panel meeting.

Following discussion by the panel, each asset will be scored to determine its suitability to become a candidate for inclusion on the Local Heritage List. If no clear decision can be reached, the relevant officer from the Local Authority in which the asset is located will have the casting vote on scoring.

The panel will meet (online or in-person) in January 2022 to assess the initial nominations and will meet at regular intervals thereafter, as necessary.

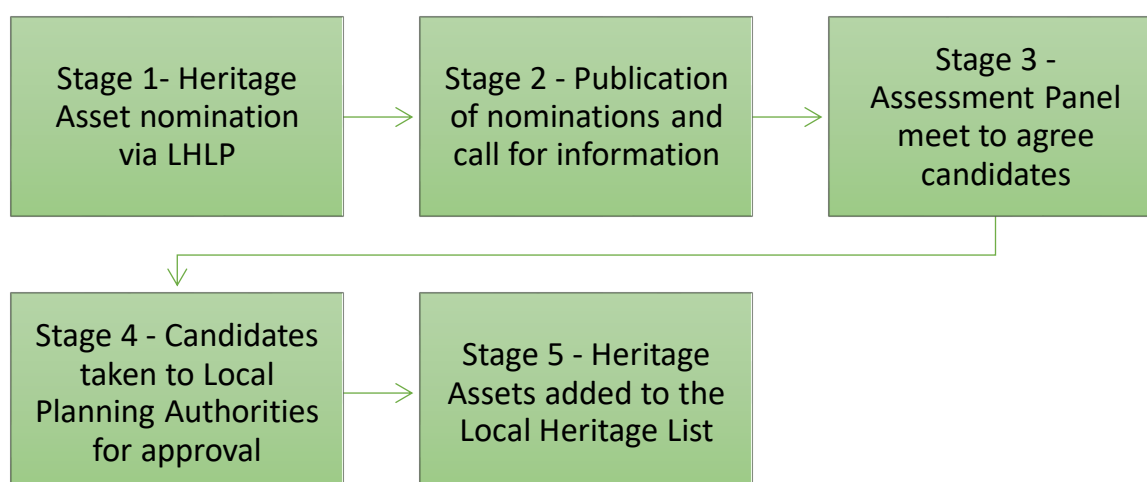
Successful candidates will then be taken to the relevant Local Planning Authority for approval before being officially added to the Local Heritage List. It is hoped that the initial candidates can be brought before the relevant committees for approval in February 2022, with the first Heritage Assets added to the South Yorkshire Local Heritage List after this.

Access to Nomination Submissions

Nominations for Local Heritage Listing will be made online through the Local Heritage List Platform: <https://local-heritage-list.org.uk/south-yorkshire>. This will allow each nomination to use the same format for supporting information, research results and images. Other methods of nomination will not be possible.

In order to view nominations, panel members will be asked to register to use the platform, which will require providing contact details and a brief note on relevant expertise. They will then be assigned *Editor* status, allowing them to view asset nomination submissions. They will not, however, be able to add or remove any heritage assets from the Local Heritage List. This will be done following the outcome of Planning Committee meetings by the LHL Project Officer.

Assessment Process Stages



PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title

Title: Rotherham Local heritage list

Directorate:
Regeneration & Environment Services

Service area:
Planning Policy Team
Planning, Regeneration and Transport

Lead person:
Jonathan Bell
Assistant Conservation Officer

Contact:
01709 82 3811
Jon.bell@rotherham.gov.uk

Is this a:

☒

Strategy / Policy

☐

Service / Function

☐

Other

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

To adopt a process in place for establishing and maintaining a Local Heritage List – locally valued heritage assets, nominated mainly by members of the public and local interest groups. Such a list flags up heritage assets that are not nationally designated (for example, not a listed building or a scheduled monument) but have local value and/or heritage interest that would warrant consideration in the planning process.

The Local Heritage List is subservient to the adopted Rotherham Local Plan for implementing the policies of the Local Plan: Core Strategy (2014) and Sites and

Policies Document (2018), specifically Policies CS23 'Valuing the Historic Environment' and SP45 'Locally Listed Buildings'. There is a clear hierarchy within adopted planning policy documents; the Local Plan, is prepared in conformity with National Planning Policy Framework and its guidance, at the time of its adoption. The Local Heritage List would sit below the strategic policies of the Local Plan and would be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		✓
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		✓
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>	✓	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>	✓	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		✓
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		✓
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

If you have answered **no** to **all** the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

At the time of preparation of both the Core Strategy and Sites and Policies Document the Council undertook Equalities and Health Impact Assessments of the strategic policies within the Local Plan. These equalities assessments are included within the accompanying Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs) for both parts of the Local Plan and published alongside the Local Plan on the Council's website. The equalities impact assessments have guided and formulated the strategic policies of the local plan.

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/planning-development/guide-local-plan/1>

The outputs and recommendations arising from the Health and Equalities Assessments that were prepared at each stage of plan preparation are taken into account in drafting the policies of the Local Plan. Therefore, any subordinate planning guidance that is subsequently drafted, including the preparation of Local Heritage Listing, are prepared in accordance with the policies of the Local Plan. They fully reflect the equalities assessment and the outputs and recommendations previously undertaken and reported within the accompanying Integrated Impact Assessments (2013 and 2016).

The EqIA within the Integrated Impact Assessment is substantial in length and depth and is reported over a number of pages within the two IIAs:

- Appendix G [‘EqIA Technical Document’](#) (2013)
- [Background to the IIA](#) (2016)

The social and communal value is included as a criterion for assessment of heritage assets nominated for Local Heritage Listing, and this can include whether a place has a value to a specific community of interest, as well as to a geographic community.

- **Key findings**

Participation in heritage activities is often impacted by participants' socio-economic status. This may affect the nomination of heritage assets for Local Heritage Listing.

However, the Local Heritage Listing aims to ensure the Local Plan is delivered to its fullest extent and ensures there are benefits to all local people. To preserve locally important heritage structures would help to maintain the sense of community. Any impacts on the community and the wider environment are appropriately mitigated in accordance with the vision of the Local Plan: "to minimise inequalities through the

creation of strong, cohesive and sustainable communities”.

- **Actions**

Equality monitoring of those participating with the Local Heritage Listing project will take place, as representation is important. Officer will undertake to convene a group and ensure that relevant equality monitoring is undertaken during the project.

Owing to the full Equalities Impact Assessment undertaken to assess the policies of the Core Strategy and the Sites and Policies Development Plan Document (which together provide a comprehensive Local Plan for Rotherham); and,

- having been prepared and further refined, following public and stakeholder consultation at each stage of Local Plan preparation; and,
- the equalities impact that arose as part of that earlier comprehensive assessment, having been taken into account, in various revisions to the draft policies, prior to their final approval in the adopted Local Plan;

there is therefore, no requirement to complete Form B the Equality Analysis.

There are no direct equalities impacts arising from the preparation and subsequent adoption of the Local Heritage List, that has not already been taken into account at the earlier, higher level, strategic policy stages, of Local Plan preparation and its subsequent consultation, examination and adoption.

Therefore, in these circumstances, there is no further requirement to complete Form B of the Equalities Impact Assessment, as this assessment has previously been completed; it is fully documented and publicly available in the Integrated Impact Assessments of 2013 and 2016.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	N/A

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Andy Duncan	Planning Policy Manager	12/07/2022

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of all screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	11/07/2022
Report title and date	Rotherham Local Heritage List
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet – 17 October 2022
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	13/07/2022

This page is intentionally left blank

User guidance:

- The first section of this form guides users through considering major areas where emissions are likely to occur. If emissions are impacted in a way not covered by these categories, please identify this at the bottom of the section
- The first section should be filled as such:
 - **Impact:** identify, in relation to each area, whether the decision of the proposal does the following: *reduces emissions*, *increases emissions*, or has *no impact on emissions*. If it is uncertain this section can be labelled *impact unknown*
 - If **no impact on emissions** is identified: no further detail is needed for this area, but can be added if relevant (e.g. if efforts have been made to mitigate emissions in this area.)
 - **Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions:** two sections deal respectively with emissions from the Council (including those of contractors), and emissions across Rotherham as a whole. In both sections please explain any factors that are likely to reduce or increase emissions. If **impact unknown** has been selected, then identify the area of uncertainty and outline known variables that may affect impacts.
 - In most cases there is no need to quantify the emission impact of an area after outlining the factors that may reduce or increase emissions. In some cases, however, this may be desirable if factors can be reduced to a small number of known variables (e.g. if an emission impact is attached to a known or estimated quantity of fuel consumed).
 - **Describe any measures to mitigate emission impact:** regardless of the emission impact, in many cases steps should be taken in order to reduce mitigate all emissions associated with each area as far as possible; these steps can be outlined here (For example: if a proposal is likely to increase emissions but practices or materials have been adopted in order to reduce this overall impact, this would be described here).
 - **Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out:** in this section outline any steps taken to monitor emission levels, or steps taken to monitor the factors that are expected to increase or reduce emission levels (for example, if waste or transport levels are being monitored this would be described here)
- A **summary paragraph** outlining the likely overall impacts of the proposal/decision on emissions should then be completed - this is not required if the proposal/decision has no impact across all areas.
- The supporting information section should be filled as followed:
 - Author/completing officer
 - **Research, data, or information** may refer to datasets, background documents, literature, consultations, or other data-gathering exercise. These should also be added to the **supporting documents** section of the cabinet report

-
- Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports
 - Prior to publishing reports, Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to climate@rotherham.gov.uk for feedback
 - Report authors may also use the above email address to direct any further queries or to access further support regarding completing the assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Some Impact	Some local listing buildings may fail to achieve high levels of energy performance in long term	Some local listing buildings may fail to achieve high levels of energy performance in long term	Encourage suitable mitigation measures on these building should they brought into use	CO2 emissions per capita monitored via the Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report.
Emissions from transport?	No impact	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	No impact	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Some Impact	Some local listing buildings may fail to achieve high levels of energy performance in long term	Some local listing buildings may fail to achieve high levels of energy performance in long term	Encourage suitable mitigation measures on these building should they brought into use	CO2 emissions per capita monitored via the Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report.
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Reduce Impact	Retention of local listing of sites and buildings would negate the need for demolition and/or constructing new buildings	Retention of local listing of sites and buildings would negate the need for demolition and/or constructing new buildings	n/a	CO2 emissions per capita monitored via the Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report.
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	No impact	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:

None.

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

There are potentially either positive or negative effects, and schemes that affect these Local Heritage Listing sites and buildings will need to be assessed at the relevant Planning/Building Regulations application stage in terms of their compliance with the Council's policies.

Supporting information:

Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Winsze Lam, Planning Policy Officer Planning Policy – Planning, Regeneration and Transport
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	National Planning Policy Framework (2021) Rotherham Local Plan Core Strategy (2014) Rotherham Local Plan Sites and Policies Document (2018)
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	n/a
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Andy Duncan, Planning Policy Manager and Climate Champion, Built Environment – Planning

This page is intentionally left blank

Public Report with Exempt Appendices
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 17 October 2022

Report Title

Forge Island Final Delivery Arrangements

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Tim O'Connell, Head of RIDO
tim.o'connell@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Boston Castle

Report Summary

This report sets out a recommended delivery approach to allow the Forge Island scheme to progress to the construction phase. The approach involves the Council acting as funder for the scheme and contracting with Muse Developments Ltd to facilitate delivery.

