

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

- Date and Time :-** Tuesday 6 September 2022 at 10.00 a.m.
- Venue:-** Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.
- Membership:-** Councillors Pitchley (Chair), Cooksey (Vice Chair), Andrews, Atkin, Aveyard, Bacon, Barley, Bennett-Sylvester, Z Collingham, Elliott, Griffin, Haleem, Jones, Hughes, McNeely, Mills and Thompson

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

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

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 June and 26 July 2022 (Pages 3 - 15)

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meetings held on 14 June and 26 July 2022 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

5. Questions from Members of the Public and the Press

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

6. Communications

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

7. Corporate Parenting Panel - Update

To consider any updates from the Corporate Parenting Panel.

8. Rotherham Local Area Special Education Needs and Disability - Written Statement of Action update. (Pages 17 - 71)

This report provides the Improving Lives Select Commission with an update and progress on Rotherham Local Area SEND Written Statement of Action (WSOA) which was submitted and accepted by Ofsted in January 2022.

9. Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy (including Sufficiency) 2023 - 2027 (Pages 73 - 116)

This report provides an update on the delivery of the previous strategy and the development of the new Strategy.

10. Work Programme (Pages 117 - 123)

To consider and approve the Commission's Work Programme.

11. Improving Lives Select Commission - Sub and Project Group Updates

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

12. Urgent Business

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

13. Date and time of the next meeting

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



Sharon Kemp,
Chief Executive.

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday, 14 June 2022

Present:- Councillors Pitchley (Chair), Cooksey, Aveyard, Bennett-Sylvester, Z. Collingham, Griffin, Haleem, Hughes, Jones, McNeely, Mills and Thompson.

Apologies were received from Councillors Andrews, Atkin, Bacon, Elliott, Monk, and from co-optee Joanna Jones.

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

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 3 MAY 2022

Resolved:-

1. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission, held on 3 May 2022 be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that there were no items of business on the agenda that would require the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting.

4. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

5. COMMUNICATIONS

The Improving Lives Select Commission offered their thanks for the support provided by Martin Elliott, Governance Advisor, who had now left the authority.

6. CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - UPDATE

The Chair explained that the Corporate Parenting Panel had not yet met. An update would be provided when available.

7. ANNUAL REPORT ON CHILD EXPLOITATION

The Chair offered her thanks to Laura Gough, Head of Service Safeguarding Quality and Learning, for providing such a well written report.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services introduced the report explaining that it had been requested to understand the trends and performance regarding Child Exploitation and the mitigations in place. She introduced Laura Gough, Head of Service Safeguarding Quality and Learning, Simon Blakemore, South Yorkshire Police, Sam Barstow, Acting Assistant Director for Community Safety and Street Scene, and Rebecca Wall, Interim Assistant Director for Children's Social Care.

The report provided a summary of the key activity that had taken place including performance information and trends, awareness raising and safeguarding for the year 2021/22.

The presentation received provided information on the national strategy, Rotherham's local strategy, how they respond to child exploitation, how they worked together as partners along with the specialist services provided and post abuse support. The report recommended that the activity undertaken was noted.

The Head of Service Safeguarding Quality and Learning and colleagues made a presentation to the meeting that included information on:

- The National Strategy – Tackling Child Sexual Abuse, listing its three key objectives.
- Rotherham's Child Exploitation Strategy 2019/22.
- Highlighting the response to Child Exploitation, including referrals to Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), the specialist multi-agency team EVOLVE and the direct work with Children and Young People.
- Several multi-agency intelligence meetings were held with different areas of focus. One was the Child Exploitation Tactical Group (CETG), another was the Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and the multi-agency operational Missing. It was clarified that multiple partners were involved in all these meetings ensuring that the right personnel were attending the right meeting.
- The intelligence meetings ensured that intervention could be managed and planned more effectively.
- Three service providers had been commissioned to provide post abuse services to victims and survivors to reduce waiting times.
- A large number of awareness raising, and training sessions had been held with good attendance.
- The 'Spot the Signs' campaign was highlighted. Promotion for this would continue.
- Operation Keepsake was a multi-agency initiative which had engaged with over 1600 children within the community between April 2021 and March 2022.
- The training and support provided by EVOLVE was highlighted.
- The aims of the victim/survivor engagement project was to better understand how they felt in order to provide better assistance.

- Overall, there were a lot of good initiatives being undertaken within Rotherham that was leading to an effective and robust provision. There was always room for improvement and a need to react to an ever-changing landscape however a solid foundation had been created to be built upon.

Members felt that the report was very informative. Regarding the multi-agency missing group clarification was sought if all schools had the contact details for that service. It was confirmed that all schools had a dedicated safeguarding leads and deputies. A lot of work had been carried out with schools regarding the importance of raising instances of children missing education.

The report mentioned that Rotherham was one of a small number of local authorities to retain a small multi-agency team, it was queried what the advantages of having such a team would be. Rotherham had a greater understanding of how powerful the multi-agency team was in terms of providing a greater level of support and engagement. Their view was that Rotherham should be leaders in best practice and are now providing advice and guidance to others on our practices and processes.

It was noted that 213 children received 470 assessments, does that number give rise to any concerns that things may have been missed during the original assessments. It was clarified that children undergo a number of assessments as they move through the process to identify how the risk reduces and enable support to be tailored to their requirements.

In terms of regional and national co-operation regarding child exploitation, it was clarified that South Yorkshire police worked with 4 different authorities who all had slightly different processes and priorities but there was good co-operation and good structures across the police forces and partner organisations.

Work was going to be undertaken, through the remedy project to improve communication and to ensure that there was a consistent approach in the actions taken when communicating with victims/survivors.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People noted that the Trauma Resilience Service and the co-ordination of providers for post abuse support are all engaging survivors voice to capture this but want to get better and for the survivors' voice to feed into the next round of commissioning to ensure that services being provided are those that are needed.

Missing Advocates are part of the EVOLVE team and carry out the initial return interviews to ascertain what interventions are needed. As this service is separate from the police there is more likely to be engagement and trust from the young people.

It was clarified that there are two dedicated Missing Advocates within the EVOLVE team who work only with the children who were reported missing. All children who were reported missed were offered a return home interview within 72 hours. They identify the route causes for missing episodes and offer ongoing support and help to create a 'Find Me' plan of key information.

Regarding the KPI's assigned to the three service provides, it was clarified that there were a number of them, and they centred around the number of survivors and victims that were worked with and around the timeliness of the first contact with them and how many sessions they would be offered as part of the provision. Further information can be supplied to the Commission after the meeting.

It was queried if consideration could be given to members as to how information could be relayed regarding potential child exploitation hotspots within their wards to raise awareness. It was clarified that a lot of data was gathered however care needed to be taken when looking at what data could be provided to members to ensure that no child could be identified. It was also confirmed that the information held was the child's address and may not be where the exploitation took place.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People said she would send a link to the LGA 'Must Know: Online harms' document be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.

In response it was clarified that South Yorkshire Police did take a proactive approach to tackling this and more training and information was available now along with stronger partnership working.

The CCG and other partners were very engaged with providing lifelong support to victims/survivors as needed across the region.

It was felt that PCSO's and Housing Officers would benefit from receiving more in-depth Child Exploitation training rather than receiving an online session. In response it was clarified that a panel had been set up following receipt of funding to design, implement and deliver an in-depth child exploitation training programme. The heart of the training programme would be centred around the survivor's experience.

It was confirmed that there was a greater understanding across the service to support the criminally exploited children. There was no longer a child sexual exploitation team, it was a combined child exploitation team that supported all aspects. This took place within the EVOLVE team.

In response it was confirmed that there was no limit to how often the therapy could be accessed, and it could be accessed in multiple ways with no cut off point. The services were commissioned and staffed to meet the needs of the demand.

The support from the transport network is key. There were good links with the bus companies and ongoing training was provided to staff regarding safeguarding and assisting to find missing children.

A performance framework was monitored through the Child Exploitation Delivery Group.

The Commission received positive feedback from a Councillor who had attended the Child Matters training. Many of the partner organisations had also attended the course which was a full day in length. It has highlighted that the next Child Matters training would focus on child sexual exploitation.

Members indicated that they felt reassured by the wealth of information provided through the report and during discussions.

Resolved:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That details of the key performance indicators assigned to the Post CSE Contract providers be shared with the commission.
3. That consideration be given as to how information can be relayed to elected Members regarding potential child exploitation hotspots within their wards.
4. That further information would be provided to the Improving Lives Select Commission should the number of prosecutions associated with child exploitation increase.
5. That a site visit to the Evolve Service be arranged for members of the Improving Lives Select Commission to create a greater understanding of its operation.
6. That a link to the LGA 'Must Know: Online harms' document be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.
7. That members of the Improving Lives Select Commission be notified once the date for Safeguarding Awareness Week has been announced.
8. That further information regarding the project to develop an in-depth child exploitation training programme be provided to the Improving Lives Select Commission when available.
9. To provide clarification if the Child Matters 2 training course which focuses on CSE could be attended by members of the Improving Lives Selection Commission.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair explained that the Work Programme was still in development and would be drafted and circulated for consideration.

9. IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION - SUB AND PROJECT GROUP UPDATES

The Chair provided a progress report on sub and project group activity. Specifically detailing the Early Help Review, for which information had been sourced but had not yet been collated. She explained that 10 different authorities had been contacted for information.

The Chair also explained a review would be conducted to consider Exploitation. A small sub-group would be created to scope its requirements and discuss how the outcomes can feedback into the Improving Lives Select Commission. This review would commence upon the conclusion of the Early Help Review.

Resolved:-

1. That the update be noted.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

11. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**Resolved:-**

1. That the next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on Tuesday, 26 July 2022, commencing at 10am at Rotherham Town Hall.

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday 26 July 2022

Present:- Councillors Pitchley (Chair), Cooksey (Vice-chair), Atkin, Aveyard, Bacon, Bennett-Sylvester, Z. Collingham, Griffin, Hughes, Jones, McNeely and Thompson.

Apologies were received from Councillors Andrews, Barley, Elliott, Haleem and Mills.

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

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair confirmed there was no reason to exclude members of press or public from observing any items on the agenda.

14. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

The Chair confirmed that no questions had been submitted.

15. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

16. CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - UPDATE

The chair confirmed that the next meeting of Corporate Parenting Panel was scheduled to be held on 13 September, commencing at 4.30 pm.

17. HEADLINE REPORT FOR QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT - 2021/22 4TH QUARTER ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

Consideration was given to an update in respect of Adult Safeguarding Performance Data corresponding to Quarter 4 of 2021/2022. The presentation described the foundational principles of safeguarding which categorise performance measures and associated data. These are proportionality of trends in safeguarding demand, prevention thresholds, partnership with police, accountability for quality of health and care provision, protection through timely completion of inquiries and safeguarding adult reviews, and empowerment through collection of views and wishes and meeting personal outcomes. Data was shared associated with each principle. Followed by to anonymised customer stories exemplifying safeguarding activity and involvement bringing about positive results.

In discussion, Members noted that information coming through to the service may meet complex case thresholds, but not meet the threshold for safeguarding. More information was requested around what to do if there were complex but not safeguarding level concerns raised. The response from officers noted that if there was not a threshold for safeguarding met, there may be an appropriate alternative action. The service was working with partners and with police to ensure they were aware of the appropriate way of dealing with specific alerts. The forthcoming 7-minute informational videos were helping inform partners of what the thresholds are. Members requested that these videos be circulated upon availability.

How are we keeping people from posing as carers, how are we validating their roles? The response from officers noted that it is crucial to protect against financial abuse, which is the greatest one. Wider work is ongoing and warranted given the rising instances of abuse. We do receive a number of alerts from banks which are vigilant to prevent fraud, and we are aware that this is an area of growing need.

It was noted that RDaSH have approximately 50% progressed, which suggests they are getting it right. Members requested more information around how effective signposting be improved among other partners in line with the RDaSH progression rates. The response from officers noted that the service Manager meets regularly with police officers regarding the use of the app. The Q4 report showed the rates coming in from Police had decreased. It was noted that part of the work of the Adults Safeguarding Board is to undertake dip sampling in the auditing of safeguarding referral data.

Members requested more information in respect of cases that did not go on to full review. The response from officers noted that if a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) were found not to be the best way forward, for example, there might be a serious case review or a thematic learning review. It was noted that lessons will always be learned. Members noted that it would be helpful to receive information in respect of the majority to ensure that people who are in a dire situation are given timely and appropriate help. Members requested to have a demonstration of timelines and pathways for interventions of various kinds.

Members requested to know more about the cause of significant increase in the number of reports. The response from officer noted that an increase in self-neglect had been observed, likely as a result of the isolating effects of COVID-19. A growing theme was noted that people were not reaching out for services.

Members requested further assurances that the service is learning from the information received. The response from officers described a consistent first-contact team since October 2019. A social work team of 5 or 6 social workers handled the bulk of referrals coming in. The team engaged with the person themselves who had been referred because they operated by the principle of “no decision about me without me.” They

used their professional expertise and curiosity to investigate when the service received a referral, whether by phone call or someone coming in. Fact finding checks then pulled through available information. Three stage criteria needed to be met in terms of statutory safeguarding responsibilities. The information around the case was then checked out with the relevant advocate to receive their views around next steps, keeping the person in the centre all the way through the process. The team spoke to the advocate around whether other processes could support the person in their unique situation.

Members requested more details as to the reason progression rates were not tracking upwards as referrals track upwards. The service expressed concern about the progression rate of 14% which is low. The service were working on addressing the low progression rate. It was noted that public awareness about safeguarding had grown, resulting in more reports coming in, but with a low uptake rate which was being looked into.

Members requested more information around action being taken to ensure the information is accurate and of high quality. The response from officers noted that qualified assessors performed the assessments. Further, all teams have had briefing sessions around casework as part of the ongoing quality assurance framework in place. The service picked up actions needed to ensure a learning loop is maintained. Audits in terms of safeguarding adults were also done for assurance. Members emphasised the importance of asking questions and keeping curiosity going, whilst working closely with Policy, Performance and Intelligence to generate a set of working data for reference. It was noted that a dashboard of KPIs would be useful, including a measure indicating the effectiveness of the app.

Further information was requested in respect of benchmarking across the nation. The response from officers noted that Rotherham comes in mid-table nationally and within South Yorkshire.

Members requested more information around the method for ensuring that the right decisions were made in respect of a patient. The response from officers noted the importance and usefulness of safeguarding auditing for assurance and for understanding if a journey was right for a patient. It was observed that, if a section 42 inquiry were needed in terms of risk to the person, the person may have capacity and may not be interested in further section 42 inquiries being taken. The service monitored ongoing risks being exposed to and considered alternative measures which could be taken.

Members noted that the questions in the app may not mirror safeguarding criteria and requested assurances that the design of the app will be sorted out with the police. The response from officers noted that this was a work in progress, with more work on the app still needed. Some improvement had been shown, but there was still room for more improvement.

Resolved:-

1. That the report and presentation be noted.
2. That the forthcoming seven-minute briefings be shared with Members when available.
3. That a dashboard of performance on a page be provided to members on a regular basis.
4. That the next quarterly report include wider context including benchmarking, timelines and breakdowns of referrals by pathway and type of action taken where information may not meet the threshold for safeguarding.
5. That the refinement of the safeguarding app be prioritised or delivery.

18. CYPS PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021/2022 OUT-TURN

Consideration was given to a performance report introduced by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and presented by CYPS officers. The report included information in respect of first-time entrants, numbers in social care, placement stability, repeat numbers reducing, number of people on child protection plans, timely interventions, completion of dental assessments, early education placements, Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) timely completion, work ongoing to refine reporting, and key benchmark and operational demand and activity.

The presentation provided context and overview of governance, which included a description of Quarterly Assurance Day, when the service reviews the cases of individual children to examine how the cases have been managed. Practice learning days are also part of the learning process. The service generated 319 performance measures in total. Some are benchmarked, whilst some internal measures are not publishable data so cannot be benchmarked. Current work to strengthen internal score card and inclusion data will soon be included as well. Early Help and Family Engagement highlights were shared also, highlighting compliance against target timescales. Not in Education And Training (NEAT) areas for continued development were also identified, in particular, registration rates at children's centres of children living in the most deprived areas of the Borough. Published Youth Justice Board Data also showed a reducing trend of first-time entrants. Children's social care highlights were also shared, including reduction of re-referrals and static cohort receiving support for CSE/CCE, timeliness of assessments, and reduction of LAC numbers overall. Education highlights including SEND inclusion were presented. Next steps were also described, for example, the intention to group benchmarked performance measures where possible for more reader-friendly presentation of data.

In discussion, Members requested to know more about whether registration rates could be skewed by postal codes. Members requested clarification as to whether two-year-olds with an early education placement also had their attendance verified? The response from officers noted that eligibility rules meant that children residing in Rotherham were eligible to register with Rotherham children's centres. Where a child lives very close to the border and there are extra places, a child may be allowed to enrol at a well-run centre. Attendance data was not centrally kept, but Early Years services liaised with providers and monitored young people with special needs and disabilities. There was regular conversation around the placement of a child.

Members also expressed interest in learning more about the potential for dentists to go into schools or for other links with education to be maximised to aid formation of healthy prevention habits. The response from officers noted that the designated nurses are tenacious about ensuring that looked after children receive their dental checks. A challenge was that these are due on a revolving basis. When they were completed, they would need to be arranged again in six months' time.

Members noted areas in the data where percentages were given where tallies would be useful along with trajectory and target information. The response from officers noted that the scorecard identifies the direction of travel and target direction. It was noted that performance data was useful to inform scrutiny work programmes. Members noted appreciation for the provision of context with the data which focussed on quality rather than exclusively on quantity and turnover.

Members requested assurances that the service are working with schools to ensure that elective home education is undertaken when appropriate and not as an avenue for dealing with responsibility to particular students. It was understood that conversations were ongoing on this topic. It was observed that for some children, school is not the most important priority due to for example life threatening conditions. The service ensures support is in place for when a parent is feeling vulnerable and wishing to review the educational options for their child.

Clarification was requested and provided in relation to Super Output Areas. These SOAs were for reporting purposes and reassurance point of views. The north, south, east and west localities were not fixed. If some residents had further distances to travel, people should register with their local one. This was down to parental choice. There was a universal core offer, but the offer may take place on different days of the week. Families can be re-registered at the nearest accessible centre. It was requested that, if Members became aware of specific examples where families were struggling, they could please contact the service to work this through. It was acknowledged that awareness of the offer within the community could be greater.

Members noted the effectiveness of the scorecard and dashboard and requested assurances around the dip in referrals during school holidays. The response from officers identified that easter holidays always create a slow period, because schools are referrers. Sometimes work within the community can create surges as well. Officers also looked at the data across the year to see overall trajectory and fluctuations over the long term. Seasonal factors could be identified in future reports with a hypothesis with measures in place to address the identified factors. The Cabinet Member emphasised that nothing stops in social care for school holidays. It was clarified that when the students return to school, there can be a spike in referrals.

Clarification was requested around the schedule for quarterly data validation. The response from officers noted the activity of the Business Intelligence team and provided a summary of the assurance plans and regular monitoring and processing of data. Currently there were eight areas of transformation that each comprised key performance measures. It was noted that any measures generated by a peer review or formal inspection were added. Assistant Directors accounted for all actions performed against these objectives. The Quarter 1 performance report goes to the August assurance day. Within five working days of the assurance day, the quarterly report was issued.

Members requested further assurances in respect of the gap between health assessments and dental assessments. Initial health assessments were done in hospital, and reviews could be in the child's home. The service encouraged teenagers to visit the leaving care home, where leaving care nurses were there for those young people who were reluctant to engage with the health assessment. The designated specialist is available for the children; however, dental care cannot come to them. Therefore, building confidence to help increase young people's willingness to engage with the dental checks was important. Dental packs for local schools had been funded, with wider implementation possible.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Chair and Vice Chair of Health Select Commission and the Director of Public Health and representatives of NHS England be consulted about exploring the potential expansion of Public Health links with early education whereby development of healthy preventative habits related to dental hygiene can be promoted among children who attend Rotherham schools.
3. That a briefing be received in respect of latest trends in elective home education with a view to understanding the implications of COVID-19 on students and on vulnerable young people.

4. That a deep dive be undertaken to consider positive elements of flexible learning delivery that benefit many learners with a view to ensuring that positive progress is retained where possible.
5. Toward increased awareness of Children's Centres, that the local offer be clarified and publicised both within the community and to Members for the purpose of sharing this information widely within wards.
6. That consideration be given to including a session on Business Intelligence Dashboard performance data in the forward plan for Member Development.

19. WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to an outline work programme for 2022/23 scrutiny activity.

Resolved:-

1. That the Work Programme for 2022/23 be approved.

20. IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION - SUB AND PROJECT GROUP UPDATES

There was no update to report on sub and project group activity.

21. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

22. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

1. The next scheduled meeting of Improving Lives Select Commission would be held on 6 September 2022, commencing at 10am in Rotherham Town Hall.

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Public Report
Improving Lives Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Commission – 06 September 2022

Report Title

Rotherham Local Area Special Education Needs and Disability – Written Statement of Action update.

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

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

Report Author(s)

nathan.heath@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Between 5 July 2021 and 9 July 2021, Ofsted, and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Rotherham to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND (Special Education Needs and Disability) Code of Practice.

Following conclusion of the inspection it was judged that Rotherham local area should have a Written Statement of Action (WSOA), as a result of four main areas of identified significance weakness.

This report provides the Improving Lives Select Commission with an update and progress on Rotherham Local Area SEND Written Statement of Action (WSOA) which was submitted and accepted by Ofsted in January 2022.

Recommendations:

1. That Improving Lives Select Committee notes the update of the progress of Rotherham's Written Statement of Action and all associated information linked to SEND Improvement across the borough.
2. Continued updates on the progression and overview of the Rotherham Written Statement of Action are provided to Improving Lives Select Committee.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 - Rotherham Local Area Written Statement of Action

- Appendix 2 – BRAG rating of progress of Local Area Written Statement of Action - August 2022

Background Papers

1. <https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=895&MId=15429&Ver=4>

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Improving Lives Select Commission – 08 March 2022

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Rotherham Local Area Special Education Needs and Disability – Written Statement of Action update

1. Background

- 1.1 Between 5 July 2021 and 9 July 2021, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Rotherham to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND (Special Education Needs and Disability) Code of Practice.
- 1.2 Following conclusion of the inspection it was judged that Rotherham local area should have a Written Statement of Action (WSOA), as a result of four main areas of identified significance weakness. The WSOA was submitted and approved by Ofsted in January 2022 and following this an update was provided to Improving Lives Select Commission in March 2022.
- 1.3 This report updates on progress of actions in the WSOA as of August 2022 and is follow on from the previous update.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Following the Local Area SEND Inspection, a strong partnership approach across the borough was taken in implementing the WSOA, with strong engagement to delivery improvements and to providing appropriate capacity to support subgroup action plans that are driving forward key impact measure of the WSOA.
- 2.2 To oversee the WSOA delivery and accountability, a SEND Executive Board was established, which is Jointly chaired by RMBC Director of Children’s and Young People’s Services and Integrated Care Board (ICB) Deputy Place Director, Rotherham. The Executive Board also includes other relevant officers and ensures escalation and resolution of challenges linked to delivering the WSOA.
- 2.3 For each of the four areas highlighted within the WSOA, subgroups have been developed to address the key activity agreed with Ofsted in the WSOA. The groups include a range of key stakeholders who are central to delivering the SEND improvements across the Borough. The subgroups and chairs are identified below:
- 2.4
 - The variability in the quality of EHC plans, including the contribution of health and social care partners – chaired by RMBC Head of SEND and deputy – Primary Headteacher
 - The effectiveness of the graduated response to identify and meet children and young people’s needs, especially in key stages 1 and 2 – chaired by two Principal Education Psychologists

- The quality of provision for children and young people's preparation for, and transition to, adulthood, chaired by Director of Adult Services and Assistant Director, Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Quality and Performance, RMBC and ICB.
 - Communication with all parents and carers of children and young people with SEND about the local offer, and the accessibility of the very valuable information included within the local offer, – chaired by Strategic Manager, Rotherham Parent Carers Forum (RPCF) and RMBC Head of Commissioning.
- 2.5 External oversight and support in Rotherham delivering its WSOA is overseen by the Department for Education (DfE) and National Health Service England Improvement (NHSEI), which is the usual process for all Local Areas with WSOA.
- 2.6 Quarterly meetings take place between key Rotherham SEND partners including Rotherham Parent Carers Forum and DfE/NHSEI to measure progress. The first quarterly meeting in May 2022 focused on implementation of the WSOA and associated structures of delivery/governance in place. Assurance was provided by DfE/NHSEI that the initial phase of implementation of the Rotherham WSOA has been achieved. The next key area of focus is collating key impact measures of the Rotherham WSOA to evidence improvements in the Rotherham SEND system.
- 2.7 The next progress meeting with DfE and NHSEI is on 7th October 2022 and all meetings for the next 12 months are set.
- 2.8 Processes to account for and evidence completion of actions of WSOA have been developed to provide assurance that all actions are appropriately monitored and achieved. This process will report to the SEND Executive group and appropriate performance scorecards have been developed to monitor actions across each subgroup.
- 2.9 Updates across the WSOA implementation have been shared with school leaders to support a collaborative approach to supporting area wide improvements. A series of 'listening events' have also been held with parents and carers to support understanding of lived experience that underpin SEND for children and young people in the Borough. These events have focused on the four areas highlighted in the WSOA and will continue across the 2022/2023 academic year.
- 2.10 Appendix two provides an update of progression of all aspects across all areas of WSOA.
- 3. Options considered and recommended proposal**
- 3.1 That Improving Lives Select Committee notes the update of the progress of Rotherham's Written Statement of Action and all associated information linked to SEND Improvement across the borough.

3.2 Continued updates on the progression and overview of the Rotherham Written Statement of Action are provided to Improving Lives Select Committee.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Engagement with partners, parents and carers is referenced within the report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Key considerations are referenced within the report.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial and procurement implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

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 Key considerations are referenced within the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Key considerations are referenced within the report, Children and Young People with SEND are disproportionately represented across a range of education and inclusion measures. Rotherham Written Statement of Action is focused on SEND improvements across the Borough with a strong focus on improving outcomes for this cohort of children, young people, and young adults across the life course.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 All areas of SEND, student placed 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.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Rotherham SEND Improvement and WSOA sits across all place based partners and stakeholders as a priority. The WSOA has been co-produced across all partners with appropriate consultations across key partners including SEND Partnership Board.
- 12.2 Key partners including children, young people, parent/carers, schools, education sector, health, social care, and other SEND related partners are directly accountable stakeholders within the Rotherham SEND improvement journey.

13. Risks

- 13.1 Ongoing SEND cohort growth which is reflected in both Regional and National datasets is a contextual challenge which sits in parallel to Rotherham SEND Improvement. The continued growth of SEND cohorts has a direct resource implication across SEND partners in the Borough.
- 13.2 In July 2022 central government closed its consultation on its SEND Green Paper which is a Department of Education led transformation programme which has looked at key areas of the SEND system that are not having positive impact on outcomes for SEND children and young people nationally. Formal announcement of the outcome of this consultation has not been announced by central government although any changes of statutory duty or legal duties could directly impact on our SEND improvement planning and may materially redefine areas of the SEND system in the future.
- 13.3 In June 2022, Ofsted announced a consultation that will close in September 2022 to look at updating the current Local Area SEND Inspection framework, the outline of this consultation is to centre the future SEND inspection framework against the lived experience of children, young people, young adults, and parent/carers with SEND. The changes to SEND Inspection framework will be announced following closure of the consultation and will inform future SEND Inspections in the borough.
- 13.4 Rotherham is currently subject to a rigid financial plan as part of the DfE Safety Valve agreement, there is a direct correlation between both WSOA and the Safety Valve. Both are subject to direct oversight from DfE and financial sustainability of Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Funding is a key SEND priority for RMBC. The interdependency of both areas has been central to planning and implementation of the WSOA and delivery of the Safety Valve agreement. Developments in relation to SEND provision mapping in the Borough and or adjustments to financial arrangements would impact on areas of SEND improvement planning.

Accountable Officer(s)

Nathan Heath, Assistant Director, Education, and Inclusion
Julie Day, Head of SEND

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

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Rotherham Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 0-25

Written Statement of Action

JANUARY 2022

Between the 5th and 9th July 2021, Ofsted, and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) undertook a joint inspection of Rotherham to judge the effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, as prescribed in the Children's and Families Act 2014.

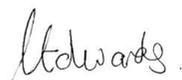
The inspection identified 4 areas of significant concern and prescribed that a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) be produced to outline how the areas of significant concern will be addressed. This WSoA, focuses on those 4 specific areas of concern.

1. The variability in the quality of EHC plans, including the contribution of health and social care partners.
2. The effectiveness of the graduated response to identify and meet children and young people's needs, especially in key stages 1 and 2.
3. The quality of provision for children and young people's preparation for, and transition to, adulthood.
4. Communication with all parents and carers of children and young people with SEND about the Local Offer, and the accessibility of the very valuable information included within the Local Offer.

This (WSOA) identifies the actions the partnership will undertake to address the areas of concern, how we will measure success and what difference this will make to Rotherham's children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers. Ensuring that our children and young people with special educational needs are identified early and provided with the right support in line with their needs at the right time from childhood through to transition into adulthood.



Sharon Kemp
Chief Executive
Rotherham Borough Council



Chris Edwards
Chief Officer
Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group



Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children's Services
Rotherham Borough Council



Ian Atkinson
Executive Place Director
Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group

Strategic Aim & Vision

Our vision for children with SEND

Rotherham is ambitious for all children and young people to achieve their potential and have the best start in life. We recognise that children and young people have different strengths and needs, and that services and provision need to be differentiated so that all children and young people have their needs met and experience success.

We recognise that for children and young people to achieve their potential then all services need to work together with parents, carers, children, and young people being equal partners and their voices heard at all levels.

Services and organisations should support people and families to live independently in the community, with prevention and self-management at the heart of our delivery. The vision and priorities for Children in Rotherham with SEND is described within our Voices work and focuses on three priority areas:

- Believe me and believe in me.
- Get me help quicker.
- Plan for my adulthood with me.

Underpinning Rotherham's vision and priorities are shared co-production values the Four Cornerstones, at the heart of which is trust:

welcome and care

value and include

communicate

work in partnership

Governance

The actions in this Written Statement of Action form part of a wider SEND Improvement Plan which is monitored as part of routine governance and accountability processes within the local area. SEND is already an existing priority at the Rotherham Place Board and at the Health and Wellbeing Board, SEND is area with strong political oversight from political leaders and the portfolio holder for Children and young people within Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) with scrutiny held through the Improving Lives Select Committee. Within the Clinical Commission Group (CCG) SEND governance is held within the Operational Executive Group. Within RMBC Children's and Young People services SEND improvement is a key priority through the Performance and Assurance Board and Transformation Board.

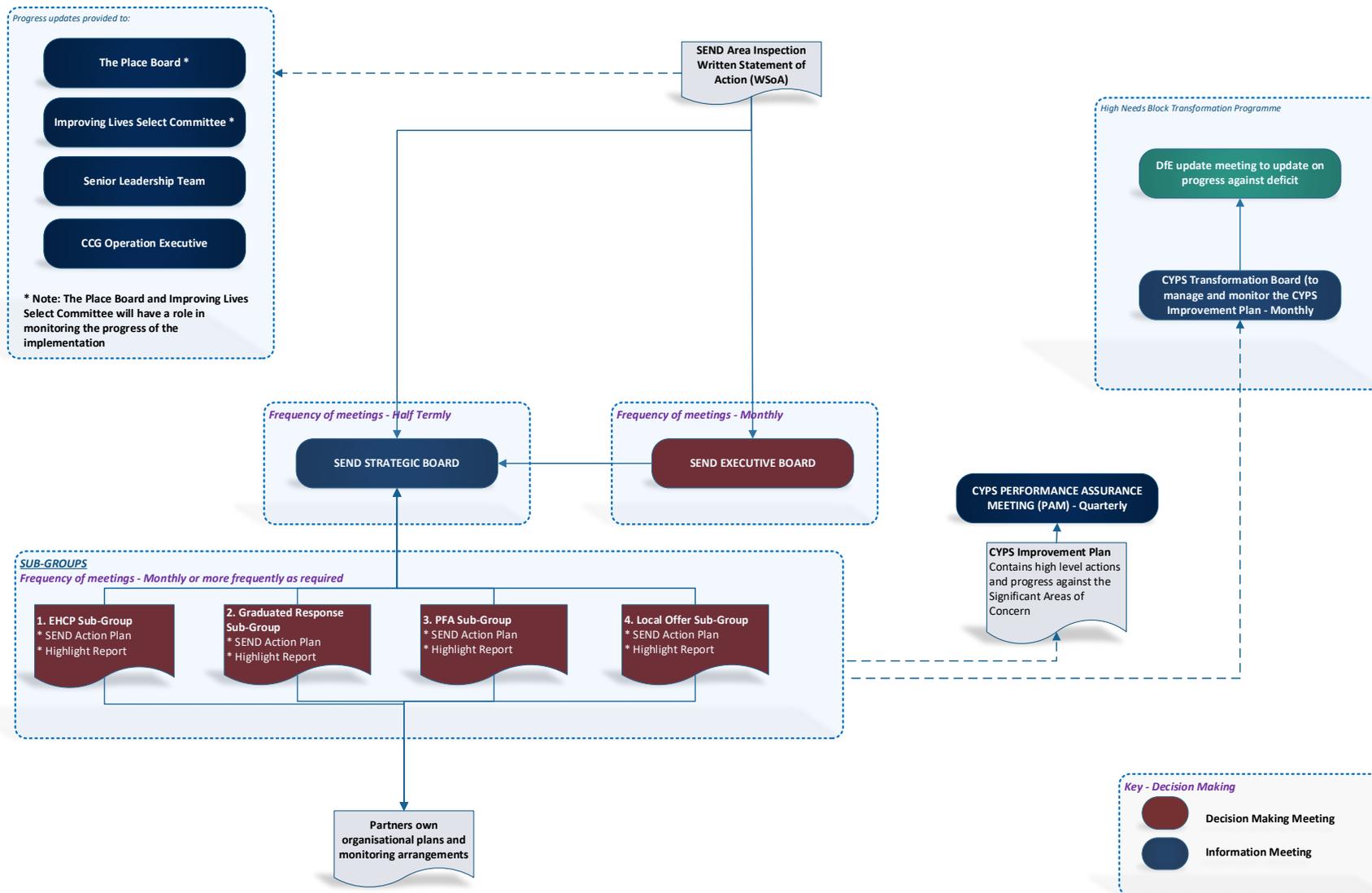
This WSOA affirms and enhances the commitment to the areas of SEND Improvement for Rotherham local area.