Recommendations

That Cabinet: -

1. Approves an increase in the Council's Capital Programme to allow the upfront capital costs of the Forge Island development to be funded by the Council rather than a private investor, in order to provide best value to the taxpayer.
2. Approves the award of the contract for the delivery of the Forge Island Development to Muse Developments Limited.
3. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director of Regeneration of Environment, in consultation with the S151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Local Economy, to enter into the agreements necessary to give effect to the Forge Island Scheme.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Exempt Financial Modelling
- Appendix 2 Equality Analysis Screening (March 2022)
- Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment (March 2022)

Background Papers

[Rotherham Town Centre Masterplan](#)

Cabinet report: [December 2018](#)
[March 2022](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Council – 05 October 2018

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

Yes or No? If yes, use text below.

An exemption is sought for Appendix 1 – Financial Modelling under Paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 is requested, as this report contains sensitive commercial information with regards to commercial agreements which could disadvantage the Council in any negotiations if the information were to be made public.

It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption would outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information, as the parties' commercial interests could be prejudiced by disclosure of commercial information.

Forge Island Final Delivery Arrangements

1. Background

- 1.1 On 11 September 2017 Cabinet resolved to adopt the Town Centre Masterplan and go out to the market to secure a development partner for Forge Island.
- 1.2 Forge Island occupies a central location within Rotherham Town Centre, with excellent public transport links and an attractive waterside setting. The Masterplan suggested the site would be suitable for a leisure-led mixed-use development, to act as a catalyst for future public and private investment into the town centre. Through an open and competitive process, Muse Developments Ltd. (Muse) was selected as the Council's preferred development partner in September 2018. Since this date, Muse has been working alongside the Council to bring the Forge Island development forward.
- 1.3 Muse and the Council entered a "Development Agreement for Lease" which sets out a conditional leasehold structure for the redevelopment of the site. It also documents the various pre-conditions which apply to the project and responsibility for satisfying these. The agreement allows for delivery arrangements that may include (but not be limited to) the Council acting as a funder or purchaser of the whole or part of the Development (but without obligation on the part of the Council to enter any such arrangements).
- 1.4 Key milestones required for construction of the development to start have been achieved: -
 - Through a competitive process Muse identified a private funder which offered to provide development funding on attractive terms that met the requirements previously agreed by the Council.
 - Muse has selected a main contractor for the development under a two-stage design and build approach.
 - The demolition and the removal of the pedestrian footbridge has been completed.
 - Site investigations and archaeology is completed.
 - Designs have been finalised and tender construction packages returned so the scheme is now fully costed.
 - Pre-letting agreements have been secured with Arc Cinema and Travelodge. Pre-letting agreements have also been secured with Cow and Cream and with Thistle Group. Thistle will bring their brands Estabulo, Sakku Samba, Casa Piri Piri and Café Noor to the scheme.
- 1.5 The March 2022 Cabinet Report set out the principal terms for the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment and the Cabinet Member for Jobs

and the Local Economy to agree the final scheme arrangements, which included the lease and rent arrangements, and the level of capital contribution to the scheme (subject to applicable subsidy control law).

- 1.6 Very recent volatility of the financial markets and the challenge this now poses to private funders providing up-front capital within the requirements previously agreed by the Council has resulted in Muse (in line with the Development Agreement for Lease) re-assessing delivery arrangements and proposing options for the Council to consider, including the Council acting as funder of the whole or part of the development. Consideration of this option is urgent as a result of ongoing and rapidly changing upheaval in the financial markets which is reducing both the availability and the attractiveness of private funding as a route to deliver the scheme. This is combined with time pressures that are created through the commercial agreements with prospective tenants and contract prices.
- 1.7 On 5th October 2022 the Council is considering agreement of an addendum that gives Cabinet the option to act as funder of the whole development and approve the necessary increase in the Council's Capital Programme to allow for this.
- 1.8 In this report, approval is sought to enact that option, to allow the agreement of terms for the development to be fully funded by the Council and to award the contract for the delivery of the Forge Island Development to Muse.
- 1.9 It should be noted that irrespective of the source of upfront capital funding, it is expected that the cost of repayment of capital costs will be met wholly or largely over the long term by revenue generated from commercial activity in the Forge Island development.
- 1.10 It is recognised that changing the delivery arrangements for the Scheme to a position where the Council acts as funder will change the nature of the arrangement with Muse. To do so will require the Council and Muse to enter into a forward funding agreement (otherwise known as a "development funding agreement") which would create a public works contract. For reasons of transparency, a Voluntary Ex-ante Transparency Notice (VEAT) Notice was issued on 26 September 2022 putting into the public domain the fact that the Council was considering this option.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Rising inflation and volatility in the economy and financial markets has made it increasingly difficult to secure private development funding within the requirements previously agreed by the Council (December 2018, and March 2022 Cabinet reports). Inflation has driven up the estimated capital cost of the development, whilst pressures in financial markets means that the level of private development funding is reduced.
- 2.2 These external market conditions are likely to persist and potentially become more difficult. On the 13th of September 2022 Muse was informed that the markets were not prepared to lend on the terms previously agreed and

consequently the Council is required to reconsider the approach to financing the development as a matter of urgency. There have been further significant movements in the financial markets following the Governments fiscal event on 23rd September and the outlook remains unpredictable. As a result, a decision on a way forward to deliver the scheme is highly time sensitive due to external factors that were unforeseen and not within the control of the Council.

- 2.3 If the Council is not able to find a suitable funding package for the development of Forge Island quickly, there is a significant risk that the current development costs (secured for a limited time) will increase due to ongoing inflationary pressures together with the expiration of the period of time in which the existing contract price remains valid. In addition, delays would risk the Council losing agreements that are in place for third party tenants secured for the development that generate income to underpin the financing of the scheme.
- 2.4 Following changes in the private investment market and based on the analysis to date, a review against other delivery options indicates that Council funding now offers the most efficient and effective funding mechanism for the scheme, whilst minimising risk to delivery. Over the lifetime of the development, it offers significantly better value for money for the Council and the public purse. A financial assessment of each option is provided in the exempt financial Appendix 1.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The options considered comprise:
 - i. Seek to renegotiate terms with the existing or a new private investor
 - ii. Proceed on the existing terms with a private investor and increase the level of Council capital contribution
 - iii. Withdraw from the scheme
 - iv. Delay delivery
 - v. The Council fully fund the upfront capital costs of the scheme
- 3.2 Details of the analysis and financial modelling of these options is included in Exempt Appendix 1.
- 3.3 **Option 1 - Seek to renegotiate terms with the existing or a new private funder.**

On the 13th September 2022 the Council's development partner was advised that the pricing could not be held on the terms competitively secured with the investor. Yield rates have moved out significantly over the last month and look likely to continue along the same trend which increases the cost of borrowing through this route. To raise the amount of capital required the Council could increase the annual payment or commit to payments over the longer term. Both options increase the cost to the Council over the lifetime of the development and the scope for making such changes is limited by long-term affordability considerations. The option to secure the same or better

terms than previously negotiated, in a market which is becoming increasingly difficult is not considered to be a realistic or viable option.

3.4 Option 2 – Proceed on the existing terms with a private funder and increase the level of Council capital contribution

This option requires the Council to “top up” the difference between a reduced funding offer from an investor on otherwise the same terms in respect of annual cost and lease length. The level of funding needed would be significantly above the provision agreed in the Cabinet report of March 2022 and would require a virement to be agreed from other existing budgets or new funding to be made available. The cost to the Council of delivering through this route will include both the annual payment to the investor and annual borrowing costs. The financial modelling at Exempt Appendix 2 shows this is not considered to be the most efficient and effective method of funding the scheme and this option is not therefore recommended.

3.5 Option 3 Withdraw from the scheme.

Delivery of Forge Island is a strategic regeneration priority and a pre-requisite for successful delivery and sustainability of other schemes in the wider regeneration programme including those being delivered through the Towns Fund, Levelling Up and the Future High Street Fund. It is an essential step in re-positioning the town centre and attracting further investment in the town centre and the local economy. As a viable option for delivery is available, this option is not recommended.

3.6 Option 4 - Delay delivery.

Significant progress has been made towards delivery of this scheme despite challenging market conditions including the Covid pandemic, lockdown and the economic impact of inflation. The scheme has not been scaled back from the original proposals and the scope and quality of what the scheme will deliver has been maintained. Delay would risk losing the benefits of progress to date, including the occupiers secured to the scheme and open the risk of further inflationary cost pressure rendering the scheme unviable. This option is not recommended

3.7 Option 5 - The Council fully fund the upfront capital costs of the scheme

This approach removes the need for a private sector funder and replaces it with the Council acting as the total upfront funding provider for the scheme. This approach provides greater certainty in that funding is not dependent on the market of private investor decisions and allows the Council options to manage its capital borrowing over the long term. Moving quickly to this approach will allow the Council to maintain the current projected development costs at the current secured prices. It also allows the Council to maintain the current third-party tenants that provide the ongoing revenue income to enable the Council to finance the project over the project life. This is the recommended option.