Oversight and accountability of progress against the actions contained in this Written Statement of Action sits with the SEND Strategic Board. The responsibility for overseeing the partnership response and checking and evaluating the effectiveness of the actions will sit with the SEND Executive Board which will include the chairs of all 4 sub-groups managing the detailed improvements. Both the SEND Strategic and Executive Boards are co-chaired by the Director of Children's Services and the Chief Executive of the CCG.

Membership of the SEND Board has been recently enhanced to ensure that attendance covers the right balance of partners who will drive forward these improvements.

See governance structure below:

Governance Structure



Monitoring Process

Regular monitoring of progress against milestones and success measures will take part and be embedded as part of our governance structure and process.

There is a forward plan in place for the SEND Executive Board to receive monthly “spotlight” updates from one of the WSOA subgroup chairs (on a rota basis), in addition the other 3 chairs that month will submit a highlight report to give ongoing assurance to the members of the Executive Board and to give opportunity to raise any emerging concerns. Each of the sub-group leads will have overall accountability for the actions in the relevant sections of the plan.

* Progress on implementing the plan will be subject to support and challenge at The Place Board chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council and the Chief Executive of the CCG on a 6-monthly basis. The Improving Lives Select Committee will scrutinise progress across multi-agency partners.

A performance monitoring scorecard (a subset of the wider CYPS performance reporting) will be in place which covers the key measures for each of the 4 WSOA areas and to monitor the progress quarterly of these from a baseline position the time of the inspection (end of Quarter 1 June 2021).

Action plans will be monitored for each of the 4 WSOAs and any completed actions will form part of the routine Evidence Challenge Panel process already in place in CYPS (a multi-agency panel of senior officers) which receives and reviews evidence of change, outcomes, and impact to ensure actions are signed off as complete and fully embedded.

Written statement of Action Plan

Rotherham Local Area Four Areas of Significant Concern

1.	The variability in the quality of EHC plans, including the contribution of health and social care partners.
2.	The effectiveness of the graduated response to identify and meet children and young people's needs, especially in key stages 1 and 2.
3.	The quality of provision for children and young people's preparation for, and transition to, adulthood.
4.	Communication with all parents and carers of children and young people with SEND about the Local Offer, and the accessibility of the very valuable information included within the Local Offer

Progress to Date

Area of focus 1 – The variability in the quality of EHC plans, including the contribution of health and social care partners.

- Appointment of Head of Safeguarding, Quality and Learning to support Education, Health and Care leads to embed quality assurance process across the full children and young people's service.
- Links to Council for Disabled Children (CDC) have been established. The CDC have submitted a bid to DfE to request implementing a support package for Rotherham.
- Training has been provided to social care staff to increase the % and quality of the care input into plans.
- Training has been provided to therapy services and CAMHS to increase the % and quality of the health input into plans.
- Quality assurance in therapy services and CAMHS has been reviewed and now includes audit focussing on the quality of EHCPs. Audit recommendations associated with the quality of EHCP's now inform service improvement activity.
- Quality assurance in Children's Social care has been reviewed and now includes audit focussing on the quality of EHCPs. Audit recommendations associated with the quality of EHCP's will now inform service improvement activity.
- Designated Social Care Officer role for SEND appointed.
- Training provided to EHCP staff on how to write a good quality contribution to EHCPs and signposting to appropriate support if/when needed.
- Interim capacity in the EHCP Team increased by four officers to focus on statutory annual reviews.

Area of focus 2 – The effectiveness of the graduated response to identify and meet children and young people's needs, especially in key stages 1 and 2.

- Electronic Toolkit launched in September 2021 which will provide practical support and guidance and support consistent delivery of the Graduated Response.
- Pilot outreach project set up involving one special school. Specialist staff are supporting mainstream schools to help meet the needs of those with SEND.
- Links to regional lead for Whole School SEND established and an agreed training programme has been outlined for the Spring term 2022.
- A review of arrangements for children with complex needs is underway. This includes a focus on the graduated response and appropriate stages prior to escalation.

- The SEMH strategy group Terms of Reference have been reviewed to reflect responsibility for the children's mental health section of the Place Plan.
- System implemented to allow for appropriate challenge and support in respect of schools/settings causing concern.

Area of focus 3 – The quality of provision for children and young people's preparation for, and transition to, adulthood.

- Links established to the National Development Team for Inclusion to support and facilitate our access to sector led learning.
- Leading on a pilot for the PFA minimum standards as part of national PCF network.
- New transition management team in place.
- Needs analysis updated to inform service development and commissioning. Additional resource has been deployed using National Graduate Scheme to undertake a detailed cohort analysis of the PFA cohort.
- Confirmed commitment from the Rotherham's Business Growth Board in order to increase the number of employment / traineeships / supported internship opportunities.
- Secured additional resource to support Rotherham's micro enterprises to further support the development of community activities. A focus will be making this resource open to young people moving through the PFA cohort.
- Secured commitment of capital resources to create a new community resource.
- Rotherham identified as a pilot for the QDOS Network.
- Multi-agency working group mobilised to develop a new offer to support autistic young people who are moving through a PFA. This is being coordinated by RPCF.

Area of focus 4 – Communication with all parents and carers of children and young people with SEND about the Local Offer, and the accessibility of the very valuable information included within the Local Offer.

- Local Offer Review framework designed and completed as part of peer review.
- A SEND Local Offer Communications and Marketing Plan is in place.
- The SEND Local Offer Strategic Group has an Action Plan in place.
- There is agreed enhanced capacity within the Parent Carer Forum to help lead on developments.

Overarching

- Agreement established regarding joint commissioning agreement between CCG and RMBC for SENDIASS, the CCG are contributing 35% towards the SENDIASS service.
- Increased the capacity for the role of the Designated Clinic Officer from two to four days per week.
- Increased investment (recurrent and non-recurrent) in the Neurodevelopmental pathway to implement a 3-year plan to reduce waiting times to 18 weeks.
- The Executive Group has been established and has begun to meet.
- The SEND Strategic Board have met to address the inspection and to contribute towards the Written Statement of Action.
- Four subgroups have been established each with a responsibility for a key area of significant weakness. The subgroups mirror membership of the Strategic Board. Each subgroup has met to input into the creation of the Written Statement of Action.

Priority 1 – EHC Plans

Lead Officers – Julie Day, Head of Service Inclusion and Ian Tankard, Headteacher Coleridge Primary School

Children and Young People with SEND in Rotherham have quality and consistent Education Health and Care Plans (EHC) which include the contribution from health and social care partners

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
1.1	<p>Improve the Quality Assurance framework for Education Health and Care Plans, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All practitioners understand their role and involvement in relation to creating/contributing to the EHC plan All EHC plans are on the same template and are consist in relation to approach, expectations, and standards Children and young people are engaged with the right support at the right time (including appropriate placement in education provision) Children and young people and their families feel more involved in and in control of their EHC plan and support which will be person centred and co-produced Children and Young People make progress in relation to targets and outcomes and are in line with national averages (where comparisons can be made) Partners jointly commission services for children and young people wherever it is possible to do so There are clear pathways so that people understand how to find the appropriate support <p>Key Impact Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of EHC plans audited rated as good or better from 52.5% to 75% Increase in the timeliness of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks from 57.5% to 70% Increase in the timeliness of Review recommendations being actioned from 27.1% to 100% by June 2023 Maintain the number of EHC plans being ceased due to Children and Young People successfully achieving outcomes Reduce the number of mediations and tribunals (16 mediations and 8 tribunals) 				
1.1.1	Integrate EHCP and SEND into full CYPS framework	Julie Day	July 2022		
1.1.2	Review the Health and CCG framework alongside the CYPS framework to ensure consistency	Helen Sweaton	July 2022		

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
1.1.3	Establish internal QA processes within the EHCP Team and wider Inclusion Service	Julie Day Vicki Ingram	September 2022		
1.1.4	Embed 'lessons learned' including outcomes from audits and Practice Learning Days and benchmarking data to inform service improvement	Julie Day Vicki Ingram	December 2022		
1.1.5	Facilitate parents, carers, and young people to enable them the opportunity to audit and QA independently	RPCF group Scott Johnson Guiding Voices	July 2022		
1.1.6	CYPS commissioning responsible for commissioning all external SEND placements (education and care) based on the EHCP	William Shaw Helen Sweaton	December 2022		
1.1.7	Develop a Communications Strategy to ensure key messages are communicated to stakeholders	RMBC/CCG Comms leads	December 2022		
1.1.8	Embed a process to track the impact of EHC plans in relation to outcomes e.g., academic achievement, EET, EHCP outcomes achieved	Julie Day Vicky Whitfield Vicki Ingram	September 2022		
1.2	<p>Provide a range of CPD opportunities for practitioners, schools/settings, parents/carers, children, and young people to ensure that the quality of EHCP Plans improve across the local area, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All practitioners understand their role and involvement in relation to creating/contributing to the EHC plan • All practitioners understand their role in relation to implementing or monitoring strategies and subsequent progress/developments • All Partners jointly commission services for children and young people wherever it is possible to do so • Children and Young People and their families feel more involved in and in control of their EHC plan and support (this should be person centred and co-produced) • Children and Young People make progress in relation to targets and outcomes and are in line with national averages (where comparisons can be made) • Children and Young People are engaged with the right support at the right time (including appropriate placement in education provision) 				

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are clear pathways so that people understand how to find the appropriate support All EHC plans are on the same template therefore showing consistency of approach, expectations, and standards <p>Key Impact Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of EHC plans audited rated as good or better from 52.5% to 75% Increase in the timeliness of Review recommendations being actioned from 27.1% to 100% by June 2023 Maintain the number of EHC plans being ceased due to Children and Young People successfully achieving outcomes. (52 plans ceased between January and June 21.) Reduce the number of mediations and tribunals (16 mediations and 8 tribunals) 				
1.2.1	Work with training providers to coordinate and deliver a CPD offer	Julie Day Vicki Ingram Vicky Whitfield	June 2023		
1.2.2	Deliver CPD to Parents and Carers	NDTi, CDC	June 2023		
1.2.3	Deliver CPD to Health/CCG Practitioners	NDTi, CDC	June 2023		
1.2.4	Deliver CPD to Social Care Practitioners	NDTi, CDC	June 2023		
1.2.5	Deliver CPD to Schools and Settings	NDTi, CDC	June 2023		
1.3	<p>Ensure that all current EHCP templates in use are transferred to one single template, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All EHC plans are on the same template and are consist in relation to approach, expectations, and standards <p>Key Impact Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of EHC plans audited rated as good or better from 52.5% to 75% An increase in the timeliness of Review recommendations being actioned 27.1% to 100% by June 2023 				
1.3.1	Develop a new agreed EHCP template	Vicki Ingram	April 2022		
1.3.2	All new EHCP Plans to be on the new template	Vicki Ingram	June 2023		

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
1.3.3	Transfer old EHCP Plans onto electronic template as part of annual review process.	Vicki Ingram	June 2023		
1.4	<p>Implement the review reset project to increase capacity in the EHC Team to enable an increase the number of annual reviews that are actioned in time, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and Young People are engaged with the right support at the right time (including appropriate placement in education provision) Children and Young People make progress in relation to targets and outcomes and are at least in line with national averages (where comparisons can be made) <p>Key Impact Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the timeliness of Review recommendations being actioned from 27.1% to 100% by June 2023 				
1.4.1	Undertake a review of current internal practice and operational processes	Julie Day Vicki Ingram	July 2022		
1.4.2	Develop and implement new operating procedures	Vicki Ingram Julie Day	October 2022		
1.4.3	Deliver training to the team on the new operating procedures	Vicki Ingram	December 2022		
1.5	<p>Develop a management information system to enable measurement of the effectiveness of EHCPs for individual children and young people, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and Young People make progress in relation to targets and outcomes and are in line with national averages (where comparisons can be made) All practitioners understand their role and involvement in relation to creating/contributing to the EHC plan All practitioners understand their role in relation to implementing or monitoring strategies and subsequent progress/developments <p>Key Impact Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the timeliness of Review recommendations being actioned from 27.1% to 100% by June 2023 Increase the number of EHC plans audited rated as good or better from 52.5% to 75% 				
1.5.1	Develop a management information system to track effectiveness	Sue Wilson	January 2023		

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
1.5.2	Undertake both internal and external benchmarking to measure progress of changes implemented	Nathan Heath	June 2023		
1.5.3	Undertake peer review of EHCPs in Borough to measure progress of changes implemented	Nathan Heath	June 2023		
1.6	To carry out a review of progress to identify ongoing areas for development from June 2023				
1.6.1	Undertake an annual review to assess progress against the identified outcomes and impact measures	Nathan Heath Julie Day	June 2023		
1.6.2	Undertake ADCS Peer Review	ADCS Nathan Heath Julie Day	September 2023		

Delivery Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent, carers, and children and young people • Council for Disabled Children • National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) • RMBC • Health services • Education settings • Rotherham Parent Carers forum • Genuine Partnerships • Guiding Voices

Priority 2 – Graduated Response

Lead Officers – Carol Taylor and Rachel Amos, Principal Educational Psychologists

Children and Young People with SEND in Rotherham experience an effective graduated response to identify and meet their needs, especially in key stages 1 and 2

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
2.1	<p>Continue to embed the Four Cornerstones Approach and the Rotherham Charter Gold Accreditation process across the local area, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an understanding across the local area that co-production with children, young people and their families is the best foundation for the graduated response • Education settings, parents/carers, and health/care professionals are aware that an EHCP is not appropriate for every child with additional needs, and they will explore other options through the graduated response where suitable • Practitioners from different organisations work together to support a child and have high aspirations for them. • All children and young people are engaged with the right support at the right time (Including accessing the appropriate strategies and interventions as advised by specialist services) • Early intervention is in place to prevent needs escalating • All professionals in education, health, and care work on and are familiar with the graduated response offer to support children and young people with needs identified in the SEND Code of Practice <p>Key Impact Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of schools engaging with the Four Cornerstones Approach to achieve Rotherham’s Charter Gold Accreditation from 23 to 25 – (23 schools already achieved since inception, currently 21 schools actively engaged process in this academic year 21/22) • Increase in the number of ‘hits’ on the graduated response electronic portal from 6,132 as at June 2021 to 15,000 				
2.1.1	Introduce the Four Cornerstones Approach self-evaluation tool and training opportunities to all schools via the SENDCO network	Claire Whiting	April 2022		
2.1.2	Extend support to strengthening co-production and inclusive practice by drawing upon the best practice of	Claire Whiting	July 2022		

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	Charter Gold schools to create a peer support network				
2.1.3	Develop a Co-production and Inclusive Practice toolkit which highlights best practice under each of the Cornerstones accessible via the SENDCo electronic resource and the Genuine Partnerships website	Genuine Partnerships Kelly Crompton SEMH school leads	December 2022		
2.2	<p>Audit Outreach Support and provide recommendations for developments (if appropriate), this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention is in place to prevent needs escalating • Education settings, parents/carers, and health/care professionals are aware that an EHCP is not appropriate for every child with additional needs, and they will explore other options through the graduated response where suitable • All professionals in education, health, and care work on and are familiar with the graduated response offer to support children and young people with needs identified in the SEND Code of Practice • Parents are aware of what a Graduated Response means and that an EHC Plan is not always necessary • Quality First Teaching is delivered to adapt learning • Children and young people have the opportunity to be educated in their local mainstream education setting whenever it can meet their needs • Education settings will be well equipped to understand and meet the child's needs and know how to access specialist support when it is required <p>Key Impact Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of requests for EHCP Assessment from 64 per month to 50 per month (baseline July 2021) • Reduce the number of young people who are excluded using academic year 2020/2021 as baseline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fixed term exclusions – SEN Support CYP from 913 to 880 ○ Fixed term exclusions – EHCP from 192 to 162 ○ Permanent exclusions – SEN Support CYP from 22 to 12 ○ Permanent exclusions – EHCP from 5 to 3 • Reduce the number of inappropriate transfers of children and young people from mainstream to special school (85 transfers overall, September 2021) 				

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
2.2.1	To audit outreach support and provide recommendations for developments if appropriate for Specialist schools or settings	Nathan Heath	July 2022		
2.2.2	To audit outreach support and provide recommendations for developments if appropriate for RMBC central services	Julie Day	December 2022		
2.2.3	To audit outreach support and provide recommendations for developments if appropriate for Health/CCG providers	Helen Sweaton	July 2022		
2.2.4	To audit outreach support and provide recommendations for developments if appropriate for Social Care	Matthew Boud	July 2022		
2.2.5	To audit outreach support and provide recommendations for developments if appropriate for other local providers	Nathan Heath	September 2022		
2.3	<p>Integrate SEND into full school improvement processes to enable support and challenge to schools, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality First Teaching is delivered to adapt learning • All practitioners supporting children and young people with SEND are supported and have adequate time dedicated to allowing them to undertake the required work to support the children and young people in their setting • Children and young people have the opportunity to be educated in their local mainstream education setting whenever it can meet their needs • Education settings will be well equipped to understand and meet the child's needs and know how to access specialist support when it is required • Early intervention is in place to prevent needs escalating • All children and young people make progress in relation to SEND targets and outcomes and are in line with national averages (where comparisons can be made) • There is an understanding across the local area that co-production with children, young people and their families is the best foundation for the graduated response 				

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education settings, parents/carers, and health/care professionals are aware that an EHCP is not appropriate for every child with additional needs, and they will explore other options through the graduated response where suitable All professionals in education, health, and care work on and are familiar with the graduated response offer to support children and young people with needs identified in the SEND Code of Practice <p>Key Impact Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number and percentage of schools engaging in Whole School Support project (WSS/NASEN/DfE) from 0 to 60 (50% of schools) Increase the number and percentage of schools/SENCOs engaged in SENCO network events from 43 schools represented to (35.8%) to 90 (75%) Reduce the number of requests for EHCP Assessment from 64 per month to 50 per month (baseline July 2021) Reduce the number of young people who are excluded using academic year 2020/2021 as baseline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed term exclusions – SEN Support CYP from 913 to 880 Fixed term exclusions – EHCP from 192 to 162 Permanent exclusions – SEN Support CYP from 22 to 12 Permanent exclusions – EHCP from 5 to 3 Increase the number of schools engaging with the Four Cornerstones Approach to achieve Rotherham’s Charter Gold Accreditation from 23 to 25 (23 schools already achieved since inception, currently 21 schools actively engaged in this academic year 21/22) 				
2.3.1	Introduce and embed Whole School SEND (NASEN/DfE/Gateway) with a focus on self-evaluation framework, effective use of data and every leader a leader of SEND.	Julie Day Carol Taylor Helen Bacon	June 2023		
2.3.2	Deliver presentations at Governors meetings	Pam Ward	June 2022		
2.3.3	Recognise positive judgements related to SEND in school/setting Ofsted’s and share as examples of good practice.	Pam Ward	Ongoing – July for 1 st annual report		
2.4	Continue to develop tools to promote the graduated response, this will mean that:				

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children and young people are engaged with the right support at the right time (including accessing and implementing the appropriate strategies and interventions as advised by specialist services) • Early intervention is in place to prevent needs escalating • Education settings, parents/carers, and health/care professionals are aware that an EHCP is not appropriate for every child with additional needs, and they will explore other options through the graduated response where suitable • Parents are aware of what a Graduated Response means and that an EHC Plan is not always necessary • All professionals in education, health, and care work on and are familiar with the graduated response offer to support children and young people with needs identified in the SEND Code of Practice • Practitioners from different organisations work together to support a child and have high aspirations for them. • Quality First Teaching is delivered to adapt learning • All practitioners supporting children and young people with SEND are supported and have adequate time dedicated to allowing them to undertake the required work to support the children and young people in their setting. • Children and young people have the opportunity to be educated in their local mainstream education setting whenever it can meet their needs • Education settings will be well equipped to understand and meet the child's needs and know how to access specialist support when it is required. <p>Key Impact Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number and percentage of schools/SENCOs engaged in SENCO network events from 43 schools represented to (35.8%) to 90 (75%) • Reduce the number of young people who are excluded using academic year 2020/2021 as baseline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fixed term exclusions – SEN Support CYP from 913 to 880 ○ Fixed term exclusions – EHCP from 192 to 162 ○ Permanent exclusions – SEN Support CYP from 22 to 12 ○ Permanent exclusions – EHCP from 5 to 3 • Increase the number of 'hits' on graduated response electronic portal from 6,132 as at June 2021 to 15,000A reduction in the number of requests for EHCP Assessment from 64 per month to 50 per month (baseline July 2021) • Increase the number of EHCP requests that have been at panel that have full evidence of graduated response. Baseline and measure to be developed 				
2.4.1	Develop the Graduated Response electronic portal	Vicky Whitfield Rachel Amos	February 2023		

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
		Carol Taylor			
2.4.2	Implement networking/communication opportunities including SENCO Padlet	Helen Bacon	April 2022		
2.4.3	Develop and implement internal mechanisms within Health/CCG and RMBC including membership of the EHCP panel	Helen Sweaton	February 2022		Review of arrangements for children complex needs underway. Graduated response highlighted as appropriate stage prior to escalation
2.5	<p>Provide system wide CPD which includes a refresh and promotion of the SENCO network event, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All professionals in education, health, and care work on and are familiar with the graduated response offer to support children and young people with needs identified in the SEND Code of Practice There is an understanding across the local area that co-production with children, young people and their families is the best foundation for the graduated response All children and young people make progress in relation to SEND targets and outcomes and are in line with national averages (where comparisons can be made) All children and young people are engaged with the right support at the right time (including accessing and implementing the appropriate strategies and interventions as advised by specialist services) All children and young people make progress in relation to individual targets and outcomes and families are fully involved in reviews Early intervention is in place to prevent needs escalating Education settings, parents/carers, and health/care professionals are aware that an EHCP is not appropriate for every child with additional needs, and they will explore other options through the graduated response where suitable <p>Key Impact Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number and percentage of schools/SENCOs engaged in SENCO network events from 43 schools represented to (35.8%) to 90 (75%) Reduce the number of young people who are excluded using academic year 2020/2021 as baseline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed term exclusions – SEN Support CYP from 913 to 880 Fixed term exclusions – EHCP from 192 to 162 Permanent exclusions – SEN Support CYP from 22 to 12 Permanent exclusions – EHCP from 5 to 3 Increase the number of ‘hits’ etc on graduated response electronic portal from 6,132 to 15,000 (June 2021 – 6,132) Reduce the number of requests for EHCP Assessment from 64 per month to 50 per month (baseline July 2021) 				

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of EHCP requests that have been at panel that have full evidence of graduated response. Baseline and measure to be developed 				
2.5.1	Deliver training on provision mapping and the graduated response	Helen Bacon Kelly Crompton Paul Theaker Helen Leadley James Chapman	April 2022		
2.5.2	Deliver training on assess, plan, do review cycle and support plans	Julie Day Vicky Whitfield	September 2022		
2.5.3	Deliver training on person centred planning	Educational Psychology Service Parents Carer Forum	April 2022		
2.5.4	Deliver training on The Local Offer	William Shaw	September 2022		
2.5.5	Deliver training on school information reports	Performance rep	July 2022		
2.5.6	Deliver training on parent/carers and children and young people's voice and involvement (co-production)	RPCF Guiding Voices participation groups	April 2022		
2.5.7	Deliver accredited training for emotionally literate support assistance (ELSA) and maintain accreditation through supervision	Karen Davies Chris Dawson	June 2023		
2.6	<p>Audit the Graduated Response and continuum of provision in line with the SEND Code of Practice, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children and young people are engaged with the right support at the right time (including accessing and implementing the appropriate strategies and interventions as advised by specialist services) Early intervention is in place to prevent needs escalating 				

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education settings, parents/carers, and health/care professionals are aware that an EHCP is not appropriate for every child with additional needs, and they will explore other options through the graduated response where suitable Children and young people have the opportunity to be educated in their local mainstream education setting whenever it can meet their needs Education settings will be well equipped to understand and meet the child's needs and know how to access specialist support when it is required <p>Key Impact Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number and percentage of schools/SENCOs engaged in SENCO network events from 43 schools represented to (35.8%) to 90 (75%) Reduce the number of young people who are excluded using academic year 2020/2021 as baseline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed term exclusions – SEN Support CYP from 913 to 880 Fixed term exclusions – EHCP from 192 to 162 Permanent exclusions – SEN Support CYP from 22 to 12 Permanent exclusions – EHCP from 5 to 3 Increase the number of 'hits' on graduated response electronic portal from 6,132 as at June 2021 to 15,000A reduction in the number of requests for EHCP Assessment from 64 per month to 50 per month (baseline July 2021) Increase the number of schools engaging with the Four Cornerstones Approach to achieve Rotherham's Charter Gold Accreditation from 23 to 25 (23 schools already achieved since inception, currently 21 schools actively engaged in this academic year 21/22) Increase the number of EHCP requests that have been at panel that have full evidence of graduated response. Baseline and measure to be developed 				
2.6.1	Link to other working groups where appropriate in relation to provision and practice for SEMH	Helen Sweaton/ Kelly Crompton	June 2023		
2.6.2	Provide mechanisms to gain stakeholder experiences and opinions to identify strengths and weaknesses related to provision meeting need	Rachel Amos/Carol Taylor	June 2023		
2.7	Carry out a review of progress to identify ongoing areas for development from June 2023				

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
2.7.1	Undertake an annual review to assess progress against the identified outcomes and impact measures	Nathan Heath Julie Day	June 2023		

Delivery Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent, carers, and children and young people • Council for Disabled Children • National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) • RMBC • Health services • Education settings • Rotherham Parent Carers forum • Genuine Partnerships.

Priority 3 – Preparing for Adulthood and Transitions

Lead Officers – Ian Spicer – Assistant Director of Adult Care and Integration, Helen Sweaton - Joint Assistant Director of Commissioning Performance and Quality (RMBC and RCCG)

Children and Young People with SEND in Rotherham experience quality provision for their preparation for, and transition to adulthood. This will be across Employment and Learnings(E&L), Friends, Relationships and Communities (FR&C), Independence (I) and Health (H).

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
3.1	<p>Embed NDTi PfA minimum standards ensuring person-centred and strength-based approaches in education, health and care services involved in transition planning. This will improve the quality of planning and provision for young people in preparation for and transition to, adulthood. It will also embed co-production into planning, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR&C: All young people have a choice about their future and are in control of their support as they move into adulthood E&L: Plans and next steps following education are person-centred and are co-produced with young people and their families I: Parents, carers and young people have the support and information they need to feel confident to live independently at home and in the wider community <p>Key Impact Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of practitioners who have completed NDTi person centred/PFA training from 0 to 50 Increase the number of practitioners who have completed multi-agency training from 0 to 50 				
3.1.1	Agree a joint multi-agency standards and quality assurance framework for transition for young people with SEND in line with NDTi minimum standards	Garry Parvin Helen Sweaton Julie Day	June 2022		
3.1.2	Co-produce with education, health and care providers, good practice guidance for protocols of effective transitions	Helen Sweaton Education representative Social Care representative	December 2022		
3.1.3	NDTi training for up to 50 staff working in schools, colleges, and	Vicky Whitfield	March 2022		

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	support services to develop an understanding of Preparing for Adulthood.	Education representative Social Care representative			
3.1.4	Deliver a multi-agency training programme which embeds the Four Cornerstones of Co-production, person centred and strength-based approaches (link to 3.4.3)	Jo Hinchcliffe Genuine Partnerships C&YP	June 2023		
3.1.5	Implement Quality Assurance Framework and develop an action plan to address areas for improvement (including impact of training programmes)	Helen Sweaton Garry Parvin	June 2023		
3.2	<p>To complete a gap analysis of support service, health services and provision for young people in preparation for and transition to adulthood. This will be based on the NDTi PfA minimum standards. This will identify areas which require development work or where there are commissioning gaps. Identifying gaps and issues will enable appropriate plans to be put in place to address these, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E&L: All young people have access to appropriate education, training, and employment opportunities • E&L: All young people have access to clear and transparent information about education, training, and employment opportunities • E&L: All children and young people from year 9 to aspire for their future and can explore opportunities for learning and development in readiness for purposeful activity and work • E&L: Curriculum pathways for different groups of learners have a clear emphasis on progression to employment and include a pre-supported and supported internship programme • H: Clear multi-agency transition pathways which include consideration of health needs are in place. These will ensure a holistic transition, based on shared principles, co-produced with young people, their families, and other stakeholders <p>Key Impact Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of EHC plans audited rated as good or better from for those aged 14 years and above 				
3.2.1	Review local needs and identify gaps in current provision or areas	Helen Sweaton Garry Parvin	July 2022		

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	for development against NDTi/PfA minimum standards				
3.2.2	Develop an action plan to address the areas identified as high priority through the above gap analysis	Helen Sweaton Garry Parvin	December 2022		
3.2.3	Produce transition pathways for Rotherham's Preparing for Adulthood Cohort for four prioritised Health Services	Helen Sweaton Garry Parvin Vicky Whitfield	June 2023		
3.3	<p>To develop a communication strategy to ensure Rotherham's PFA offer is known, accessible and visible. This will include clear links to the Local Offer. By communicating effectively with young people and their families, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E&L: All young people have access to clear and transparent information about education, training, and employment opportunities • E&L: All children and young people from year 9 to aspire for their future and can explore opportunities for learning and development in readiness for purposeful activity and work • FR&C: All young people have a choice about their future and are in control of their support as they move into adulthood. • I: Parents, carers and young people have the support and information they need to feel confident to live independently at home and in the wider community <p>Key Impact Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes for EET with SEND are in line with national averages or better. • Increase the number of young people in supported internships through Project Search from 6 to 10 • Maintain 100% of Rotherham Special Schools being involved with the Sheffield City Region Careers Hub SEND Community of Practice 				
3.3.1	NDTi to review the Local Offer from a Preparing for Adulthood perspective and make recommendations for improvement	William Shaw	June 2022		
3.3.2	Participate in the Local Offer subgroup to implement recommendation (4.4.1)	Jayne Fitzgerald William Shaw Helen Sweaton	March 2022		

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
3.4	<p>To confirm processes, roles, and responsibilities to support transition arrangements in Year 9 onwards. Greater clarity will enable the system to work in a better co-ordinated way and more efficiently which will ensure that young people and their families have a better experience, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I: Preparation for Adulthood is included as part of all EHCPs • H: Clear multi-agency transition pathways which includes consideration of health needs are in place. These ensure a holistic transition, based on shared principles, co-produced with young people, their families, and other stakeholders • FR&C: All young people have a choice about their future and are in control of their support as they move into adulthood • FR&C: There is a strong multi-agency commitment to deliver and improve services for young people and their families with clear pathways, processes, and provision from children into adult's services <p>Key Impact Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the % of Care Act assessments in place by age 17.5 years or earlier, for young people eligible for Adults Transition Team from 65.2% to 70% • Increase % of young people aged 14 or over with learning disabilities offered enhanced GP Annual Health Checks from 70% to 75% 				
3.4.1	Review the EHCP outcomes for post 16 students against the NDTi minimum standards to ensure that they demonstrate aspirations, progression, and independence, making best use of advice and guidance within the PfA outcomes framework	Garry Parvin Direct link to EHCP QA group which will have PfA representation	June 2022		
3.4.2	Develop an action plan to address the areas identified as high priority through the above review	Helen Sweaton Garry Parvin	December 2022		
3.4.3	Deliver NDTi training for up to 60 staff across education, health and care services who write Education, Health and Care Plans and contribute advice following Education Health and Care statutory assessments	Garry Parvin Julie Day	March 2022		

Delivery Partners

- RMBC and RCCG Communications Team
- Rotherham Parents Carers Forum
- Rotherham's micro enterprises.
- Voluntary Action Rotherham
- RdaSH
- TRFT
- South Yorkshire TCP/ ICS
- Rotherham Industrial Development Office (RiDO)
- QDOS
- Chat 'n' Chill
- Different but Equal Board
- Neighbourhoods team
- RMBC Housing
- RNN colleges
- NDTi
- Guiding Voices
- Genuine Partnerships

Priority 4 – Local Offer

Lead Officers – William Shaw, Head of Service Commissioning and Jayne Fitzgerald, Rotherham Parents Carers Forum

All parents and carers of children and young people with SEND in Rotherham are aware of the Local Offer and able to access the very valuable information included in it.