3.8 It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approves an increase in the Council's Capital Programme to allow the upfront capital costs of the Forge Island development to be funded by the Council rather than a private investor, in order to provide best value to the taxpayer.
2. Approves the award of the contract for the delivery of the Forge Island Development to Muse Developments Limited.
3. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director of Regeneration of Environment, in consultation with the S151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Local Economy, to enter into the agreements necessary to give effect to the Forge Island Scheme.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 To ensure interested parties were made aware that the Council was considering the recommended approach of fully funding the scheme and entering into a public works contract with Muse Developments Limited a VEAT notice was published on 26 September 2022. The response to the VEAT will be reported to the meeting.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Subject to Cabinet approval of the recommendations in this report the Council will target entering a 'development funding agreement' with Muse Developments Ltd before the end of October 2022 to allow practical commencement of the Forge Island development.
- 5.2 Subject to matters described in 5.1 (above) construction for main works will start in November 2022.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The financial implications of the Forge Island Development are included within the exempt financial appendix 2, along with detailed analysis of all funding options considered. The longer-term financial risks that this project presents relate to the Council's ability to maintain the incomes levels from the lettings, car parking and business rates at the modelled levels. However, the chosen model does present the most financially viable option and the most value for money option of those considered.
- 6.2 If Cabinet approve the recommendation the Council's Capital Programme will be updated to include the cost of the Forge Island Development and the revised modelling of the ongoing revenue implications of the development will be factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 6.3 The procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report are fully explained in Section 7 below.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 In light of the fact that the previous funding arrangements are no longer practicable the Council is required to consider the other options available that are outlined in this paper. Should the Council decide to proceed then it is required to have a lawful mechanism to enable it to do so. This means one of 3 potential routes:
- a. A full tender process;
 - b. Contract award notice;
 - c. VEAT Notice.
- 7.2 The recommended approach in the Report is the Award following the VEAT Notice. In order to ensure that Cabinet were able to proceed with this route then the Council published this Notice on 26th September 2022 to provide Notice of the intended approach.
- 7.3 The advice therefore is that the Council is permitted to utilise the negotiated procedure on the basis of exclusive rights as a result of competition being absent for technical reasons (as provided for in Public Contracts Regulation 2015 32(2)(b)(ii)) and, or in the alternative, on the basis of urgency (as provided for in Public Contracts Regulations 2015 32(2)(c)). For the reasons that are provided in the Report.
- 7.4 The Notice provides for a 10-day standstill period before the award of any contract and provides that should a claimant wish to make a challenge to the approach and claim damages then this must be done within 30 days of the publication of the Notice.
- 7.5 There is a 6-month period from the point the Council enters into contract for a challenge to be issued to seek to ask the courts to declare the Notice ineffective.
- 7.6 The Council has sought to ensure that these risks are mitigated by issuing the Notice in sufficient time to enable the expiration of the period of claim for damages before it would be required to enter into the contract. It should be noted that there is little the Council is able to do in order to mitigate further the risk of challenge during the period in which a Notice could be found to be ineffective.
- 7.7 In short, the award of the Contract does carry a residual legal risk of challenge. This risk is considered to be similar to the risk of challenge that is found in the making of any significant decision by a public body. This Report sets out the reasons that the Council considers that the approach would be lawful and the ways in which the Council has sought to mitigate this risk.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no direct implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable adults arising from this report.
- 9.2 Consultation has highlighted that “things to do and see” in the town centre is important to young people with a cinema high on the list of amenities that young people would like to see delivered to improve the town centre offer.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 A screening assessment and an Equality Analysis Form is attached.
- 10.2 Further consultation will be ongoing with protected characteristic groups to inform the operation and accessibility of the scheme and to monitor the ongoing equalities impact of the development.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 A carbon impact assessment is attached.
- 11.2 The development is expected to achieve a BREEAM Very Good rating and is located on a site that is within walking distance of the bus interchange, tram train and railway station. The development will reduce the need for travel outside of the borough to access facilities which are not currently available in Rotherham.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 There are no direct impacts from this decision on the delivery of services by partners. The delivery of the Forge Island scheme is widely seen as an important catalyst in regenerating Rotherham town centre and progress towards delivery is likely to be welcomed by partners.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the S151 Officer and the Portfolio Holder for Jobs and Local Economy to agree the most advantageous terms for the scheme to be delivered, balancing delivery options with risk and affordability.
- 13.2 The Council's development partner maintains detailed risk registers with respect to development and delivery of the scheme. Substantial risks are identified relating to potentially unacceptable delays to the current delivery programme and unaffordable uplift to the construction costs associated with the Forge Island development. Mitigation is possible through progressing with delivery of the scheme under the recommended option in this paper, thereby securing the current programme and returned costed tender packages.

14. Accountable Officers

Tim O'Connell, Head of Rotherham Investment and Development Office

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	03/10/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	29/09/22
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	29/09/22

Report Author: *Tim O'Connell, Head of RIDO*
 tim.o'connell@rotherham.gov.uk

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

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Forge Island Delivery	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 28 February 2022 and refreshed 28/09/22	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Planning, Regeneration and Transport
Lead Manager: Tim O’Connell	Contact number: 01709 254563
Is this a: <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other If other, please specify A regeneration project	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Tim O'Connell	RiDO	Service Manager
Andrew Fairest	Muse Developments Ltd	Developer
Laura Stapleton	RMBC	Acting Corporate Improvement and Risk Officer
Tanya Lound	RMBC	Acting Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance
Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The regeneration of Forge Island is intended to create a leisure destination in the town centre that is accessible to residents of Rotherham and visitors to the town.

Planning permission for a scheme was granted in June 2020 and the Council has completed the first phase of enabling works to allow the scheme to proceed.

The site has been marketed to occupiers and pre-let agreements secured with The Arc Cinema, Travelodge and with four restaurants/food and drink establishments.

What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)

Contextual information from a range of sources, including the 2011 Census and the Council Plan consultation, is provided below.

Population

- Rotherham has a population of 265,000 of which 2,662 are resident in the town centre (mid-2020 estimates taken from ONS)
- The population is ageing; Rotherham has 52,000 people aged 65 years or over or 19.7% of the population, above the national average of 18.4%. The population aged over 65 is projected to increase to over 21% by 2026, with the largest increase being in the number of people aged over 75.
- Rotherham's BAME population is very concentrated in the inner areas of the town whilst the outer areas were 96% White British in 2011. 42% of BAME residents live in areas that are amongst the 10% most deprived in the country and for some groups the figure is higher. This compares with the Borough average of 19.5%.
- The age and gender profile of the town centre population is set out below

Age range	Male	Female	TOTAL
0-15	248	221	469
16-29	380	303	683
30-44	464	280	744
45-64	364	159	523
65+	124	119	243
All Ages	1,580	1,082	2,662

Health and Wellbeing

- Rotherham had 56,588 people with a limiting long-term health problem or disability in 2011, with 11.3% saying this limits their activity a lot, compared with the average of 8.3% nationally.
- In the Council Plan consultation, in response to the question on what would have the biggest positive impact on wellbeing and quality of life, men (30%) and those without a disability (27%) were more likely to state environmental improvements (23% overall), while more women and those with a disability stated 'More things to do in the community' (16% women, 22% with disability, 13% overall).

Economy

- Rotherham has a polarised geography of deprivation and affluence with the most deprived communities concentrated in the central area whilst the most affluent areas are to the south, although the overall pattern is complex.
- In the consultation for the Council Plan, 45% of respondents stated there were not enough job opportunities in their area, as opposed to 19% who stated there were enough. Those with no disabilities were more likely to state there were enough job opportunities in their area (21%) than those with disabilities (15%), with female respondents more likely to be unsure about the opportunities (37%), than men (32%).

Consultation

The Town Centre Masterplan has been subject to wide consultation with business and stakeholder groups. A public event was held in All Saint's Square on 28th June 2017 attended by 75 people over the course of the day. Feedback was wide ranging but there was a clear desire to see improvements in the town centre including a stronger leisure offer to serve the needs of local people who currently needed to travel to other centres to access facilities. The consultation also highlighted safety and the management of anti-social behaviour as important priorities.

Further consultation included a meeting with Rotherham Older People's Forum at Talbot Lane Methodist Church which highlighted a need for new developments to be older person friendly, to include more seating with and provide easy level access wherever possible and with good connections to public transport. Consultation with the Looked After Children's Council focused on the need for things to do in the town centre and the

importance of creating a safe environment. The consultation emphasised a cinema as being an important attraction that is missing from the town centre offer for young people.

Rotherham Sight and Sound group were consulted on public realm proposals in the town centre on 16th January 2020. The group highlighted the importance of design in ensuring public spaces are accessible including the choice of materials, surface finishes, improved lighting and accessible seating

Our Rotherham, Our Borough consultation and engagement to inform the new Council Plan took place from 9th August to 19th September 2021 to seek the views of Rotherham residents and other local stakeholders. The consultation included focused groups, short interactions, online and postal survey and Rotherham Show, with over 1,300 interactions taking place in total across all methods of engagement

The short interactions and focus groups aimed to make up some of the engagement gaps, by engaging stakeholders working with some of the groups whose views were underrepresented in the survey, and those sharing protected characteristics.

Throughout the whole consultation and engagement, a common theme was a desire to see Rotherham town centre vibrant, flourishing, clean, safe and attractive to all. There were many suggestions as to how this may be achieved including incentives such as free parking, reduced rents to encourage a wide range of shops and businesses, improved safety and security measures in certain areas, plus investments made to attract families with children, and young people into the town centre.

Linking to messages concerned with the town centre, retaining business and encouraging trade and industry into the area, were responses concerned with local jobs for local people. Street scene matters were also frequently mentioned for the town centre and across the borough.

Many expressed a desire for a wider range of “decent” shops, more activities for families with young children, and greater accessibility for disabled and those with sensory impairments.

Of the children and young people consulted, young people wished for Rotherham town centre to be a place that people want to visit, for there to be more shops, activities, and places for young people to go. They also spoke about wanting to feel safe and secure in the town centre.

Results from the Rotherham Residents Survey comprising a sample of 503 adults who were polled between 8th and 22nd June 2021 showed that 24 per cent of respondents felt ‘very optimistic’ or ‘fairly optimistic’ about the future of Rotherham town centre (as they did about the future of the wider borough. Forty-one per cent of respondents were not optimistic at all about the town centre, slightly more than in the previous survey. People aged 25-34 years were most likely not to be optimistic at all, whilst young people aged 18-24 years were the most optimistic. Low skilled workers were notably more optimistic than professional and managerial workers.

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?

Information is available on the town centre and town centre masterplan but focused consultation on the specific design proposals of the Forge Island scheme have not been carried out. This is to be included in the action plan as part of this assessment

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

It is proposed to establish and feedback process for when the site has been completed 3+ months using both surveys face to face meetings with representative groups. This is to be included in the action plan as part of this assessment.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)

The concept of a leisure led redevelopment is one of the main proposals in the Town Centre Masterplan which has been the subject of consultation with business and stakeholder groups, Rotherham Together Partnership, Rotherham Older People's Forum and the Looked After Children's Council. A public event was held in All Saint's Square on 28th June 2017. Key findings from these engagements are included in the section above

Subsequently consultation on the specific scheme proposals has been carried out at Rotherham Show in both 2019 (7th & 8th Sept) and 2021 (3rd to 5th Sept) feedback was positive in support of the scheme with most people expressing a desire to see it delivered as soon as possible.

Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)

The development of Forge Island will have a positive impact for staff, particularly those that are Rotherham residents and those that work in the Town Centre.

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

Careful consideration has been given to the needs broad range of groups of people including those with protected characteristics who will use the development for purposes outlined below to ensure that the proposed development promotes social inclusion:

- Visitors to the buildings and members of the public accessing services
- Workers/employees using the buildings
- People using the associated public realm
- People using the neighbouring commercial units
- People using the car parking facilities
- Residents accessing the proposed residential buildings

Feedback from consultations has been considered by the design team and aspects of the design have been developed in response to these considerations to ensure that all people have free access to use the development:

- Creation of active public spaces that encourage the feeling of a safe and welcoming environment
- Providing level access to all buildings in the new development from a number of points around the town centre reinforcing a gold route strategy
- The decision on the location of the main entrance to the buildings - based on the proximity and visibility from the adjoining public transport and primary pedestrian routes
- Providing clear and legible routes past the development that are suitable for all pedestrians, wheelchair users and people with prams or buggies
- Providing pictogram signs that reinforce the routes through the site for people with difficulties in reading text
- Providing appropriate lighting, recognised tactile surfacing and sufficient contrast between floor and wall surfaces for people with visual acuity difficulties
- Providing accessible parking bays in the car park areas
- Providing wheelchair accessible lifts - with lobbies, refuges, corridor and door widths sized to ensure that they are wheelchair accessible

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?