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
4.1	<p>Reconstitute the Local Offer steering/reference Group comprised of practitioners, parents/carers, to lead a review of our Local Offer website, alongside our key services/practitioners/stakeholders and children and young people, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is up to date information on how and where to access support is available and easy to access allowing children, young people, and their families to make informed decisions about relevant provision to meet needs • There are good levels of satisfaction • There is a knowledge and confidence related to a wealth of provision • Professionals understand their role in ensuring that information is put on the Local Offer (including the role of the school/setting) • SENCos understand their role in supporting parents/carers to access appropriate provision and services <p>Key Impact Measures (baseline and reporting to be established)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the timeliness of content and update requests in relation to provision identified on the Local Offer completed within agreed timescales • Increase the number of positive responses from parents/carers on the effectiveness of the Local Offer (to increase month on month) • Increase the number of positive responses from ‘secret shoppers’ in relation to the Local Offer (to increase month on month) • Every school/setting is linked to Rotherham’s Local Offer via their school information reports • 20% increase in number of ‘hits’ on the Local Offer 				
4.1.1	Undertake benchmarking against other Local Authorities to identify best practice	William Shaw	June 2022		
4.1.2	Increase the accessibility of the Local Offer site with a partner friendly plan	Helen Sweatton	April 2022		

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
4.1.3	Increase and develop the content of the Local Offer so that is representative of Rotherham and the wider SEND system	William Shaw Jayne Fitzgerald	September 2022		
4.2	<p>Develop ongoing and sustainable systems and processes, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is good, regular communication between children and young people, parents/carers and all practitioners involved so that children and young people's needs are met • Children and young people are engaged with the right support at the right time <p>Key Impact Measures (baseline and reporting to be established)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the timeliness of content and update requests in relation to provision identified on the Local Offer completed within agreed timescales • Increase the number of positive responses from parents/carers on the effectiveness of the Local Offer (to increase month on month) • Increase the number of positive responses from 'secret shoppers' in relation to the Local Offer (to increase month on month) 				
4.2.1	Collate engagement activity and ensure it is used to develop site	Local Offer engagement lead	June 2022		
4.2.2	Provide feedback to stakeholders	Local Offer engagement lead	June 2022		
4.2.3	Measure and monitor the use, accessibility, and effectiveness of the Local Offer site	Local Offer engagement lead	June 2022		
4.3	<p>To review and refine internal processes, roles and responsibilities for the promotion and upkeep of the Local Offer which will include being part of regional Local Offer Groups, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is good, regular communication between children and young people, parents/carers and all practitioners involved so that children and young people's needs are met • Children and young people are engaged with the right support at the right time • There is up to date information on how and where to access support is available and easy to access allowing children, young people, and their families to make informed decisions about relevant provision to meet needs • There are good levels of satisfaction 				

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a knowledge and confidence related to a wealth of provision • Professionals understand their role in ensuring that information is put on the Local Offer (including the role of the school/setting) • SENCOs understand their role in supporting parents/carers to access appropriate provision and services <p>Key Impact Measures (baseline and reporting to be established)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the timeliness of content and update requests in relation to provision identified on the Local Offer completed within agreed timescales • Increase the number of positive responses from parents/carers on the effectiveness of the Local Offer (to increase month on month) • Increase the number of positive responses from 'secret shoppers' in relation to the Local Offer (to increase month on month) • Every school/setting is linked to Rotherham's Local Offer via their school information reports • 20% increase in number of 'hits' on the Local Offer 				
4.3.1	Establish a clear role to hold responsibility for Local Offer to embed improvements and support communication/engagement with Local Offer	Nathan Heath	September 2022		
4.3.2	Develop a process across the SEND system and the Place Partnership to maximise the use of the Local Offer	Jayne Fitzgerald	April 2022		
4.3.3	Develop a steering group mechanism so that children and young people's voice/activity is central in Rotherham Local Offer	Scott Johnson	April 2022		
4.3.4	Audit regularly education settings engagement and link to Local Offer	Julie Day/Pam Ward/Nathan Heath	June 2023		
4.4	<p>Develop and deliver a joint communications and engagement strategy to promote the Local Offer, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is good, regular communication between children and young people, parents/carers and all practitioners involved so that children and young people's needs are met 				

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is up to date information on how and where to access support is available and easy to access allowing children, young people, and their families to make informed decisions about relevant provision to meet needs • There are good levels of satisfaction • There is a knowledge and confidence related to a wealth of provision • Professionals understand their role in ensuring that information is put on the Local Offer (including the role of the school/setting) • SENCOs understand their role in supporting parents/carers to access appropriate provision and services • Children and young people are engaged with the right support at the right time <p>Key Impact Measures (baseline and reporting to be established)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the timeliness of content and update requests in relation to provision identified on the Local Offer completed within agreed timescales • Increase the number of positive responses from parents/carers on the effectiveness of the Local Offer (to increase month on month) • Increase the number of positive responses from 'secret shoppers' in relation to the Local Offer (to increase month on month) • Every school/setting is linked to Rotherham's Local Offer via their school information reports • 20% increase in number of 'hits' on the Local Offer 				
4.4.1	Implement a clear and accessible long term communication plan that develops the local offer to support all areas of SEND system	William Shaw Comms lead	March 2022		
4.5	<p>Promote the Local Offer, this will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is good, regular communication between children and young people, parents/carers and all practitioners involved so that children and young people's needs are met • Up to date information on how and where to access support is available and easy to access allowing children, young people, and their families to make informed decisions about relevant provision to meet needs • There are good levels of satisfaction • There is a knowledge and confidence related to a wealth of provision • Professionals understand their role in ensuring that information is put on the Local Offer (including the role of the school/setting) • SENCOs understand their role in supporting parents/carers to access appropriate provision and services • Children and young people are engaged with the right support at the right time. 				

Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	Key Impact Measures (baseline and reporting to be established) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the timeliness of content and update requests in relation to provision identified on the Local Offer completed within agreed timescales • Increase the number of positive responses from parents/carers on the effectiveness of the Local Offer (to increase month on month) • Increase the number of positive responses from 'secret shoppers' in relation to the Local Offer (to increase month on month) • Every school/setting is linked to Rotherham's Local Offer via their school information reports • 20% increase in number of 'hits' on the Local Offer 				
4.5.1	Promote the Local Offer across the wider SEND system for example SENCO Network events	Julie Day Helen Bacon	January 2022		
4.5.2	Audit the use of the Local Offer across the wider SEND system for example Education Settings and partners	Pam Ward	Re-occurring action Sequence to be agreed Dec 2022		
4.6	To carry out a review of progress to identify ongoing areas for development from June 2023				
4.6.1	Undertake an annual review to assess progress against the identified outcomes and impact measures	Nathan Heath Julie Day	June 2023		

Delivery Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent, carers, and children and young people • Council for Disabled Children • National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) • RMBC • Health services • Education settings • Rotherham Parent Carers forum • Genuine Partnerships

- Guiding Voices

RAG Status	
Blue	Action complete, impact measures achieved and approval to close obtained from the SEND Executive Board
Green	Action on track to achieve the impact measures and within the timelines set.
Amber	Action at risk of not achieving the impact measures and/or completion within the timelines set.
Red	Action at significant risk of not achieving the impact measures and completion within the timelines set.
Grey	Action awaiting start.

Priority Workstream Subgroups

Group	Chair	Members
Education Health Care Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie Day, Head of Service Inclusion • Ian Tankard, Head of Coleridge Primary School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vicki Ingram, Head of EHCP Team CYPS • Vicky Whitfield, Designated Clinical Officer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group • James Chapman, Designated Social Care Officer for SEND • Ellen Senior, Children’s Disability Family Support & Autism Information and Advice Service Manager • SENDIASS • Kayleigh Harrison, Parents Carer Forum • Laura Gough, CYPS Head of Service Quality and Learning Safeguarding, Quality and Learning • Carlene Devereux, Service Manager Disabilities Services • Catherine O Sullivan, NHS • Sally Brice, CAMHS Service manager • Christina Harrison, RDASH Director Children’s Care Group • Gemma Thomas, With Me in Mind Mental Health Support Team
Graduated Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Taylor, Principal Educational Psychologist • Rachel Amos, Principal Educational Psychologist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotherham Parents Carer Forum representative • Head Teacher or SENCO • Ashlea Harvey, CYPS Young Inspectors Coordinator • Carlene Devereux, Service Manager Disabilities Services • Cheryl Barquero • Dean Fenton, HoS Access to Education • Greg Raynor, Principal Brinsworth Academy LEAP Multi-Academy Trust • Helen Bacon, Service Leader Inclusion Support Services • Kelly Crompton, Strategic Lead for Inclusion and Alternative Provision • Mark Windle, Head Teacher, Badsley Moor Lane Primary

Group	Chair	Members
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melanie Allen, Thomas Rotherham College • Pam Ward, Strategic Lead for School Effectiveness • Paula Williams, Service Lead Early Years • Susan Claydon, Head of Service, Early Help and Family Engagement • Tina Hohn, Primary and Early Years Virtual Head Teacher • Vicky Whitfield, Designated Clinical Officer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group • Louise Graham, Rotherham Parents Carers Forum • Catherine O'Sullivan – CAMHS
Preparing for Adulthood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Spicer, Assistant Director Adult Care, and Integration • Vicky Whitfield, Designated Clinical Officer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garry Parvin, Joint Head of Learning Disability, Autism and Transition Commissioning Adults Social Care • Harry Clarkson, RMBC, Programme Development Officer, Service Improvement and Governance, Adult Care & Integration • Helen Sweaton, RMBC Joint AD Commissioning, Quality and Performance • Julie Day, RMBC Head of Service Inclusion • Jenny Lawless, RMBC Senior Employment Initiatives Officer Rotherham Initiatives Development Office • Alison Cowie, Head of Nursing, Children's Services the Rotherham Foundation Trust • Matthew Boud, Head of Service Locality and Children's Disability Service • Carlene Devereux, Service Manager Disabilities Services • Paul Theaker, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group Commissioning Manager for Children and Young People and Maternity Services • Sally Brice, CAMHS Service manager • Claire-Marie Whiting, Genuine Partnerships • Sue Wilson, CYPS Head of Service Performance and Quality • Paul Silvester, Head Teacher Newman Special School

Group	Chair	Members
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley Leggott, Voluntary Action Rotherham • Vicki Ingram, RMBC Education Health & Care Assessment Team Manager • Rachel Jackson, RMBC Early Help Senior Practitioner, Family Support and Early Help • Sophie Astin, Job Centre Plus DEA/Disability Employment Adviser Lead • Helen Fisher, Adult Social Care, Head of Service, Targeted Review and Transitions • Sarah Watts, Adult Care Strategic Housing Manager • William Shaw, RMBC Head of Service Commissioning • Vicky Whitfield, Designated Clinical Officer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group • Emma Royle, RMBC Senior Commissioning & Improvement Manager, Adult Services • Jayne Fitzgerald, Rotherham Parents Carers Forum • Kayleigh Harrison, Rotherham Parents Carers Forum • Catherine Hancox, Family Peer Support Co-ordinator, Rotherham Parents & Carers Forum • Deborah Johnson, Adults Social Care, Performance & Business Intelligence Service Manager • Melanie Allen, Head of Faculty Learning Support and Student Wellbeing, Thomas Rotherham College <p>This membership will be reviewed in January 2022 with a view to streamlining and creating a smaller group to sit alongside the PfA strategic group.</p>
Local Offer and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Shaw, Head of Service Commissioning • Jayne Fitzgerald, Rotherham Parents Carers Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Hancox, Rotherham Parent Carer Forum • Karen Surtees, RMBC Inclusion Service • Ellen Senior, Children's Disability Family Support & Autism Information and Advice Service Manager • Rachel Amos/Carol Taylor, Principal Educational Psychologist

Group	Chair	Members
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Chapman, Designated Social Care Officer for SEND • Emma Lingwood, Early Help • Emma Royal, CCG Adult Health • Garry Parvin, Joint Head of Learning Disability, Autism and Transition Commissioning Adults Social Care • Helen Wyatt, CCG Patient and Public Engagement Manager • Vicky Whitfield, Designated Clinical Officer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group • Rob Shirley, RMBC Communications Manager • John Kelly/Nick Fisher, RMBC Website Design • Gordon Laidlaw, CCG Communications • Kelly Hurst, Early Years • Tracey Mace-Ackroyd, High Education • Andy Lound, RMBC SENDIASS • Kerry Taylor, RMBC SENDIASS • Jenny Lawless, RMBC Senior Employment Initiatives Officer Rotherham Initiatives Development Office • Ashley Leggott, CYPF VAR Consortium • Scott Johnson, Guiding Voices • Harry Clarkson, Community Catalyst • Helen Bacon, CYPS Learning Support Service

SEND Executive Board Membership

Name	Role
Suzanne Joyner (Joint Chair)	Director of Children's Services
Ian Atkinson (Joint Chair)	Executive Place Director Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Nathan Heath	Assistant Director, Education, and Inclusion
Julie Day	Head of Service Inclusion
Michelle Veitch	Chief Operating Officer Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
Christina Harrison	RDASH Director Children's Care Group
Michael Wright	Deputy Chief Executive the Rotherham Foundation Trust
Alison Cowie	Head of Nursing, Children's Services the Rotherham Foundation Trust
Helen Dobson	Deputy Chief Nurse the Rotherham Foundation Trust
Sue Wilson	CYPS Head of Service Performance and Quality

SEND Strategic Board Membership

Name	Role
Children and Young People's Services Representatives	
Suzanne Joyner (Joint Chair)	Director of Children's Services
Nathan Heath	Assistant Director, Education, and Inclusion
Helen Sweaton	Joint AD Commissioning, Quality and Performance
Julie Day	Head of Service Inclusion
Laura Gough	Head of Service Quality and Learning
Matthew Boud	Head of Service Locality and Children's Disability Service
Sue Wilson	Head of Service Performance and Quality
William Shaw	Head of Service Commissioning
Carlene Devereux	Service Manager Disabilities Services
Carol Taylor	Principal Educational Psychologist
Rachel Amos	Principal Educational Psychologist
Dean Fenton	HoS Access to Education
Paula Williams	Service Lead Early Years
Alex Hawley	Public Health Specialist Rotherham Council
Ian Spicer	Assistant Director of Adult Care and Integration
Garry Parvin	Joint Head of Learning Disability, Autism and Transition Commissioning Adults Social Care
Health Representatives	
Ian Atkinson (Joint Chair)	Executive Place Director Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Vicky Whitfield	Designated Clinical Officer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Christina Harrison	RDASH Director Children's Care Group
Sally Brice	CAMHS Service manager
Julie Lodge	Associate Nurse Director Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
James Townsend	General manager Family Health Division the Rotherham Foundation Trust
Alison Cowie	Head of Nursing Children's Services, The Rotherham Foundation Trust
Paul Theaker	Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group Commissioning Manager for Children and Young People and Maternity Services
Voluntary Sector Representatives	
Ashley Leggott	Voluntary Action Rotherham
Claire-Marie Whiting	Genuine Partnerships
Jayne Fitzgerald	Rotherham Parents Carers Forum

Louise Graham	Rotherham Parents Carers Forum
Kayleigh Harrison	Rotherham Parents Carers Forum
Education Representatives	
Mark Windle – Primary Representative	Head Teacher, Badsley Moor Lane Primary
Greg Raynor – Secondary Representative	LEAP Multi-Academy Trust
David Burnham – Secondary Representative	Head of Thrybergh Academy
Tracey Mace-Akroyd – Further Education Representative	Head of RNN Group
Melanie Allen – Further Education Representative	Thomas Rotherham College
Rachel Booth – Special School Representative	Head of The Willows

Useful links and documents

[SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

[send-local-area-ofsted-cqc-inspection-july-2021 \(rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk\)](#)

[Homepage – Rotherham SEND Local Offer](#)

[RPCF Rotherham Parent Carers Forum](#)

[Homepage – Rotherham SENDIASS](#)

[Rotherham Charter](#)

Glossary

ASC Adult Social Care

C&F Children and Families

CCG Clinical Commissioning Group

CoP Code of Practice

CQC Care Quality Commission

DCO Designated Clinical Offer

EHC Education, Health and Care

EHCP Education, Health and Care Plan

JSNA Joint Strategic Needs Analysis

LAC Looked After Child

NASEN National Association of Special Educational Needs

PEP Personal Education Plan

QA Quality Assurance

SEND Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities

TACAF Team around the Child and/or Family

C&YP Children and Young People

CAMHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

CEO Chief Executive Officer

CPD Continuing Professional Development

CSC Children's Social Care

DCS Director of Children's Services

EHCNA Education, Health Care Needs Assessment

Health Relates to Primary care, Secondary Care and Community Care Providers

LA Local Authority

LO Local Offer

Ofsted Office for Standards in Education

PfA Preparation for Adulthood

SENCo Special Educational Needs Coordinator

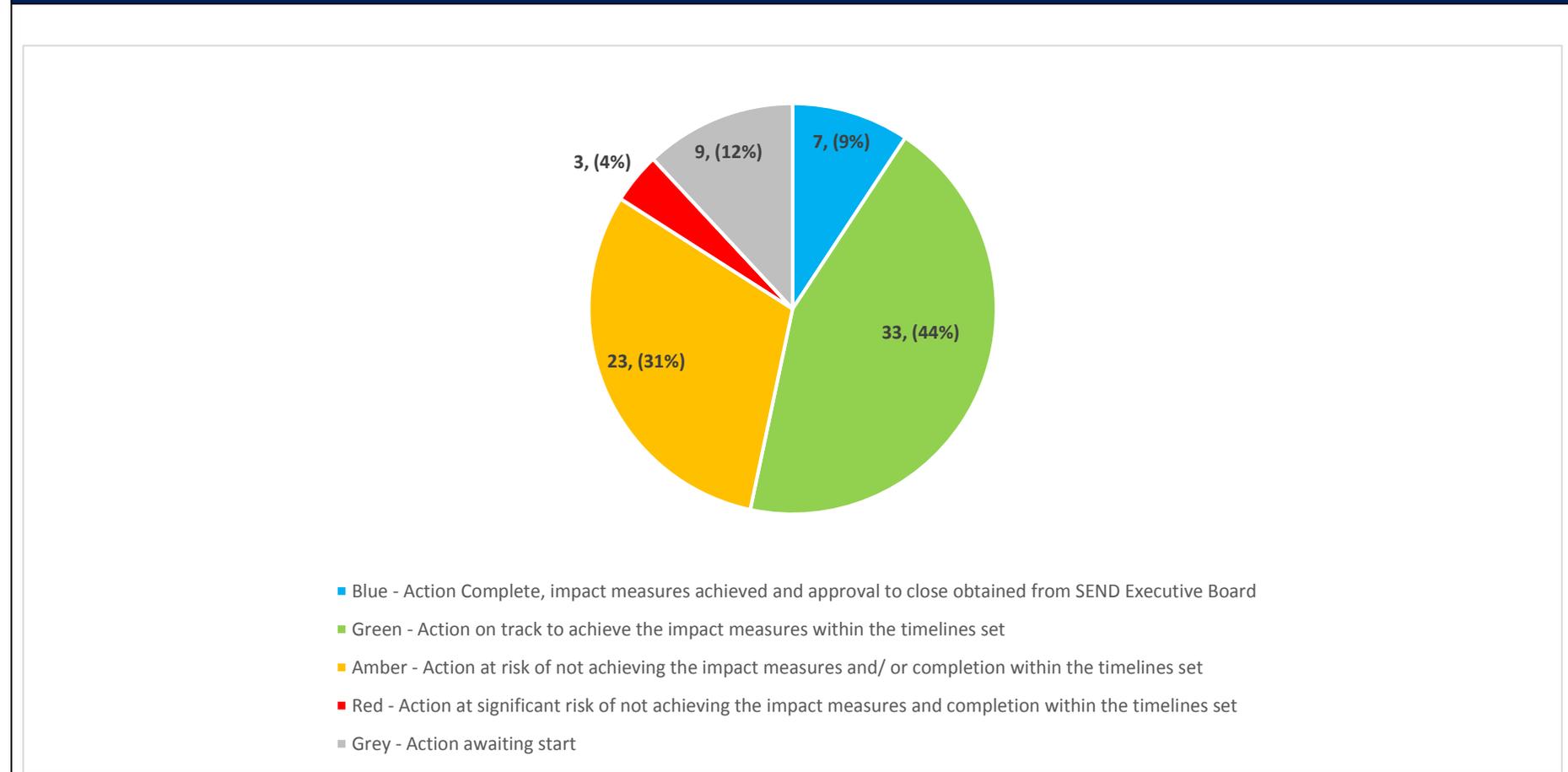
SMART Specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely

ToR Terms of Reference

Written statement of Action Plan

Rotherham Local Area Four Areas of Significant Concern		
1.		The variability in the quality of EHC plans, including the contribution of health and social care partners.
2.		The effectiveness of the graduated response to identify and meet children and young people's needs, especially in key stages 1 and 2.
3.		The quality of provision for children and young people's preparation for, and transition to, adulthood.
4.		Communication with all parents and carers of children and young people with SEND about the Local Offer, and the accessibility of the very valuable information included within the Local Offer

Progress Summary



Ref	Action	Target End Date	RAG August 2022	
1.1				
1.1.1	Integrate EHCP and SEND into full CYPS framework	July 2022		
1.1.2	Review the Health and CCG framework alongside the CYPS framework to ensure consistency	July 2022		
1.1.3	Establish internal QA processes within the EHCP Team and wider Inclusion Service	September 2022		
1.1.4	Embed 'lessons learned' including outcomes from audits and Practice Learning Days and benchmarking data to inform service improvement	December 2022		
1.1.5	Facilitate parents, carers, and young people to enable them the opportunity to audit and QA independently	July 2022		
1.1.6	CYPS commissioning responsible for commissioning all external SEND placements (education and care) based on the EHCP	December 2022		
1.1.7	Develop a Communications Strategy to ensure key messages are communicated to stakeholders	December 2022		
1.1.8	Embed a process to track the impact of EHC plans in relation to outcomes e.g., academic achievement, EET, EHCP outcomes achieved	September 2022		
1.2				
1.2.1	Work with training providers to coordinate and deliver a CPD offer	June 2023		
1.2.2	Deliver CPD to Parents and Carers	June 2023		
1.2.3	Deliver CPD to Health/CCG Practitioners	June 2023		
1.2.4	Deliver CPD to Social Care Practitioners	June 2023		
1.2.5	Deliver CPD to Schools and Settings	June 2023		
1.3				
1.3.1	Develop a new agreed EHCP template	April 2022		
1.3.2	All new EHCP Plans to be on the new template	June 2023		
1.3.3	Transfer old EHCP Plans onto electronic template as part of annual review process.	June 2023		
1.4				
1.4.1	Undertake a review of current internal practice and operational processes	July 2022		
1.4.2	Develop and implement new operating procedures	October 2022		
1.4.3	Deliver training to the team on the new operating procedures	December 2022		
1.5				
1.5.1	Develop a management information system to track effectiveness	January 2023		
1.5.2	Undertake both internal and external benchmarking to measure progress of changes implemented	June 2023		
1.5.3	Undertake peer review of EHCPs in Borough to measure progress of changes implemented	June 2023		
1.6				
1.6.1	Undertake an annual review to assess progress against the identified outcomes and impact measures	June 2023		
1.6.2	Undertake ADCS Peer Review	September 2023		

Ref	Action	Target End Date	RAG August 2022	
2.1.1	Introduce the Four Cornerstones Approach self-evaluation tool and training opportunities to all schools via the SENDCO network	April 2022		
2.1.2	Extend support to strengthening co-production and inclusive practice by drawing upon the best practice of Charter Gold schools to create a peer support network	July 2022		
2.1.3	Develop a Co-production and Inclusive Practice toolkit which highlights best practice under each of the Cornerstones accessible via the SENDCo electronic resource and the Genuine Partnerships website	December 2022		
2.2				
2.2.1	To audit outreach support and provide recommendations for developments if appropriate for Specialist schools or settings	July 2022		

Ref	Action	Target End Date	RAG August 2022	
2.2.2	To audit outreach support and provide recommendations for developments if appropriate for RMBC central services	December 2022	Green	
2.2.3	To audit outreach support and provide recommendations for developments if appropriate for Health/CCG providers	July 2022	Yellow	
2.2.4	To audit outreach support and provide recommendations for developments if appropriate for Social Care	July 2022	Green	
2.2.5	To audit outreach support and provide recommendations for developments if appropriate for other local providers	September 2022	Grey	
2.3				
2.3.1	Introduce and embed Whole School SEND (NASEN/DfE/Gateway) with a focus on self-evaluation framework, effective use of data and every leader a leader of SEND.	June 2023	Green	
2.3.2	Deliver presentations at Governors meetings	June 2022	Green	
2.3.3	Recognise positive judgements related to SEND in school/setting Ofsted's and share as examples of good practice.	Ongoing – July for 1 st annual report	Yellow	
2.4				
2.4.1	Develop the Graduated Response electronic portal	February 2023	Blue	
2.4.2	Implement networking/communication opportunities including SENCO Padlet	April 2022	Blue	
2.4.3	Develop and implement internal mechanisms within Health/CCG and RMBC including membership of the EHCP panel	February 2022	Yellow	
2.5				
2.5.1	Deliver training on provision mapping and the graduated response	April 2022	Green	
2.5.2	Deliver training on assess, plan, do review cycle and support plans	September 2022	Yellow	
2.5.3	Deliver training on person centred planning	April 2022	Red	
2.5.4	Deliver training on The Local Offer	September 2022	Grey	
2.5.5	Deliver training on school information reports	July 2022	Red	
2.5.6	Deliver training on parent/carer and children and young people's voice and involvement (co-production)	April 2022	Blue	
2.5.7	Deliver accredited training for emotionally literate support assistance (ELSA) and maintain accreditation through supervision	June 2023	Green	
2.6				
2.6.1	Link to other working groups where appropriate in relation to provision and practice for SEMH	June 2023	Green	
2.6.2	Provide mechanisms to gain stakeholder experiences and opinions to identify strengths and weaknesses related to provision meeting need	June 2023	Green	
2.7				
2.7.1	Undertake an annual review to assess progress against the identified outcomes and impact measures	June 2023	Grey	

Ref	Action	Target date	RAG August 2022	
3.1				
3.1.1	Agree a joint multi-agency standards and quality assurance framework for transition for young people with SEND in line with NDTi minimum standards	June 2022	Green	
3.1.2	Co-produce with education, health and care providers, good practice guidance for protocols of effective transitions	December 2022	Yellow	
3.1.3	NDTi training for up to 50 staff working in schools, colleges, and support services to develop an understanding of Preparing for Adulthood.	March 2022	Yellow	
3.1.4	Deliver a multi-agency training programme which embeds the Four Cornerstones of Co-production, person centred and strength-based approaches (link to 3.4.3)	June 2023	Yellow	

Ref	Action	Target date	RAG August 2022	
3.1.5	Implement Quality Assurance Framework and develop an action plan to address areas for improvement (including impact of training programmes)	June 2023		
3.2				
3.2.1	Review local needs and identify gaps in current provision or areas for development against NDTi/PfA minimum standards	July 2022		
3.2.2	Develop an action plan to address the areas identified as high priority through the above gap analysis	December 2022		
3.2.3	Produce transition pathways for Rotherham's Preparing for Adulthood Cohort for four prioritised Health Services	June 2023		
3.3				
3.3.1	NDTi to review the Local Offer from a Preparing for Adulthood perspective and make recommendations for improvement	June 2022		
3.3.2	Participate in the Local Offer subgroup to implement recommendation (4.4.1)	March 2022		
3.4				
3.4.1	Review the EHCP outcomes for post 16 students against the NDTi minimum standards to ensure that they demonstrate aspirations, progression, and independence, making best use of advice and guidance within the PfA outcomes framework	June 2022		
3.4.2	Develop an action plan to address the areas identified as high priority through the above review	December 2022		
3.4.3	Deliver NDTi training for up to 60 staff across education, health and care services who write Education, Health and Care Plans and contribute advice following Education Health and Care statutory assessments	March 2022		

Ref	Action	Target End Date	RAG August 2022	
4.1				
4.1.1	Undertake benchmarking against other Local Authorities to identify best practice	June 2022		
4.1.2	Increase the accessibility of the Local Offer site with a partner friendly plan	April 2022		
4.1.3	Increase and develop the content of the Local Offer so that is representative of Rotherham and the wider SEND system	September 2022		
4.2				
4.2.1	Collate engagement activity and ensure it is used to develop site	June 2022		
4.2.2	Provide feedback to stakeholders	June 2022		
4.2.3	Measure and monitor the use, accessibility, and effectiveness of the Local Offer site	June 2022		
4.3				
4.3.1	Establish a clear role to hold responsibility for Local Offer to embed improvements and support communication/engagement with Local Offer	September 2022		
4.3.2	Develop a process across the SEND system and the Place Partnership to maximise the use of the Local Offer	April 2022		
4.3.3	Develop a steering group mechanism so that children and young people's voice/activity is central in Rotherham Local Offer	April 2022		
4.3.4	Audit regularly education settings engagement and link to Local Offer	June 2023		
4.4				
4.4.1	Implement a clear and accessible long term communication plan that develops the local offer to support all areas of SEND system	March 2022		
4.5				
4.5.1	Promote the Local Offer across the wider SEND system for example SENCO Network events	January 2022		
4.5.2	Audit the use of the Local Offer across the wider SEND system for example Education Settings and partners	Re-occurring action Sequence		

Ref	Action	Target End Date	RAG August 2022	
		to be agreed Dec 2022		
4.6				
4.6.1	Undertake an annual review to assess progress against the identified outcomes and impact measures	June 2023		

RAG Status	
Blue	Action complete, impact measures achieved and approval to close obtained from the SEND Executive Board
Green	Action on track to achieve the impact measures and within the timelines set.
Amber	Action at risk of not achieving the impact measures and/or completion within the timelines set.
Red	Action at significant risk of not achieving the impact measures and completion within the timelines set.
Grey	Action awaiting start.

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Public Report
Improving Lives Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Commission – 06 September 2022

Report Title

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2023 - 2027

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, Performance and Quality

Helen.sweaton@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Rotherham's Looked After Children's Sufficiency Strategy 2019-2022 is due for review in 2022. The revised Looked After Children and Care Leaver's Sufficiency Strategy focuses on what we know about our children and young people, including their voices, and the information about local homes for children. The strategy also provides all our latest data trends, what our priorities are and the delivery plan to achieve these.

This report provides an update on the delivery of the previous strategy and the development of the new Strategy.

Recommendations

1. Members of the Improving Lives Select Committee note and inform the development of the new Strategy.
2. Members of the Improving Lives Select Committee note and endorse the governance arrangements for delivery of the Strategy

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 The Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2023 – 2027

Background Papers

Looked After Children's (LAC) Sufficiency Strategy 2020-22

Council Approval Required

You should refer to [Appendix 9 of the Constitution – Responsibility for Functions](#) – to check whether your recommendations require approval by Council, as well as Cabinet or a committee. You should take advice from Democratic Services if you are not sure.

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2023 – 2027

1.	Background
1.1	<p>The Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy has been developed in line with the duty to provide 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 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.</p>
1.2	<p>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 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.</p>
1.3	<p>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 and strategic intentions are essential to the sustainability of improved outcomes and the Local Authority budget.</p>
1.4	<p>The previous LAC Sufficiency Strategy was approved by Cabinet in June 2019. The key priorities of the Market Management Project were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce reliance on Independent Fostering Agencies by recruiting more in-house foster carers; and • 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 & Housing to ensure that sufficiency is achieved for vulnerable 16- and 17-year-olds.
2.	Key Issues
2.1	<p>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.</p> <p>1. To reduce reliance on Independent Fostering Agencies by recruiting more in-house foster carers</p>

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.

Whilst there have been 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, as such 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
- 5 young people living in the homes since opening;
- 2 of the 5 young people have been supported to '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.

Rotherham continues 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;

Rotherham 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;

Rotherham developed a 16+ Support and Accommodation flexible purchasing systems (FPS) which went live in January 2021. The purpose of the FPS was for our Commissioning team and Social Care to continue working closely to secure good quality provision for our 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 our commissioned provision, to include the four national standards, to focus providers on the requirements for registration.

The managers of both Hollowgate and House Project (our in-house provision) are working together to undertake analysis of where they are at against the standards with a view to be ready to apply for registration when the window opens.

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 dynamic purchasing framework 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 commissioning 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.

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

	<p>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.</p>
<p>2.3</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>This strategy has been developed in line with the promises we have made, as corporate parents, to all of our looked after children.</p> <p>The Looked After Children Council have also agreed for the Strategy to be considered at their meeting on 14th September. They will provide 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 the aspirations/ priorities and their voice to supplement to LAC promises.</p>
<p>2.4</p>	<p>Cabinet have maintained oversight of the key priorities identified in the LAC Sufficient Strategy 2019-22 through reports to Cabinet on fostering recruitment and development of residential provision, this has focused on in-house services.</p> <p>Internal Audit have been commissioned to undertake an audit to provide assurance that the originally agreed intentions of the LAC sufficiency strategy have been achieved.</p> <p>In order to achieve and report an overall level of assurance the review will consider and provide assurance on the management of the following risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured, planned, and coherent oversight of all of the outcomes and activity associated with the LAC Sufficiency strategy may not be taking place. • The current LAC Sufficiency strategy may not be complete including updates to reflect changes in demand and any barriers to the implementation of the inhouse provision. • The outcomes in the LAC Sufficiency Strategy for 2019-2022 may not have been achieved and any lessons identified transferred to early drafts of the 2023-2027 strategy document. <p>Recommended actions will be incorporated into the development of the strategy and associated governance arrangements.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Options considered and recommended proposal</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>Recommended proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members of the Improving Lives Select Committee note and inform the development of the new Strategy.

	2. Members of the Improving Lives Select Committee note and endorse the governance arrangements for delivery of the Strategy
4.	Consultation on proposal
4.1	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The input from Improving Lives Select Commission will be valued. This will inform further development of the strategy and the proposed governance arrangements which will progress to Cabinet for approval.</p>
5.	Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision
5.1	The Strategy focuses on what we know about our children and young people, including their voices, and the information about local homes for children. The strategy also provides all our latest data trends, what our aspirations are and the delivery plan to achieve these over the next four years 2023 - 2027
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	There are no legal implications from the Review of the strategy.
8.	Human Resources Advice and Implications
	No direct HR implications within this report.
9.	Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults
9.1	The Sufficiency duty requires Rotherham Council to ensure that there is a range of sufficient homes which meet the needs of children and young people in care locally. The implications to vulnerable children and young

***“Our Children,
Resilient ★ Successful ★ Safe”***

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy

2023 – 2027



Contents

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1. Forward

Looked After Children Council



Cllr Victoria Cusworth, Lead Member, Children and Young People



Suzy 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 experienced young people 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, safe and successful", 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

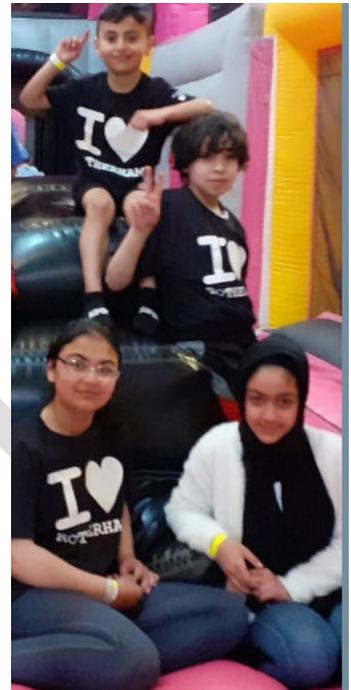
Rotherham Council are committed corporate parents, we use language that reflects this, we want everything to be the best that parents want for their children:

- 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.

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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 two 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.

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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).