The project is intended to create an inclusive, safe and welcoming environment for all users of the development.

The Forge Island Regeneration project will act as a landmark scheme for the wider regeneration of Rotherham town centre and other development sites. The building form and design approach seeks integrate public realm within the wider urban fabric of Rotherham, connecting the with the Town Centre and historic conservation area by making both the visual and physical relationships between these areas stronger and more direct. This will encourage residents and visitors to explore Rotherham Town Centre by creating a public realm and building design solutions which visually entices the visitor or passer-by to explore and linger. This strategy will result in improved crossflow of people resulting in improved footfall and retention of people

The uses proposed within the Forge Island Regeneration masterplan compliment, and add to, the existing offer within the town centre. This will promote new investment whilst also supporting existing businesses within the town centre and encouraging greater use by all groups within the local community.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?

The new leisure quarter on Forge Island replaces a derelict site, formerly used as a supermarket and car parking. The new facilities will reinvigorate a historically significant area in Rotherham with improved public amenities, services and landscaping.

The Rotherham Town Centre Implementation Masterplan identifies the Forge Island regeneration to address the following social objective:

'Diversification of Town Centre uses, strengthening the Town Centre offer to appeal as a family friendly destination, along side providing new attractions for younger people. The clustering of uses together will support sustainability, food and drink operators supporting the hotel and cinema uses.' (pg76)

The development of Forge Island is an opportunity to improve the social fabric of Rotherham. The creation of a major destination will not only attract new visitors to Rotherham town centre but boost local employment through retaining footfall. Key to this new leisure offer will be the provision of a new cinema, aligned with family orientated restaurants and a hotel (Site A) and a new cafe (Site B North) that will re-position Rotherham town centre as a vibrant evening and weekend destination, lengthening dwell times and creating a more active evening economy.

High quality new public space will be delivered at the heart of the development providing an area of public realm that can be used for a range of events which broaden the cultural offer of the town centre.

The Forge Island regeneration builds on is a key component in the regeneration of the town centre and supporting infrastructure and aims to further embed a sense of public pride and belonging within Rotherham.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

The project is expected to be neutral in terms of community relations.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

Title of analysis: Forge Island Delivery Update September 2022
Directorate and service area: Regeneration and Environment, Planning Regeneration and Transport
Lead Manager: Tim O'Connell
Summary of findings:

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Further consultation with protected characteristic groups, as per the gaps identified above and ongoing conversations regarding future developments	All	Ongoing
Provide information from consultation with protected characteristic groups to the design team to inform consideration of final detailed design proposals	All	09/22
Continue to integrate accessibility considerations in the design and delivery of the Forge Island Development	D	09/22
Complete consultation with protected characteristic groups to inform the design of a customer feedback process following opening of the scheme	All	12/23
Monitor the ongoing equality implications of the Forge Island development	All	Ongoing

*A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups

6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.

Name	Job title	Date
Paul Woodcock	Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment	28/09/22

7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this Equality Analysis relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date Equality Analysis completed	07/03/22 (Refreshed 28/09/22)
Report title and date	Forge Island Delivery Update
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	07/03/22

This page is intentionally left blank

User guidance:

- The first section of this form guides users through considering major areas where emissions are likely to occur. If emissions are impacted in a way not covered by these categories, please identify this at the bottom of the section
- The first section should be filled as such:
 - **Impact:** identify, in relation to each area, whether the decision of the proposal does the following: *reduces emissions*, *increases emissions*, or has *no impact on emissions*. If it is uncertain this section can be labelled *impact unknown*
 - If **no impact on emissions** is identified: no further detail is needed for this area, but can be added if relevant (e.g. if efforts have been made to mitigate emissions in this area.)
 - **Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions:** two sections deal respectively with emissions from the Council (including those of contractors), and emissions across Rotherham as a whole. In both sections please explain any factors that are likely to reduce or increase emissions. If **impact unknown** has been selected, then identify the area of uncertainty and outline known variables that may affect impacts.
 - In most cases there is no need to quantify the emission impact of an area after outlining the factors that may reduce or increase emissions. In some cases, however, this may be desirable if factors can be reduced to a small number of known variables (e.g. if an emission impact is attached to a known or estimated quantity of fuel consumed).
 - **Describe any measures to mitigate emission impact:** regardless of the emission impact, in many cases steps should be taken in order to reduce mitigate all emissions associated with each area as far as possible; these steps can be outlined here (For example: if a proposal is likely to increase emissions but practices or materials have been adopted in order to reduce this overall impact, this would be described here).
 - **Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out:** in this section outline any steps taken to monitor emission levels, or steps taken to monitor the factors that are expected to increase or reduce emission levels (for example, if waste or transport levels are being monitored this would be described here)
- A **summary paragraph** outlining the likely overall impacts of the proposal/decision on emissions should then be completed - this is not required if the proposal/decision has no impact across all areas.
- The supporting information section should be filled as followed:
 - Author/completing officer
 - **Research, data, or information** may refer to datasets, background documents, literature, consultations, or other data-gathering exercise. These should also be added to the **supporting documents** section of the cabinet report

-
- Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports
 - Prior to publishing reports, Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to climate@rotherham.gov.uk for feedback
 - Report authors may also use the above email address to direct any further queries or to access further support regarding completing the assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Some impact	No impact – operators on site will be private businesses providing services to the public	<p>The development will result in the construction of new non- domestic buildings which will produce emissions.</p> <p>Emissions from the buildings on site are likely to be significantly less than those from the previous use as a supermarket</p> <p>The scheme is aiming to attract users who are currently travelling to other destinations to fulfil leisure needs, who currently produce greater emissions through using less efficient and less well-designed buildings. The overall impact across Rotherham may therefore reduce.</p>	<p>The design for the buildings includes measures to maximise energy efficiency and reduce emissions including for example BREEAM rating and travel plans, low energy lighting, thermal efficiency. Buildings will be designed to allow for plant to be installed to connect to a local heat network.</p> <p>An ecological report and water framework directive assessment has been conducted. The reports identified there would be no impact on water quality and that no protected species would be impacted by the works however, the neighbouring river habitats should be considered throughout the works. Works will consider breeding species with specific note of riverine</p>	<p>During the construction stages regular workshops will be held to ensure the entire design and construction teams know the responsibilities in terms of BREEAM scoring. The client BREEAM scoring points targeted (such as the use of A-rated equipment and white goods) will also be measured, so the approach will be totally holistic.</p> <p>After completion and handover further client/ construction team liaison will be required for items such as seasonal commissioning which should be a targeted credit in terms of both BREEAM but also energy in use during all times of the year.</p>

				birds and their nesting seasons.	Post occupancy reviews and measurement/targeting of energy use will also assist.
Emissions from transport?	Some impact	No impact - operators on site will be private businesses providing services to the public	There will be impacts from the use of the scheme and customer visits – visitor will arrive at the scheme by a range of modes and the businesses on site will be serviced by road transport.	<p>The site is within walking distance of the bus interchange, tram trail and railway station and the design brief for the scheme will include consideration of measures to enhance pedestrian connectivity with key arrival points including public transport nodes across the town centre. Transport Plan prepared for planning application RB2020/0485 includes further information.</p> <p>The site will also provide facilities within the borough that do not currently exist replacing some of the demand to travel further afield outside the borough.</p> <p>Dwell time on the scheme is expected to significantly longer than the previous use as a supermarket providing improvements in</p>	Use of the car parking facilities proposed for the Forge Island development will be monitored to some extent to determine how many trips are generated from the proposed scheme. This will provide a good indication of methods of transportation used to access the scheme.

				terms of air quality from reduced trip generation	
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Some Impact	No impact - operators on site will be private businesses providing services to the public	Operations on site will produce waste	Waste Management Plan to be prepared and be in place as part of planning condition requirements before operations on site can commence and impacts experienced.	
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	No impact	No impact	No impact	N/A	N/A
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Some impact	There will be short-term impacts from construction of the scheme	There will be future short-term impacts from construction of the scheme.	The proposal for the redevelopment of Forge Island aspires to achieve BREEAM Very Good and has achieved this ambition at the design stage pre-assessments. The team has past and current relevant experience in delivering projects with this level of ambition. A series of sustainability workshops and pre-assessments have been organised throughout the design stages to ensure that environmental targets are met.	Through construction process – monthly contractor reports

Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	No impact	No impact	Some impact	The development will provide new soft landscaping and planting to add to the habitats on offer within the site compared to the existing condition ensuring no increase in surface water discharge.	Captured through Borough/Region wide indicators and monitoring – no site specific monitoring proposed.
--------------------------------------	-----------	-----------	-------------	--	--

Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:

The scheme is designed to include sustainable flood protection measures with buildings at podium level allowing the site to operate as temporary storage during a flooding event. Soft landscaping and planting will add to the habitats on offer within the site ensuring no increase in surface water discharge.

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The final development arrangement does not have any impact on emissions. The future scheme will have an impact on emissions which will be addressed and monitored through the output of the design process and the development and subsequent use of the scheme.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Tim O'Connell, Head of RiDO, regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	

Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Sam Blakeborough, Policy Officer, Policy Performance and Intelligence, ACEX.
--	--

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet - 17 October 2022

Report Title

Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Florence Drew, National Management Trainee, Change & Innovation, Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate

Jonathan Marriott, Head of Asset Management, Regeneration and Environment Directorate

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This Report presents the updated Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23 which is attached in Appendix 1. The report notes the progress towards the Council's NZ30 and NZ40 targets and notes the progress against the actions outlined within the updated Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23, which have been devised so that the Council's agreed carbon emissions targets can be met.

The report also summarises the key updates and risks, and outlines the next steps that will be taken, including the development of a longer-term Climate Emergency Action Plan for 2023/24.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approve the Climate Emergency Action Plan in Appendix 1.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 - Climate Emergency Action Plan 22/23

Appendix 2 - Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 3 - Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Rotherham Council (2020). Responding to the Climate Emergency. Cabinet 23 March 2020:

<<http://modgov-p-db/documents/s125066/Responding%20to%20the%20Climate%20Emergency.pdf>>

Rotherham Council (2021). Climate Emergency Annual Report. Cabinet 22nd March 2021:

<<http://modgov-p-db/documents/s130298/Report%20-%20Climate%20Change.pdf>>

Rotherham Council (2022). Climate Emergency Annual Report. Cabinet 25 April 2022

<<http://modgov-p-db/documents/s135977/Report%20-%20Climate%20Emergency%20Annual%20Report%202022.pdf>>

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Climate Emergency Action Plan Update

1. Background

- 1.1 On 30th October 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency.
- 1.2 The Cabinet Report of 23rd March 2020 contained the Policy Statement and Action Plan entitled '*Responding to the Climate Emergency*'. This outlined a set of actions corresponding to the agreed strategic themes: Energy, Housing, Transport, Waste, Built and Natural Environment, Influence and Engagement. The most recent version of this action plan is the focus of this report. Since the initial action plan was created, an additional theme entitled 'Overarching Activities' has been added.
- 1.3 On 23rd March 2020 the Council agreed to establish the following targets:
 - The Council's carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2030 (NZ30)
 - Borough-wide carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2040 (NZ40)
- 1.4 As part of the Council reporting processes, a Climate Emergency Annual Report is presented to Cabinet each year, with the latest report presented to Cabinet on 25th April 2022. The annual report included an update on the progress of the actions outlined within the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021/22. The annual report also noted the upcoming development of a new Climate Emergency Action Plan for 2023/24.
- 1.5 The Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2022 also contains the commitment to the development of an action plan. This is proposed to be presented in March 2023 as part of the annual Climate Change report to Cabinet.
- 1.6 The Council is also responding to the Climate Emergency through the delivery of targets within the Council Plan 2022-25. 'A Cleaner, Greener Local Environment' which is a key strategic priority that further highlights the Council's commitment to Net Zero.
- 1.7 It is planned to develop the new Climate Emergency Action Plan once the new Climate Change Team is fully established. Two of the three Officers are in post with the Manager position due to start at the beginning of November 2022.
- 1.8 Prior to this update of the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23, the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan was rated the best in South Yorkshire and above the national average by Climate Emergency UK.
- 1.9 On 16 March 2022 Rotherham's Youth Cabinet called a special meeting to question officers on climate change. This was part of the Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge and involved a 'takeover' of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The session explored actions taken by the Council and its plans to combat climate change. A report on this meeting is scheduled to be presented to Cabinet in October 2022.