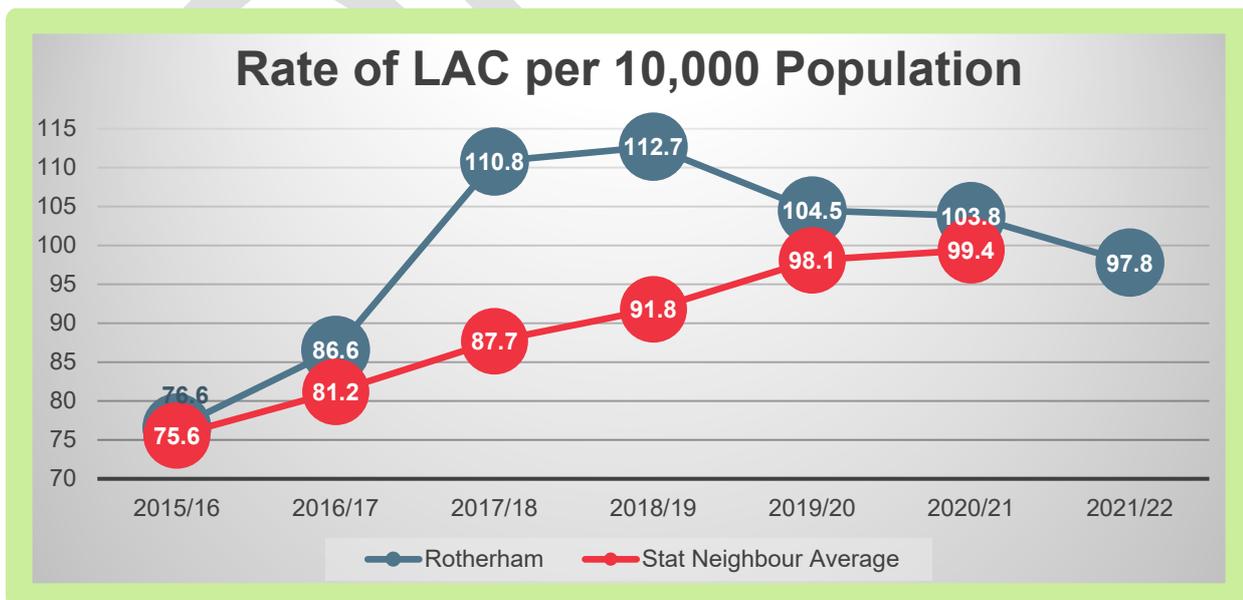
The rate of referrals for Rotherham Council in 2020/21 is 569 per 10,000 of children which was lower than the Statistical Neighbours average of 613 and higher than the national average of 494.

Looked After Children needing homes

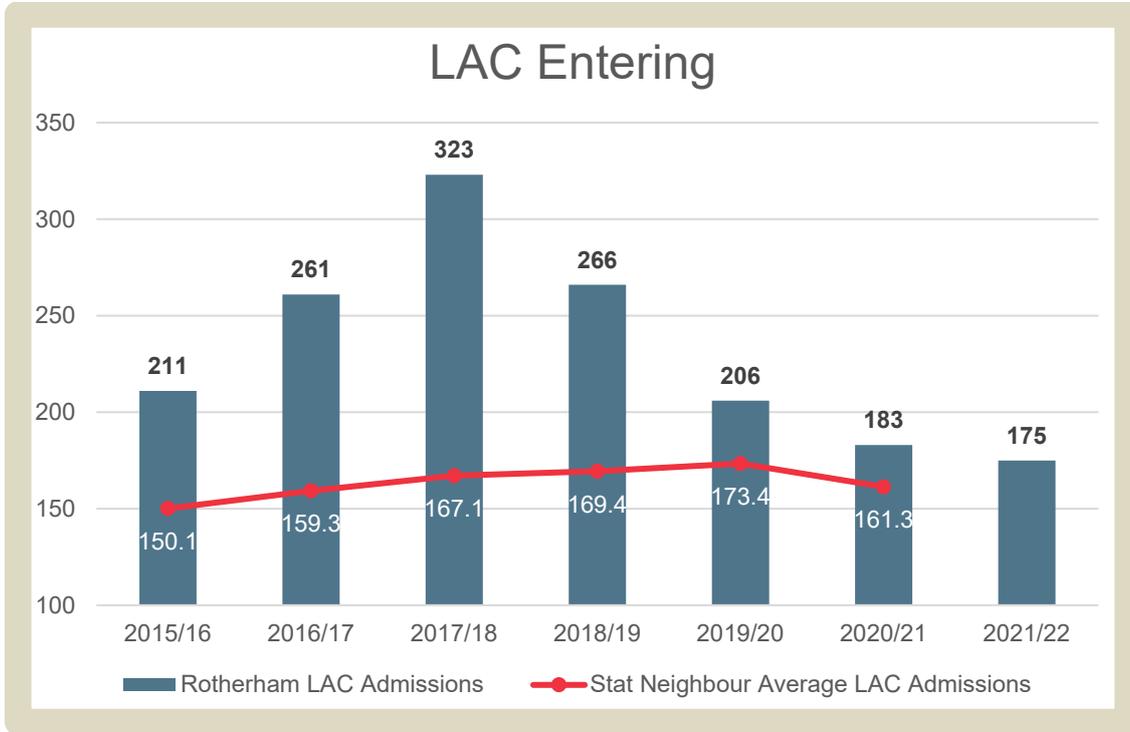
As at 31 March 2022, there were 563 Looked After Children and 293 Care Experienced Young People.

- 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

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.

Gender	31/03/2020	31/03/2021	31/03/2022
Male	54.9%	53.2%	55.1%
Female	44.6%	46.3%	44.4%
Trans-gender	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%

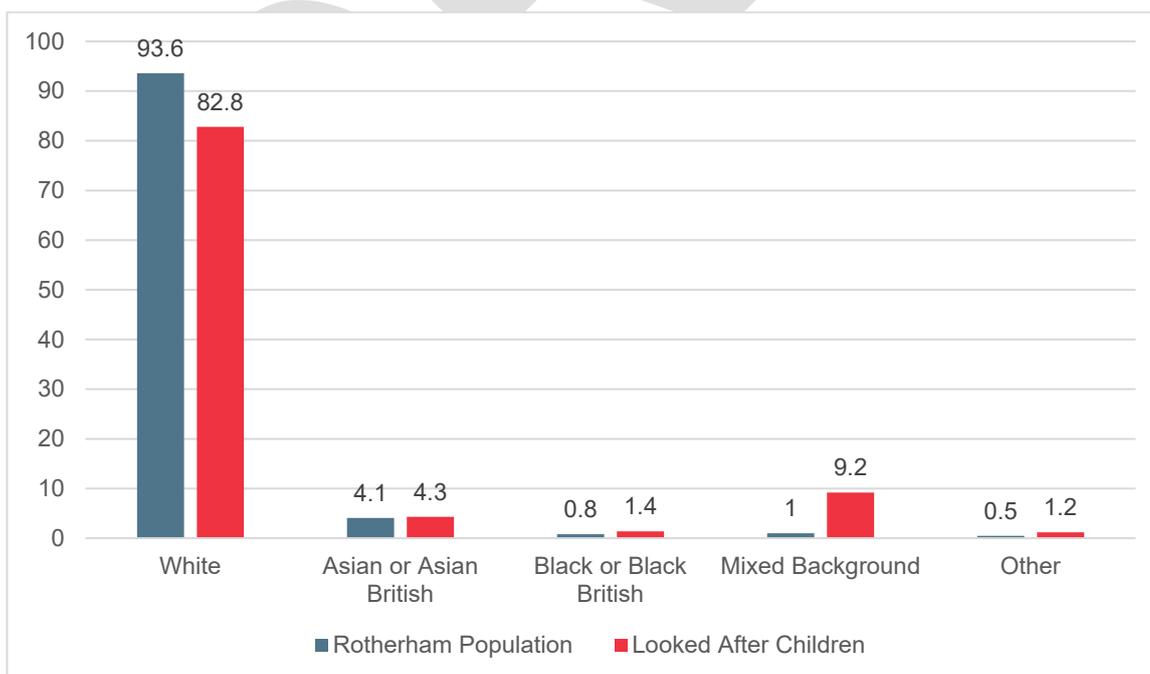
Age profile of Looked After Children

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

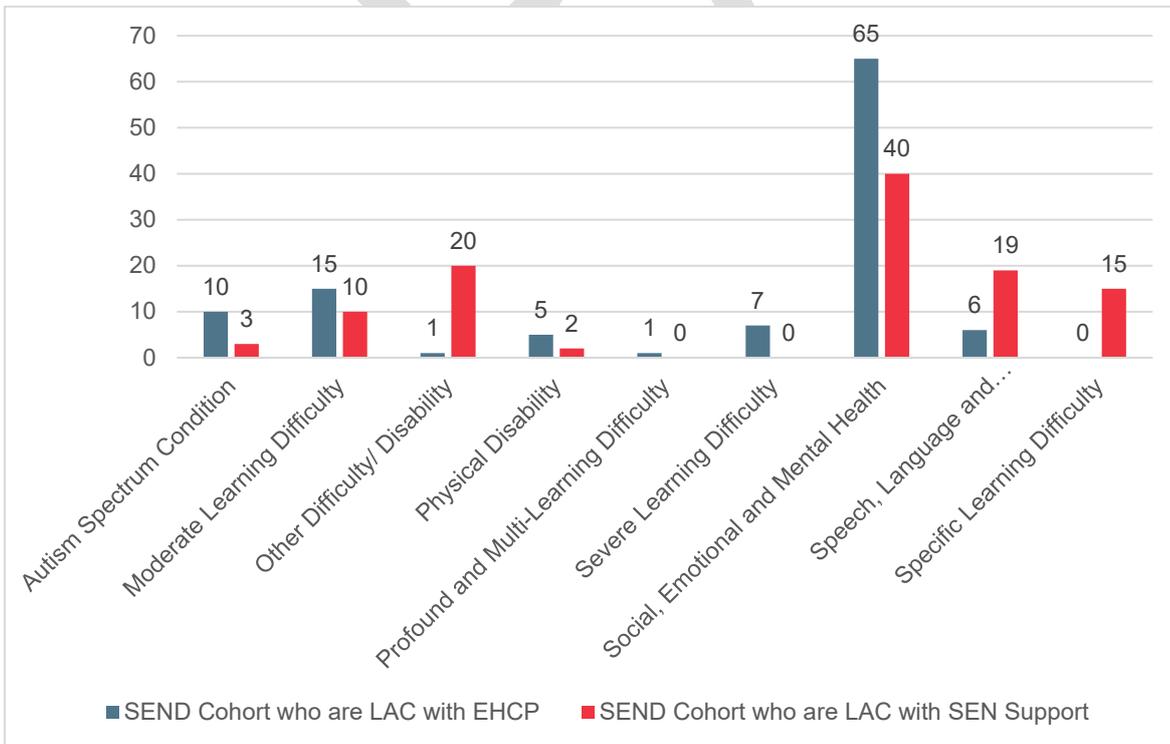
The proportion of looked after children with a disability has remained relatively stable over the last three years. Between 31st March 2020 and 31st 2022 there was a 1.9% decrease in this cohort. Rotherham’s position currently shows 11% for children that are looked after have a disability (47 children). 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 at 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.

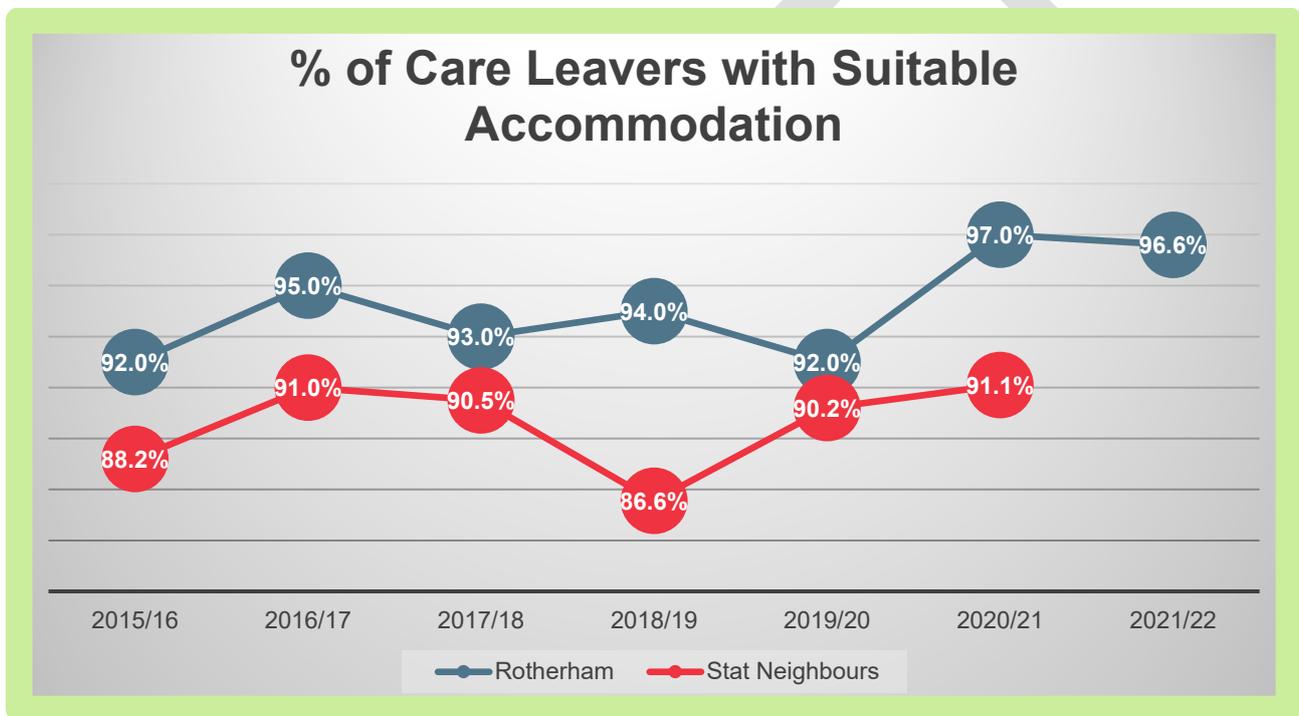


Looked After Children’s emotional and behavioural health

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.

Care Experienced Young People

On 31 March 2022, there were 293 Care Experienced Young People in Rotherham. The percentage with a suitable home has increased over the last three years and Rotherham continues its trend of remaining above its Statistical Neighbours.



Young people are supported into their adult years by a team of 11 personal advisors (PAs). The PAs support our young people find a home, jobs, training, or university place. They can help offer relationship advice or be a shoulder to cry on or someone to have fun with. The PAs have networks across universal services who they can call on to support young people. The Service has a hub called the Journey – it’s a terraced house where young people can drop in, have a brew, watch TV, or do their washing.

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.

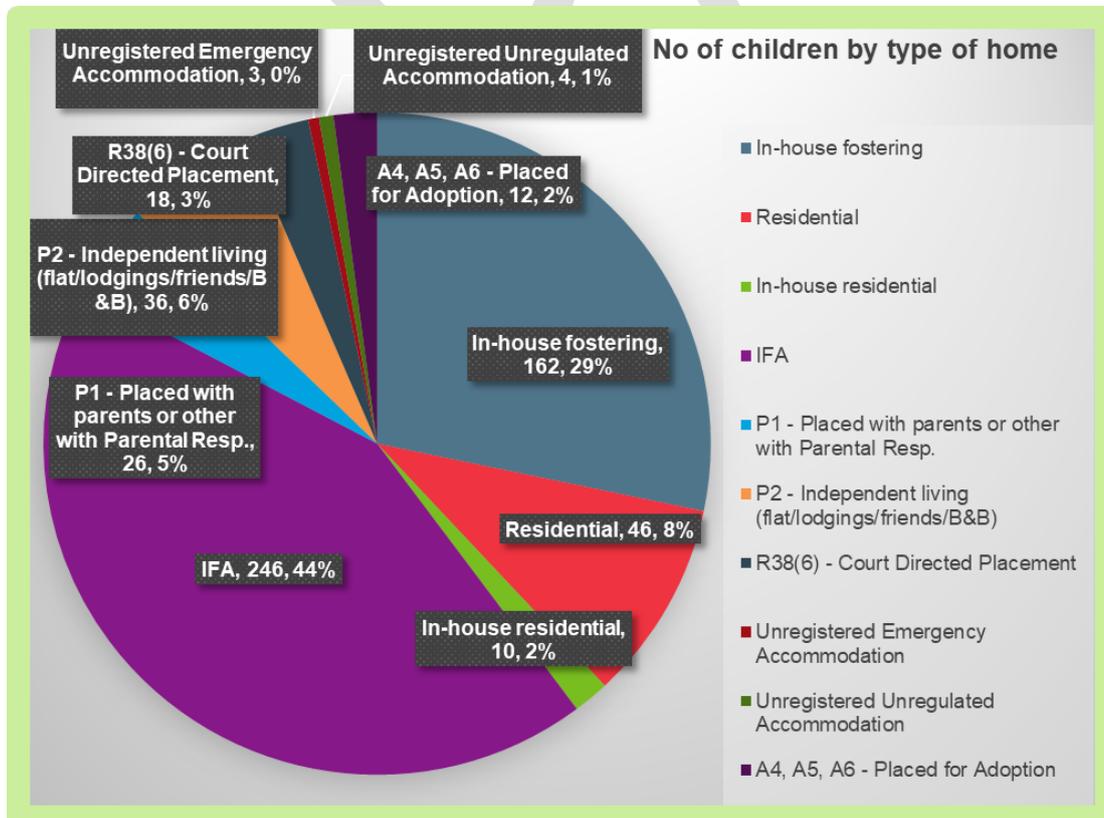
7. Homes for children in care of the Local Authority

Review of Current Provision and market analysis

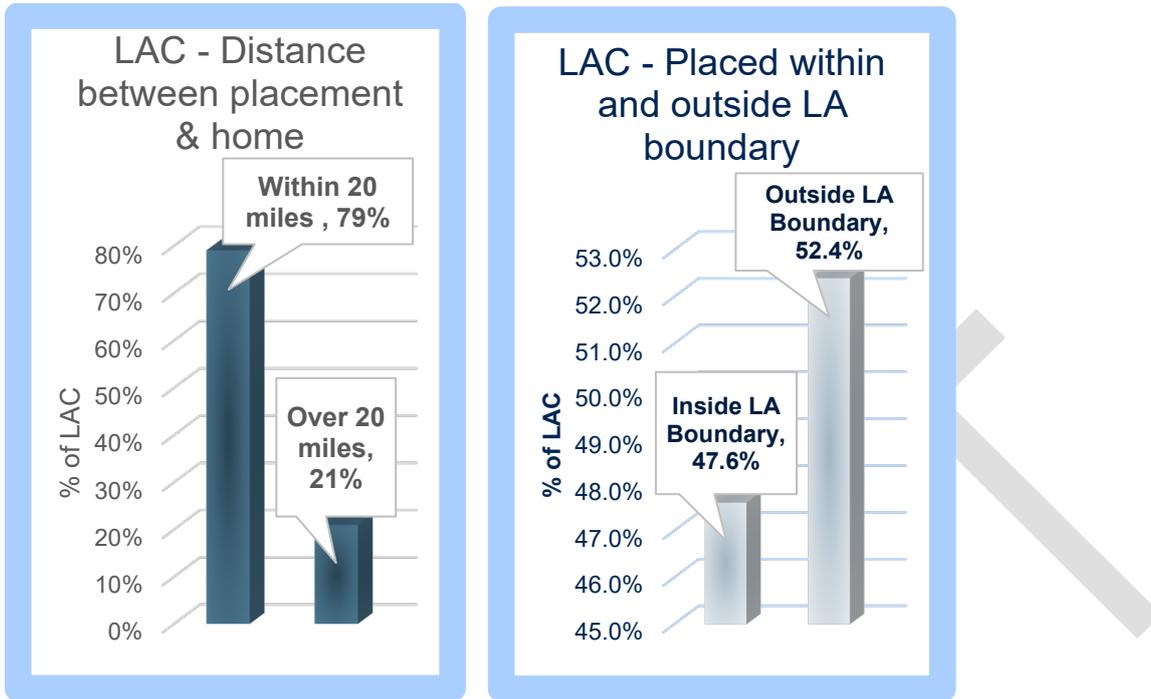
Rotherham Council operates within a mixed economy of internal and external provision. Homes for children are commissioned through framework and spot purchasing arrangements, some of which are regional. Despite additional investment in recruitment, and a targeted campaign to attract in-house foster carers, In-house foster homes (162) account for 29% of the total looked after children population, compared with 65% nationally.