2. Key Issues

2.1 This report provides an updated Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23 and summarises the key updates and outlines the next steps.

2.2 The Action Plan Update

2.3 The Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23 has been refreshed and updated by officers who attend the Climate Change Project Board. This board is one of the Council's Big Hearts, Big Changes workstreams and is chaired by the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment. The group is comprised of Workforce Leads from across the Council and other relevant officers.

2.4 In addition, there is also the Members Climate Change Group, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy. This group have also played a role in developing the Action Plan.

2.5 The Action Plan, set out in Appendix 1, is set out under seven main themes with a number of key activities and actions as follows:

2.6 **Overarching Activity** - There has been strong progress in the Council's overarching activities related to climate change, with the introduction of improved governance arrangements and development of the Council's carbon emissions baseline providing the foundation for future monitoring and reporting. Actions include:-

- Introduction of carbon impact assessments.
- Development of baseline data.
- Recruitment of a new Climate Delivery Team.
- Plans for carbon literacy training for the Council workforce and elected members.

2.7 **Energy** - Carbon emissions from the Council's operational buildings have been decreasing since 2014. Further progress towards Net Zero 2030 will be delivered through the Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan (Phase 1). Proposals under this strand include:-

- Development of a site decarbonisation plan and plans to implement energy efficiency upgrades to buildings.
- Development of an energy generation project with a solar farm scheme being investigated.
- Development by the private sector of the Templeborough biomass heat network, which presents opportunities for Council buildings as well as for other organisations.

2.8 **Transport** - Significant investment has been secured for the extension of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, through the Council's own capital allocation and through regional partners. This is supported by a new Cycling

Strategy, to facilitate a modal shift from car travel to active transport. Key plans for this strand include:-

- Further expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure and support for uptake.
- Delivery of cycling and public transport infrastructure.
- Roll out telematics across the Council's fleet.
- Continue to develop a timeline for a low carbon fuel fleet conversion.

2.9 **Housing** - Good progress has been made in 2021/22, with successful delivery of a retrofitting project at The Lanes, East Dene. Future progress will depend on the availability of funding, as installing energy efficiency upgrades to existing housing stock is a capital-intensive process. Plans include:-

- Delivery of schemes under Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding.
- Establish energy efficiency specifications for new Council homes.
- Monitoring performance against housing stock emission baselines.

2.10 **Waste** - Emissions from waste are the subject of collaboration, through the South Yorkshire Waste Partnership and the BDR Waste Partnership. Further progress will depend on engagement and education activity, across the Borough. Plans include:-

- Review of the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy (linked to any National changes arising from the Environment Bill.)
- Recycling improvement and contamination reduction.
- Diverting waste from landfill through the BDR waste partnership.
- Set out and deliver plans to introduce recycling to the Council's commercial waste offer.

2.11 **Built and Natural Environment** - Revenue and capital investment in tree planting delivered large scale success in the last planting season, with more than 22,000 new trees planted. Future success will be directed by a new Tree Planting Strategy and supported by updates to the planning process, to offer better protections for the Borough's natural capital. Plans include:-

- Partial update to the Local Plan Core Strategy.
- Introduction of further Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) relevant to climate change.
- Delivery of Tree Planting for 2022/23.

2.12 **Influence and Engagement** - The Council continues to engage and also influence partners nationally, regionally and through its own procured services. The Council is directly responsible for less than 2% of carbon emissions across the Borough, so more engagement will be needed to achieve the Net Zero 2040 goal.

- The Council will continue to play an active role regionally and nationally to promote the climate agenda.
- Develop emissions considerations as part of the procurement process.
- Develop a climate emergency communications and engagement plan.

2.13 Progress Summary

Appendix 1 contains a progress update against each of the key short-term actions. The majority of the action plan consists of long-term actions that have target dates of 2030 or 2040, aligned to the Net Zero targets. Therefore, there are no major changes in terms of the main strands and areas of focus. However, some of the main areas of progress to date are outlined below:

- Successful recruitment of the Climate Change Delivery Team.
- Improved utilisation of climate related data – this will further the understanding of carbon emission reductions and inform future actions taken to reach the NZ30 and NZ40 targets.
- Successful negotiation of a change to the BDR contract that incentivises the contractor to divert more from landfill. As a result, the % of residual waste sent to landfill has decreased to 0.6%, meaning that 99.4% of waste is now diverted from landfill.
- Initial pilot of Carbon Literacy Training complete, with a view to rolling this out to staff and elected members from the end of 2022 and into 2023.
- Additional funding opportunities have been awarded. E.g., £1.5 million from Wave 1 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.
- Established the housing stock emission baselines of Council owned homes.

2.14 Next Steps

- 2.15 Development of a new Climate Emergency Action Plan will be underway by the end of 2022. This will be developed by the Climate Change Team which will be fully established by November 2022, working alongside services across the Council. It is proposed that the new Action Plan forms part of the annual update that comes to Cabinet and is scheduled for March 2023.
- 2.16 The Climate Change Project Board will continue to meet monthly as per the Project Board Terms of Reference. The Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23 will continue to be updated through regular reporting at this Project Board. This means that the action plan will be a live document.
- 2.17 Ongoing actions within the action plan will continue to progress towards the Council's NZ30 and NZ40 targets.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Option 1 – that Cabinet approves the Climate Change Action Plan as set out in Appendix 1 and notes the progress made and challenges and opportunities identified and that this is submitted to the next Council meeting, for information. It is further recommended that Cabinet notes next steps, specifically the actions scheduled to begin once the Climate Change Team are in post.
- 3.2 Option 2 – that Cabinet does not approve the Climate Change Action Plan as set out in Appendix 1. This is not recommended as this would be contrary to the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency on the 30th October 2019.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 This report has not required a public consultation because it represents a progress update of ongoing responses to the climate emergency within the Council. Furthermore, the report does not involve any changes to policies or services. The update demonstrates the collective effort to reach NZ30 and NZ40 targets from workforce leads across the different services within the Council.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The progression of actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan is monitored and overseen by both the Climate Change Members Working Group and the Climate Change Project Board. Additionally, the Project Board reports progress to the Big Hearts, Big Changes Programme up to the Strategic Board.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report. The actions within the updated Climate Emergency Action Plan are funded within the Council's existing revenue and capital budgets. In future, when additional Council funding is required to deliver the NZ30 and NZ40 carbon emissions targets this must be identified through the Council's annual budget setting process.
- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications in association with the recommendations made within this report. Any procurement activity for Goods, Works or Services arising as a result of future planning and delivery of the Climate Action Plan will be required to be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules and Public Contract Regulations (as amended).
- 6.3 Procurement documents already highlight carbon emissions as a consideration throughout the procurement process. Further approaches to reducing emissions through procurement processes are to be explored, as outlined in the updated Climate Emergency Action Plan. This may include requesting identified sets of data from suppliers and contractors to develop the Council's Scope 3 emissions baseline.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implication arising out of this Report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 The human resources implications in relation to recruitment and resourcing activity, progress and actions are outlined within the main body of the report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 Whilst there are no direct measurable implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report, future actions that may arise from the recommendations could have an overall positive impact on reducing CO2 emissions and tackling climate change.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 The Climate Change programme is recognised as a truly cross cutting delivery and every directorate will have a role to play in identifying opportunities to contribute to the Council's efforts to meet respective 2030 and 2040 targets. It is envisaged that the additional permanent resource of the Climate Change Team will provide the additional capacity required to drive forward the ambition of the Council working alongside service teams, strategic partners and communities across Rotherham.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The Climate Emergency represents a serious risk to the Council, its partners and the residents of the Borough. These risks are varied and wide ranging and will have both immediate and long-term implications. These implications could impact on how Services will be delivered, the quality of life of our residents and financially on the Business Community.
- 13.2 The Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23, working towards the Council's NZ30 and NZ40 targets is one of the ways the Council can mitigate against these risks.

14. Accountable Officers

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Jonathan Marriott, Head of Asset Management, Regeneration and Environment Directorate

15. Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:

Named Officer		
		Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	03/10/22
Strategic Director, Finance (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	29/09/22
Assistant Director, Legal	Phil Horsfield	29/09/22

Report Author(s):

Florence Drew, National Management Trainee, Change & Innovation,
Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate

Jonathan Marriott, Head of Asset Management, Regeneration and
Environment Directorate

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Climate Emergency Action Plan 22/23

Theme: Overarching Activity Summary: There has been strong progress in the Council's overarching activities related to climate change, with the introduction of improved governance arrangements and development of the Council's carbon emissions baseline providing the foundation for future monitoring and reporting.			
Priority Area	Key Short-Term Actions	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Monitoring and reporting	Introduce carbon impact assessments	<p>It is now standard practice for all Cabinet reports to include a carbon impact assessment.</p> <p>A review and evaluation of carbon impact assessments is planned.</p>	Carbon impact assessments can be improved by developing the Council's carbon emissions data and through training for Council officers.
	Continue to develop baseline data	<p>A Scope 3 Data Action Plan has been created and is in progress, setting out a guide to capturing Scope 3 emissions.</p> <p>A Staff Survey has been implemented aimed at calculating emissions arising from staff commuting and working from home.</p>	<p>Emissions from water and business travel have now been calculated and are to be added to 2018/19 baseline model.</p> <p>Borough-wide transport data is to be improved upon with the addition of data obtained from SYSTRA's Rotherham Transport Carbon Analysis Report.</p>

	Recruitment of a new Climate Delivery Team	The Climate Change Team of three officers has been recruited to with the Climate Change Officer and Data Analysis Officer staff in post; the Climate Change Manager is due to commence early November 2022.	
Awareness raising	Monitor and report CO₂ emissions publicly	<p>The Council's carbon emissions baseline has been submitted for publication on the Rotherham Data Hub.</p> <p>The Council are awaiting the finalisation of Scope 1 and 2 emissions for 2021/22.</p>	<p>There are plans to establish and develop a cross-departmental Climate Change Internal Report Server where climate change data can be easily shared and accessed by Council staff working on climate change mitigating projects. This will be shared via a live annual reporting dashboard.</p> <p>Scope 3 emissions are to be added to annual reports where possible.</p> <p>Monitoring and reporting CO₂ emissions will support a better understanding of carbon emissions reductions, to ensure the Council is taking the right actions to meet its Net Zero targets.</p>
	Implement carbon literacy training for Council workforce	<p>Briefings have been delivered, to support officers completing carbon impact assessments.</p> <p>Carbon Literacy training is currently being piloted, with a view to roll out this training to priority groups imminently.</p>	<p>Delivery of carbon literacy training will underpin decision making that is well informed of environmental impacts.</p> <p>The Council workforce do not all have access to online training measures such as e-learning. Other training methods are currently being considered to cover potential gaps in carbon literacy training.</p>

		Options for wider workforce rollout, including e-learning modules and targeted training sessions, are under review.	
Theme: Energy Summary: Carbon emissions from the Council's operational buildings have been decreasing since 2014. Further progress towards Net Zero 2030 will be delivered through the Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan (Phase 1).			
Priority area	Key Short-Term Actions	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Decarbonising buildings	Develop a site decarbonisation plan and implement energy efficiency upgrades	<p>A Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP) is in now in place.</p> <p>A Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) funding application is being developed in preparation for the application window, expected to open for proposals in October 2022.</p>	<p>PSDS funding will depend on a delivery partner being identified to comply with the timeframes stipulated to spend grant funding.</p> <p>The allocated capital budget focusses on 3 priority areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support PSDS grant bids to offset the costs / tonne of carbon. 2. Align with capital projects to upgrade fossil fuel systems to low carbon options/reducing electricity capacity (PV systems). 3. Fund energy efficiency measures to get sites ready for decarbonisation without the low carbon heating systems.

	<p>Deliver a renewable energy project by 2025.</p> <p>First stage - Find a suitable site for renewable energy generation, obtain planning permission and commence procurement.</p>	<p>Site identified and work is underway especially on connection to the grid and land ownership and rights.</p> <p>If land related issues can be overcome then next steps are planning and procurement.</p> <p>Possible start on site Summer 2023 (with 3 to 4 month construction).</p>	<p>Main challenges are site related such as 3rd Party grazing license and restrictive covenants.</p>
	<p>Continued development of Templeborough biomass heat network</p>	<p>A private company has made a bid in to Government for £25m of grant funding from the BEIS Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF). If approved this will allow the Rotherham Energy Network (REN) project to move into construction and operation.</p>	<p>If the Heat Network is implemented this provides an opportunity for the Council and other building owners to link into the network for the supply of heat.</p>

Theme: Transport

Summary: Significant investment has been secured for the extension of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, through the Council's own capital allocation and through regional partners. This is supported by a new Cycling Strategy, to facilitate a modal shift from car travel to active transport.

Priority area	Key Short-Term Actions	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Promote electric vehicle charging	Further expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure and support for uptake	The Council are continually working to maximise the provision of rapid chargers across the borough.	An EV strategy is currently in the early stages of development. Looking at an internal consultation followed by public consultation, prior to taking it to Cabinet for approval.

		<p>The Council are constantly reviewing, adapting and developing the EV offer.</p> <p>The Council budget has allocated £648,000 for investment into EV charging infrastructure until 2025-26. Therefore £173,000 is allocated for this financial year.</p> <p>The current focus is on the SYMCA funded project to install 6 rapid charge points at 3 locations (Drummond St, Constable Lane, Douglas St). This is intended to facilitate support for EV uptake.</p> <p>It is proposed that the remaining funds from the SYMCA scheme will be combined with the council capital budget to develop at least one residential charging hub.</p>	<p>Use of the EV charging infrastructure has reduced following pandemic and is being monitored for use and patterns to help inform future infrastructure expansion.</p>
Develop cycling strategy	Delivery of cycling and public transport infrastructure	<p>There is a continual delivery and development of schemes that are part of the Transforming Cities Programme.</p>	<p>The main challenge is the delivery of schemes especially with increasing construction costs.</p>

		The first phase of the Sheffield Road cycle route has been substantially completed.	
Fleet transport	Roll out telematics across the fleet	<p>Multiple telematics systems are already in use, with different functions for different fleet users.</p> <p>A new system called C-Track is currently being trailed, with a fully costed plan for rollout across the Council fleet by March 2023. The telematics hardware is fitted to a fleet minibus and the trial is ongoing.</p>	<p>There is a need to link up with other services who are also developing and working on telematics to ensure a uniform approach is adopted across the Council.</p> <p>Telematics can help to improve driver behaviour and fuel efficiency. Telematics data can also support emissions monitoring and a future transition to zero emission vehicles.</p>
	Continue to develop a timeline for a low carbon fuel fleet conversion	<p>The development of a plan for a low carbon fleet conversion is predicted to be complete by the end of November 2022.</p> <p>The waste service has already had a trial of an electric refuse collection vehicle in March 2022.</p>	<p>Development of a strategy and timeline for low carbon fuel conversion will require a full review of infrastructure and EV charging capacity, to include known limitations to grid capacity at Hellaby depot.</p> <p>EV conversion may or may not be the best option currently due to considerations surrounding the pricing, supply chain, manufacturing and mining considerations.</p>

Theme: Housing

Summary: Good progress has been made in 2021/22, with successful delivery of a retrofitting project at The Lanes, East Dene. Future progress will depend on the availability of funding, as installing energy efficiency upgrades to existing housing stock is a capital-intensive process.

Priority area	Key Short-Term Actions	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Zero Carbon Housing Plan	Delivery of schemes under SHDF funding	<p>The Council secured £1.5m funding under Wave 1 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF).</p> <p>Utilising this funding, an investment programme has been developed to undertake energy efficiency works to 141 properties in Maltby/Hellaby. Retrofit designs and assessments are currently being finalised following consultation with Northern Powergrid. The works are planned to commence in November 2022, with completion in March 2023.</p>	Wave 2 of funding and associated guidance opened on 29 th September 2022. There are many challenges associated with bidding for this funding, including reduced funding per property compared to Wave 1 and additional funding criteria. The Council is currently considering the guidance and the potential for submitting a bid.
	Establish energy efficiency specifications for new Council homes	Energy efficiency specifications are being developed as part of a development of 36 properties at two sites in Eastwood.	Higher energy efficiency specifications can affect the viability of new Council housing developments.

		<p>Two sites in Thrybergh will be developed as zero carbon prototypes, to explore implications of zero carbon delivery.</p> <p>This development is running later than anticipated. Energy specifications are going to come out of design work soon for two of the projects that are currently running.</p>	
	Establish housing stock emission baselines	<p>This action has now been completed.</p> <p>The housing stock emission baseline of Council owned homes is 57,000 tonnes of carbon.</p>	Replicating this work with non-Council housing stock in future will be more difficult.
	Developing a Community Energy Support Scheme	<p>The Council's Community Energy Support Scheme (launched March 2021) continues to support residents and is currently focussing on the Government ECO4 installation scheme to attract energy efficiency into the borough and reduce fuel poverty.</p>	<p>There are opportunities to extend this work into a joint action that is coordinated across services and with external partners.</p> <p>Following the lifting of pandemic restrictions, resident support events are being organised across the borough in addition to the current on-line and remote support provided.</p>

		The Housing service currently provide advice and support to tenants through the financial inclusion service and general advice from housing officers.	
Community energy support scheme	Developing a Community Energy Support Scheme	<p>The Council's Community Energy Support Scheme (launched March 2021) continues to support residents and is currently focussing on the Government ECO4 installation scheme to attract energy efficiency into the borough and reduce fuel poverty.</p> <p>The Housing service currently provide advice and support to tenants through the financial inclusion service and general advice from housing officers.</p>	<p>There are opportunities to extend this work into a joint action that is coordinated across services and with external partners.</p> <p>Following the lifting of pandemic restrictions, resident support events are being organised across the borough in addition to the current on-line and remote support provided.</p>
Theme: Waste <p>Summary: Emissions from waste are the subject of collaboration, through the South Yorkshire Waste Partnership and the BDR Waste Partnership. Further progress will depend on engagement and education activity, across the Borough.</p>			
Priority area	Review the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy	South Yorkshire Waste Partnership are continuing to review the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy (SYWS) 2017 – 2021.	Detailed work on the development of a new strategy is still on hold due to the delayed publication of responses to DEFRA's Resources and Waste Strategy Consultation.

		<p>Engagement with the public has taken place surrounding household waste recycling centres. This will form part of the overall review of the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy (SYWS).</p> <p>Additional resources have been introduced through a Graduate Scheme Placement to support this ongoing work.</p>	<p>The South Yorkshire Waste Partnership are currently in the process of lobbying government for a response to the Consultation and in August wrote a letter to DEFRA to seek a response and clarification. To date no response has been received.</p>
Waste from households	Recycling improvement and contamination reduction	<p>A 12- month Waste Communication Plan has been developed to deliver improvements across the waste hierarchy. This has improved recycling figures for this year</p> <p>The service has recruited an Engagement Officer who lives in the community the service is targeting for improvements. A multi-lingual individual has been appointed, by working with a local Community Organisation to work on waste related engagement in Eastwood. This commenced</p>	<p>There are plans to introduce an Engagement Team to tackle some of the wider issues within waste which is based on the waste hierarchy. This will link to the new Waste and Resource Strategy and will involve engagement with customers and businesses.</p> <p>Officers have been asked to provide a formal monitoring plan which relates to contracts with waste companies. This will help to gain an understanding of additional issues as well as different monitoring processes.</p>

		<p>at the end of September 2022.</p> <p>Currently working alongside Housing to engage with residents regarding the contamination of communal recycling bins in certain areas of Rotherham.</p>	
	Diverting waste from landfill through BDR waste partnership	<p>There has been a successful negotiation of a change to the BDR contract that incentivises the contractor to divert more from landfill. As a result, the % of residual waste sent to landfill has decreased to 0.6%, down from 1.34% previously. This means that 99.4% of waste is now diverted from landfill.</p> <p>BDR contract recycling numbers have also improved.</p>	<p>There are plans to introduce an Engagement Team to tackle some of the wider issues within waste which is based on the waste hierarchy. This will link to the new Waste and Resource Strategy and will involve engagement with customers and businesses.</p> <p>Officers have been asked to provide a formal monitoring plan which relates to contracts with waste companies. This will help to gain an understanding of additional issues as well as different monitoring processes.</p> <p>The extension of commercial waste recycling will help to gain more intelligent data. This will match the data needed following the publication of the Waste and Resource Strategy.</p>
	Set out and deliver plans to introduce recycling to the Council's commercial waste offer	<p>The soft launch of commercial waste recycling into Council offices commenced in July 2022, with a view to extending the service offer to all commercial sites in 2023.</p> <p>The extension of commercial waste recycling to all commercial sites is currently</p>	<p>A job description is currently being developed to recruit a new Commercial Waste Officer. This will assist with the expansion of commercial waste recycling.</p>

		the subject of a detailed business case which is in draft.	
Commercial waste	Set out and deliver plans to introduce recycling to the Council's commercial waste offer	<p>The soft launch of commercial waste recycling into Council offices commenced in July 2022, with a view to extending the service offer to all commercial sites in 2023.</p> <p>The extension of commercial waste recycling to all commercial sites is currently the subject of a detailed business case which is in draft.</p>	<p>The extension of commercial waste recycling will help to gain more intelligent data. This will match the data needed following the publication of the Waste and Resource Strategy.</p> <p>A job description is currently being developed to recruit a new Commercial Waste Officer. This will assist with the expansion of commercial waste recycling.</p>
Theme: Built and Natural Environment <p>Summary: Revenue and capital investment in tree planting have delivered large scale success this planting season, with more than 22,000 new trees. Future success will be directed by a new Tree Planting Strategy and supported by updates to the planning process, to offer better protections for the Borough's natural capital.</p>			
Priority area	Partial update to the Local Plan Core Strategy	<p>A draft strategy will go to consultation in late 2022 or early 2023. The following sections related to climate change are to be updated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CS 25 - Dealing with Flood Risk 	Any National changes to planning legislation or the planning framework.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CS 26 – Minerals <p>CS 30 - Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Generation</p>	
Planning	Introduction of further Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) relevant to climate change	<p>A Natural Environment SPD and Transport SPD were adopted at Cabinet in June 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three further SPD's, related to climate change, Biodiversity Net Gain, Soils, and Trees, were approved at Cabinet in 2022 for consultation. Following consultation it is expected these will be brought back to Cabinet in 2023 for consideration to be adopted. 	Any changes to National legislation of the planning framework. The SPDs coming through the system provide considerable opportunities to assist in addressing climate change.
	Recruitment to the vacant posts within the Tree Service	<p>Recruitment plans are in place to fill the two remaining vacant posts. The positions are predicted to be filled in October/November 2022.</p> <p>One of the vacant Tree Officer positions has now been filled.</p>	<p>Main challenge is being successful in recruitment.</p> <p>The process for tree planting for 2022/23 is underway, with Ward Member engagement due to complete by</p>

			the end of October 2022 and wider community engagement by November 2022. £350,000 capital investment over two years was dedicated to tree planting in the Council's 2021 budget. This funding continues into the 2022/3 financial year, following over 22,000 new trees planted in 2021/22.
Green spaces and trees	Delivery of Tree Planting for 2022/23	A revised process for Tree Planting has been developed for the 2022/23 planting season.	Main challenge is being successful in recruitment. The process for tree planting for 2022/23 is underway, with Ward Member engagement due to complete by the end of October 2022 and wider community engagement by November 2022. £350,000 capital investment over two years was dedicated to tree planting in the Council's 2021 budget. This funding continues into the 2022/3 financial year, following over 22,000 new trees planted in 2021/22.
	Delivery of Tree Planting for 2022/23	A revised process for Tree Planting has been developed for the 2022/23 planting season.	
Theme: Influence and Engagement			
Summary: The Council continues to influence its partners nationally, regionally and through its own procured services. The Council is directly responsible for less than 2% of carbon emissions across the Borough, so more engagement will be needed to achieve the Net Zero 2040 goal.			
Priority area	The Council will continue to play an active role regionally and nationally to promote the climate agenda.	The Council is engaged with regional and national partners through the Yorkshire and Humber	The Council continues to seek new opportunities for collaboration with partners, including the recently established South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre.

		Climate Change Commission and the South Yorkshire MCA.	The implementation of a delivery team will allow more consistent engagement via specifically accountable officers.
Regional engagement	Develop emissions considerations as part of the procurement process	<p>There are plans to start requesting identified set of data from suppliers and contractors to develop the Council's scope 3 emissions baseline.</p> <p>Further approaches to reducing emissions through procurement are to be explored.</p>	<p>Services across the Council have a shared responsibility for emissions arising from procurement, through commissioning.</p> <p>Procurement only have oversight over contracts that are over a certain price.</p> <p>Data from suppliers will need to be obtained by officers in charge of a contract. Officers will need to ensure the data is collected before a contract comes to an end.</p> <p>There are plans to develop an approach to bring suppliers along with the Council plans to reduce carbon emissions, utilising the 'do with not do to' methodology.</p>
Procurement	Develop a climate emergency communications and engagement plan	<p>A Climate Emergency Communication and engagement Plan is currently being developed. This Communications plan will promote good climate, low emission practice within the Council and amongst, groups, businesses, residents, partners.</p> <p>Work on the plan has started and a first draft plan can be shared at the next Climate Change Workstream Project Board meeting.</p>	<p>There are future plans to send out key climate change messages across all directorates are being discussed. This would involve uniform content and branding across all areas to raise further awareness surrounding climate change.</p> <p>There could be an opportunity for the Neighbourhood Service to link in with the climate emergency engagement communications plan once this has been developed.</p>

		Communications will play a key role as the Council develops its approach to consultation and engagement on an updated Climate Emergency Action Plan, as set out in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan	
Communications			

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title

Title: Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23 Cabinet Report

Directorate: Regeneration & Environment

Service area: Asset Management

Lead person: Jonathan Marriott

Contact: 07919 045065

Is this a:

☒ **Strategy / Policy**
☐ **Service / Function**
☐ **Other**

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

An update report on the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23. This Report summarises the key updates, changes and risks, actions and next steps that will be taken, including the development of new Climate Emergency Action Plan 2023/24.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		X
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		X
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		
The paper itself is requesting that Cabinet notes the progress to date towards the Council's NZ30 and NZ40 targets and the progress against the actions outlined within the updated Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23. It is not seeking a decision on a strategy or policy.		

If you have answered **no** to **all** the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society

by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

- **Key findings**

- **Actions**

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:

Lead person for your Equality Analysis
(Include name and job title):

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Jonathan Marriott	Head of Asset Management	05/09/2022

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed

05/09/22

Report title and date

Climate Emergency Action Plan
2022/23 Cabinet Report - 17th
October 2022

If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication

Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement
equality@rotherham.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

User guidance:

- The first section of this form guides users through considering major areas where emissions are likely to occur. If emissions are impacted in a way not covered by these categories, please identify this at the bottom of the section
- The first section should be filled as such:
 - **Impact:** identify, in relation to each area, whether the decision of the proposal does the following: *reduces emissions*, *increases emissions*, or has *no impact on emissions*. If it is uncertain this section can be labelled *impact unknown*
 - If **no impact on emissions** is identified: no further detail is needed for this area, but can be added if relevant (e.g. if efforts have been made to mitigate emissions in this area.)
 - **Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions:** two sections deal respectively with emissions from the Council (including those of contractors), and emissions across Rotherham as a whole. In both sections please explain any factors that are likely to reduce or increase emissions. If **impact unknown** has been selected, then identify the area of uncertainty and outline known variables that may affect impacts.
 - In most cases there is no need to quantify the emission impact of an area after outlining the factors that may reduce or increase emissions. In some cases, however, this may be desirable if factors can be reduced to a small number of known variables (e.g. if an emission impact is attached to a known or estimated quantity of fuel consumed).
 - **Describe any measures to mitigate emission impact:** regardless of the emission impact, in many cases steps should be taken in order to reduce mitigate all emissions associated with each area as far as possible; these steps can be outlined here (For example: if a proposal is likely to increase emissions but practices or materials have been adopted in order to reduce this overall impact, this would be described here).
 - **Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out:** in this section outline any steps taken to monitor emission levels, or steps taken to monitor the factors that are expected to increase or reduce emission levels (for example, if waste or transport levels are being monitored this would be described here)
- A **summary paragraph** outlining the likely overall impacts of the proposal/decision on emissions should then be completed - this is not required if the proposal/decision has no impact across all areas.
- The supporting information section should be filled as followed:
 - Author/completing officer
 - **Research, data, or information** may refer to datasets, background documents, literature, consultations, or other data-gathering exercise. These should also be added to the **supporting documents** section of the cabinet report

-
- Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports
 - Prior to publishing reports, Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to climate@rotherham.gov.uk for feedback
 - Report authors may also use the above email address to direct any further queries or to access further support regarding completing the assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	No Negative Impact				
Emissions from transport?	No Negative Impact				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	No Negative Impact				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	No Negative Impact				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	No Negative Impact				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	No Negative Impact				

Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:

N/A

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

This Report presents the updated Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23 and summarises the key updates, changes and risks and outlines the next steps and actions that will be taken, including the development of a new Climate Emergency Action Plan 2023/24. Whilst the actions listed will undoubtedly have an overall positive impact on Carbon emissions if implemented, it is not possible to measure these individually. The measurements will be picked up as part of the future carbon assessments which can be measured against the baselines that have been obtained.

Supporting information:

Completed by:

(Name, title, and service area/directorate).

Jonathan Marriott – Head of Asset Management – R&E

Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].

N/A

If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.

N/A

Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]

This page is intentionally left blank

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 17 October 2022

Report Title

Outcomes from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board relating to the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Climate Change

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Jonathan Marriott, Head of Asset Management
01709 823898 or jonathan.marriott@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge (CCTOC) is a national initiative where children and young people take over an organisation or meeting and assume management/leadership roles.

The Children's Commissioner's Takeover was held on 16 March 2022 with climate change as the theme for this year's takeover challenge, as it was one of the key priorities within Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC) manifesto for 2022 and identified through consultation.

RYC realise that Climate Change is a threat to communities now and action is needed and the RYC realise that the issue of Climate Change spans further than saving the planet and is primarily about caring for people who live on the planet.

This report outlines the issues raised by RYC at the Takeover Challenge and the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting on the 6 July 2022. This report also provides the proposed Cabinet response to the issues raised (in Appendix 1).

Recommendations

1. That the Cabinet response to the Children's Commissioners Takeover Challenge on Climate Change be approved.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Recommendations from the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Climate Change (16 March 2022)

Appendix 2 – Initial Equality Screening Assessment Form

Appendix 3 – Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

06 July 2022 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Climate Change

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, 16th March 2022 - Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Climate Change

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 06 July 2022

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 16 March 2022

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Outcomes from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board relating to the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Climate Change

1. Background

- 1.1 The Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge (CCTOC) is a national initiative where children and young people take over an organisation or meeting and assume management/leadership roles. As part of RMBC's commitment to the CCTOC, each year, with the exception of last year due to Covid-19, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) supports Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC) in undertaking a focused piece of work on a topic chosen by the young people.
- 1.2 The Children's Commissioner's Takeover held on 16 March 2022 was Chaired by Josie Brown, Rotherham Youth Cabinet. RYC chose climate change as the theme for this year's takeover challenge, as it was one of the key priorities in their manifesto for 2022 and identified through consultation.
- 1.3 RYC realise that Climate Change is a threat to communities now and action is needed and the RYC realise that the issue of Climate Change spans further than saving the planet and is primarily about caring for people who live on the planet.
- 1.4 By resolving the issues of Climate Change this could solve many interconnecting issues e.g. public transport improvements (focus on decarbonising means of travel), Youth participation in the democratic system (increasing number of young people engaged at the heart of the climate change movement), journey to net zero revitalises jobs and industries.
- 1.5 A number of members of the Rotherham Youth Cabinet are members of the Regional Youth Climate Assembly (RECA) created in April 2020 during lockdown.
- 1.6 Members of the RYC attended the COP 26 conference.
- 1.7 The Rotherham Youth Cabinet now wish to focus more on a local level as they understand this is a huge part in tackling Climate Change on a holistic level so that Rotherham and its communities can accelerate the journey to net zero and use it as a catalyst for further change.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Appendix 1 sets out the recommendations following the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge held in March 2022 and the proposed response for Cabinet to consider.
- 2.2 A series of questions were put by members of the RYC to Council Officers covering a range of topics associated with Climate Change. The questions are set out below:

- What is being done within schools and Council buildings to reduce the amount of energy being used? How can this be reduced further?
- What is the plan to combat plastic pollution across Rotherham and how is local action promoted?
- Locally, how much waste is being recycled? How do you plan on improving this?
- Most schools do not have recycling facilities, what is the Council doing to make recycling bins accessible for schools and is it possible to provide more recycling bins in streets and public spaces?
- How is the Council encouraging schools and academies to have a consistent and dedicated climate curriculum and what plans do you have to improve climate education for young people across Rotherham, who is responsible for implementing these plans and by when?
- How do you plan on involving the wider community ie adults, in tackling climate change and how are you raising awareness about the need to recycle and how to recycle?
- What action is taking place to improve the reliability, accessibility and affordability of public transport given the huge role it will play in decarbonising our travel?
- What has/is being done to improve the distribution of electric car charging points across Rotherham to ensure a smooth transition to net zero?
- What green jobs are available for young people to either take as a vocational pathway or being created in Rotherham?
- Can you explain what is being done in Rotherham to tackle the nature emergency and improve wildlife recovery?
- How is the Council working with other groups and organisations to tackle the intersectional factors around climate change?
- Are there plans for schools and Council buildings to have consistent approach to green technology such as solar panels?
- How are you ensuring that Council houses are environmentally friendly and energy efficient?
- What consideration has been made to introducing alternatives to single use plastics in school canteens and public buildings, for example leisure centre vending machines, cafes etc

2.3 In light of the responses to the questions provided by Council Officers, the Rotherham Youth Cabinet developed the recommendations contained in Appendix 1 specifically relating to Rotherham Borough. In summary these focus on:

- Enhanced action to reduce pollution and single-use plastics
- Strengthening inclusive engagement with young people on the climate and environment agenda for Rotherham including through the development of an Environmental Awards Scheme for Rotherham Schools
- Increased provision of carbon literacy training / awareness raising

In addition the Council has a Climate Emergency Action for 2022/23 and proposes to bring the next Action Plan to Cabinet in March 2023.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Option 1 – that Cabinet accepts the recommendations set out in Appendix 1 and provides a response to those recommendations, noting the actions that have already been taken. (Recommended option)
- 3.2 Option 2 – that Cabinet does not accept the Children's takeover Challenge recommendations set out in Appendix 1. This is not recommended as this would be contrary to the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency on the 30th October 2019.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The appropriate Council Officers who are subject the recommendations set out in Appendix 1 have been consulted.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The CCTOC recommendations were considered by OSMB at the 6 July 2022 meeting and OSMB recommended these be considered by Cabinet. It is therefore recommended that Cabinet formally consider its response to its recommendations, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.
- 5.2 The timetable for implementing the recommendations is set out in Appendix 1.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The contents of the report covering as it does questions and recommendations posed by the Rotherham Youth Cabinet does not commit the Council to additional resources. The activities included in the report were covered from existing approved budgets.
- 6.2 There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. However, where there is a need to procure goods, services or works in the delivery of the recommendations, this must be undertaken in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 Whilst there are no direct measurable implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report, future actions that may arise from the recommendations could have an overall positive impact on reducing CO2 emissions and tackling climate change.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Consideration should be given to the positive implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate change arising from the report's recommendations as part of Cabinets response such as schools and other partners within the wider community.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Officers have regard to the risks and mitigation factors associated with the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge topic of Climate Change and have made recommendations accordingly

14. Accountable Officers

Paul Woodcock, Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director, Regeneration & Environment
Jonathan Marriott, Head of Asset Management

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	03/10/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	29/09/22
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	29/09/22

Report Author: Jonathan Marriott, Head Of Asset Management
01709 823898 or jonathan.marriott@rotherham.gov.uk

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

This page is intentionally left blank

	Recommendation	Cabinet Decision (Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)	Cabinet Response (detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)	Accountability	Target date for completion (if applicable)
1.	That Youth Cabinet are invited to visit the Waste Treatment Centre at Manvers	Accepted	That Cabinet accept the recommendation from the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge and that a visit to the facility is arranged. The invitation was issued and accepted by the Youth Cabinet and the visit took place with Sam Barstow, Acting Assistant Director of Community Safety and Street Scene on Wednesday 3rd August.	Sam Barstow, Acting Assistant Director Community Safety and Street Scene	Complete
2.	That the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment meets with members of the Youth Cabinet to discuss plastic waste / pollution and action to minimise single use plastics	Accepted	That Cabinet accept the recommendation from the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge and that the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment meets the Youth Cabinet. A meeting with the Youth Cabinet, Paul Woodcock Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment, Leanne Buchan Head of Service, Creative Programming & Visitor Experience, Jonathan Marriott, Head of Asset Management and the new Climate Change Team has been arranged for the 16 th November 2022.	Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment	16.11.2022
3.	That the Assistant Director for Education works with the Youth Cabinet to look at the feasibility of developing an environmental awards scheme for schools.	Accepted	That Cabinet accept the recommendation from the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge considered at OSMB and that Nathan Heath, Assistant Director: Education and Inclusion meet with the Youth Cabinet to discuss the proposals. The meeting took place on Wednesday 10 th August (5.30 - 6.00). The meeting was joined by Youth Cabinet members from Calderdale, and a range of ideas to take forward a schools based environmental/climate change awards were discussed. The Youth Cabinet had also undertaken an ideas session ahead of this meeting. The Council and the Youth Cabinet have committed to ongoing discussions to support a schools based programme in the Borough, the Youth Cabinet will come forward with proposals to support this programme.	Nathan Heath, Assistant Director: Education and Inclusion	Complete
4.	That Council officers work with the Youth Cabinet to strengthen its engagement strategy with young people, specifically young people of BAME communities or other hard to reach groups.	Accepted	That Cabinet accept the recommendation from the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge. Once the newly created Climate Change Manager post is recruited to the officer will work with the Youth Cabinet on the proposals.	Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment	Ongoing and to be considered for the next Action Plan
5.	That Council officers work with the Youth Cabinet on widening carbon literacy training/awareness	Accepted	That Cabinet accept the recommendation from the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge considered. Once the newly created Climate Change Manager post is recruited to the officer will work with the Youth Cabinet on the proposals	Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment	Included in the 2022/23 Action Plan

This page is intentionally left blank

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title

Title: Outcomes from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board relating to the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Climate Change

Directorate: Regeneration and Environment

Service area: Asset Management

Lead person:
Jonathan Marriott

Contact number:
X23898

Is this a:

☒ **Strategy / Policy**
☐ **Service / Function**
☐ **Other**

If other, please specify -

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

To Screen the report that outlines the issues raised by Rotherham Youth Council at the Takeover Challenge and the recommendations made by The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that the report and recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for a response.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		X
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		X

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

The paper itself is requesting that Cabinet acknowledges the outcomes of the Takeover Challenge and the recommendations made by The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that the report and recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for a response. The issues raised within the Takeover Challenge will be addressed in the Council's overall response to Climate Change.

If you have answered **no** to **all** the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

(think about the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)

- **Key findings**

(think about any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)

- **Actions**

(think about how you will promote positive impact and remove/reduce negative impact)

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Jonathan Marriott	Head of Asset Management	15/07/2022

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	15/07/22
Report title and date	Outcomes from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board relating to the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Climate Change 19 th September 2022 Cabinet
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	06 July 2022 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Climate Change Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, 16th March 2022 - Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Climate Change
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	15/07/22

User guidance:

- The first section of this form guides users through considering major areas where emissions are likely to occur. If emissions are impacted in a way not covered by these categories, please identify this at the bottom of the section
- The first section should be filled as such:
 - **Impact:** identify, in relation to each area, whether the decision of the proposal does the following: *reduces emissions*, *increases emissions*, or has *no impact on emissions*. If it is uncertain this section can be labelled *impact unknown*
 - If **no impact on emissions** is identified: no further detail is needed for this area, but can be added if relevant (e.g. if efforts have been made to mitigate emissions in this area.)
 - **Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions:** two sections deal respectively with emissions from the Council (including those of contractors), and emissions across Rotherham as a whole. In both sections please explain any factors that are likely to reduce or increase emissions. If **impact unknown** has been selected, then identify the area of uncertainty and outline known variables that may affect impacts.
 - In most cases there is no need to quantify the emission impact of an area after outlining the factors that may reduce or increase emissions. In some cases, however, this may be desirable if factors can be reduced to a small number of known variables (e.g. if an emission impact is attached to a known or estimated quantity of fuel consumed).
 - **Describe any measures to mitigate emission impact:** regardless of the emission impact, in many cases steps should be taken in order to reduce mitigate all emissions associated with each area as far as possible; these steps can be outlined here (For example: if a proposal is likely to increase emissions but practices or materials have been adopted in order to reduce this overall impact, this would be described here).
 - **Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out:** in this section outline any steps taken to monitor emission levels, or steps taken to monitor the factors that are expected to increase or reduce emission levels (for example, if waste or transport levels are being monitored this would be described here)
- A **summary paragraph** outlining the likely overall impacts of the proposal/decision on emissions should then be completed - this is not required if the proposal/decision has no impact across all areas.
- The supporting information section should be filled as followed:
 - Author/completing officer
 - **Research, data, or information** may refer to datasets, background documents, literature, consultations, or other data-gathering exercise. These should also be added to the **supporting documents** section of the cabinet report

-
- Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports
 - Prior to publishing reports, Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to climate@rotherham.gov.uk for feedback
 - Report authors may also use the above email address to direct any further queries or to access further support regarding completing the assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	No Impact				
Emissions from transport?	No Impact				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	No Impact				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	No Impact				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	No Impact				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	No Impact				

Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:

This report outlines the issues raised by RYC at the Takeover Challenge and the recommendations made by The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that the report and recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for a response. Whilst the concerns raised will undoubtedly have an overall positive impact on Carbon emissions if taken on board, this will be addressed as part of the Council's overall response to Climate Change and not as a direct result of this report.

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

Not Applicable

Supporting information:

Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Jonathan Marriott, Head of Asset Management, Asset Management Service, Regeneration & Environment
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	None
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	

This page is intentionally left blank