Placement Type	2020/21		2021/22	
	Number	%	Number	%
Residential	47	9	56	12
Independent Fostering Agency	254	50	234	50
In-house fostering	140	28	122	26
Fostering F & F	64	13	56	12

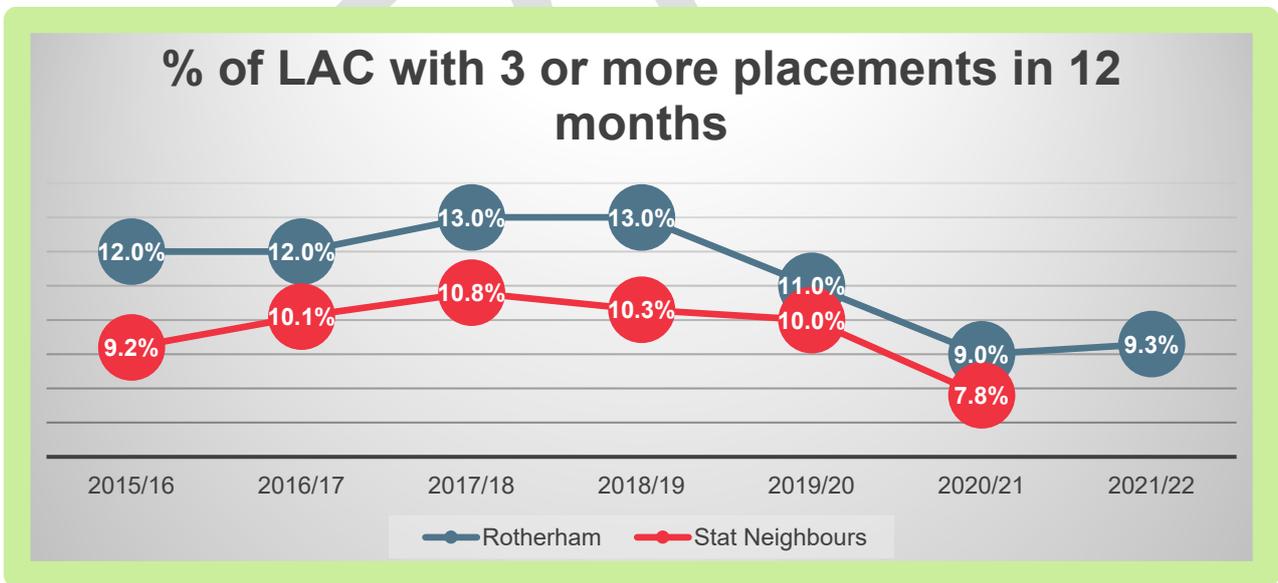
Despite work to stimulate local residential provision, there are limited private residential homes in borough, particularly when compared to local authorities across Yorkshire and Humber.



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 36 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.

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.

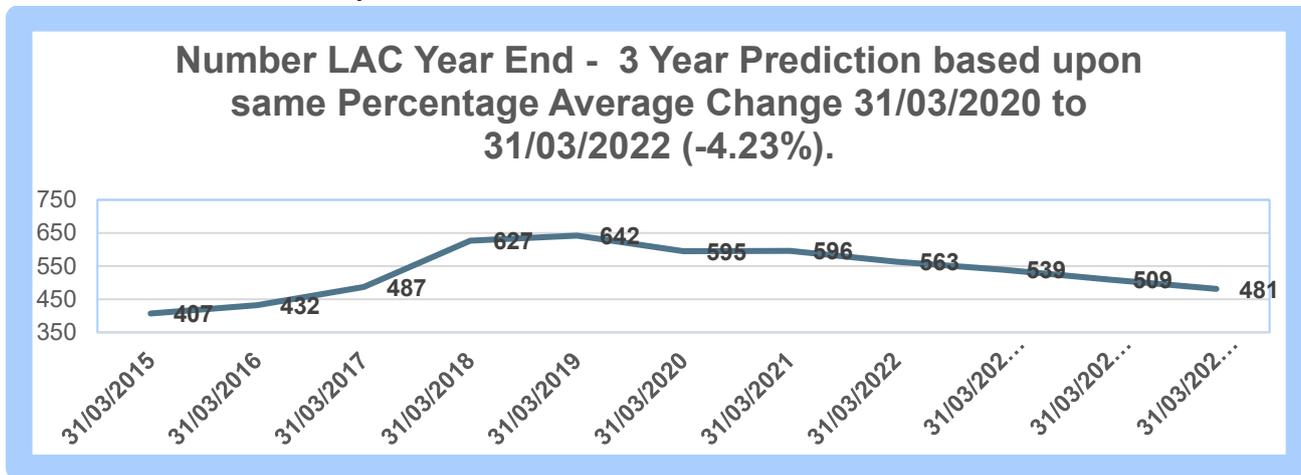
The commissioning activity is shared between the participating local authorities using shared procedures.

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

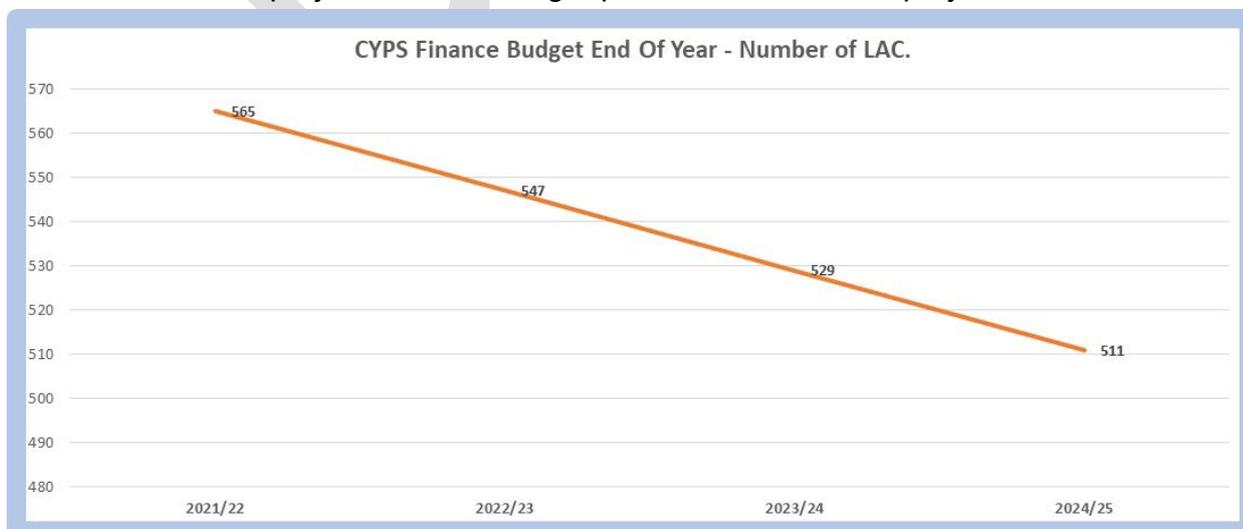
Based upon the average percentage change (taken from the numbers over the last seven years) the three-year prediction is a continued reduction in the number of Looked After Children in Rotherham by -4.23%.



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.

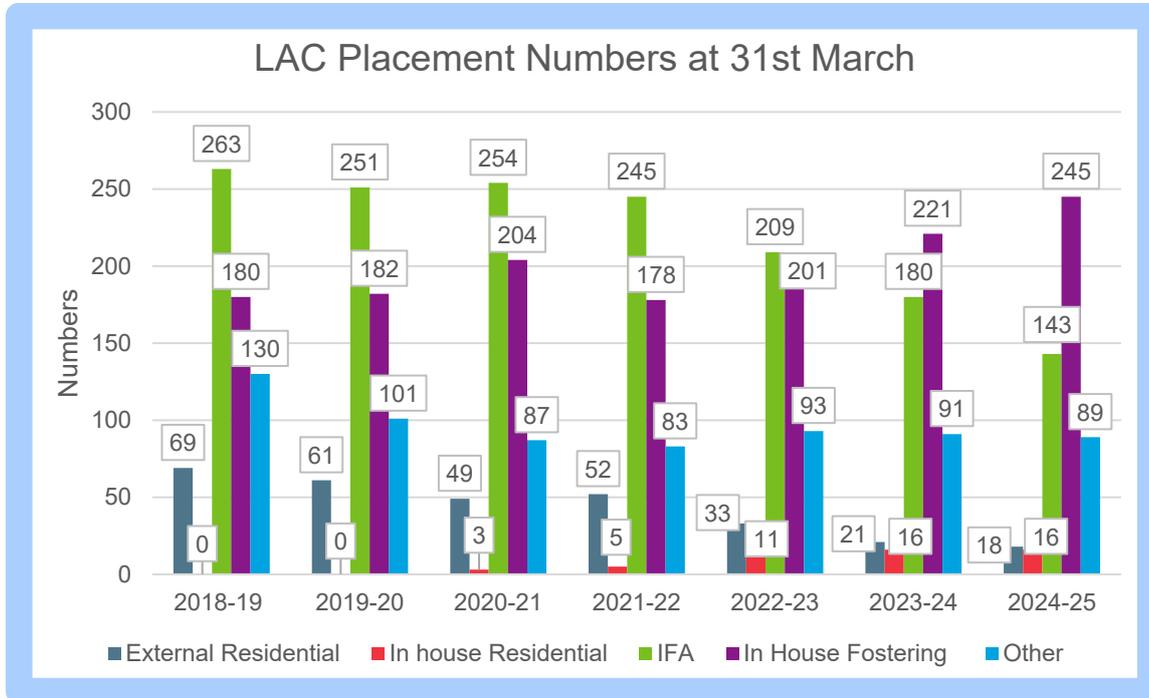
Looked After Children Projection

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.



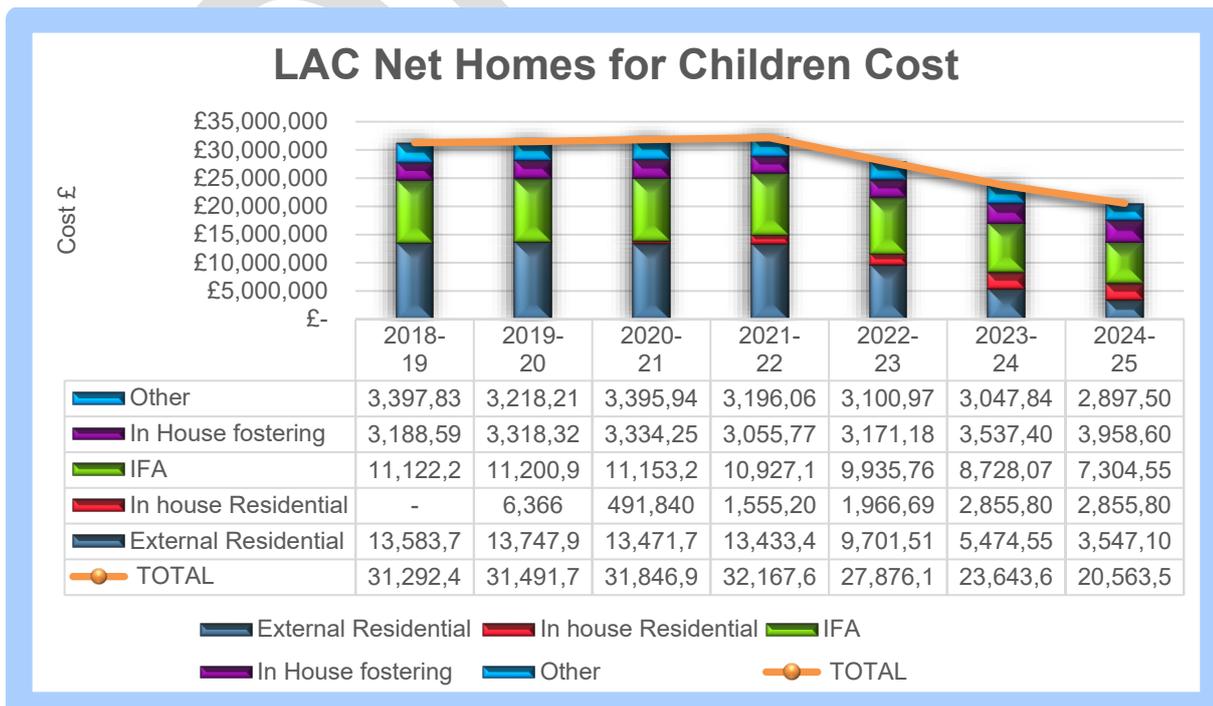
Homes for children Projection

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. Priorities

Based on the analysis of local need; we have identified the following priorities 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. Priorities will be reviewed annually by the Corporate Parenting Board based on updated annual sufficiency data and local / national drivers.

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.

10. Measures of Success

Theme	Measure
Overarching	
Keeping families together / stronger	Reduction in the number of LAC
	Increased number of diversions from care - edge of care - duty - locality
Fostering	
Ensuring children have local family-based homes for children	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
Right Child Right Care	
Increasing stability and permanence so children can thrive	Stabilise the number of children who have had 3 homes for children or more in 12 months
	Increased number of LAC in homes for children in Rotherham or within a 20-mile radius
	Increased number of children re-unified with parents / family members (PWP)
	Increased number of young people supported through the House project
	Increased number of children placed in Special Guardianship Order arrangements
	Increased number of children ceasing care linked to permanence
	An improvement in the timeliness of review Pathway Plans to support transition planning
Residential	
Ensuring children have the right quality care	A reduction in the number of LAC placed in out of authority residential provision
	Increased number of children / young people in in-house residential provision (at capacity)
	Increased number of residential beds available in planned timescales
	Reduction in the additionality of support within a child's placement (reduction in costs)
	Reduction in the length time spent being looked after - in the current financial year and overall
	Zero CYP in an unregistered (emergency) placement
	Zero CYP in an unregistered / unregulated placement

11. Delivery Plan

Objective (What do we want to do)	Outcome Measure (How will we know when we have done it)	Action Owner (Who will be responsible)	Timescale (When will it be done by)
Promote the Rotherham Family Approach to commissioned services.	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.	William Shaw	2023
Develop and deliver the Quality Assurance Framework to measure the use and impact of the methodological approaches with children and young people.		William Shaw	2023
Commission homes, interventions, and services that are high quality, compliant, regulated and deliver best value.	Children and young people have access to a range of homes (internal and external options) that meet their needs and improve their outcomes.	William Shaw	
Transform the offer to Rotherham Council foster carers to ensure all children, young people and families receive the help they need		Rebecca Wall	
Further investment to expand number of in-house residential children’s homes.		Rebecca Wall	
Continued development of in-house residential children’s homes, promoting residential care as an intervention not a destination		Rebecca Wall	
Work collaboratively with external residential and fostering providers to ensure all homes for children meet the required regulatory requirements and provide assurance of the quality outcomes delivered		William Shaw	
Ensure all homes for children meet the required regulatory requirements and provide assurance of the quality outcomes delivered by the Council.		Rebecca Wall	
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	2023
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 Sweaton	2024-2027
Develop joint strategic needs analysis, commissioning processes and funding arrangements alongside partners.		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	Helen Sweaton

	ensure children and young people are able to access the support they need when they need it.		
Develop a CAMHs pathway to improve access to assessment and intervention for looked after children.	Children and Young People and their families and carers are able to access CAMHs assessment and intervention when needed.	Helen Sweaton	
Enable social value principles and outcomes to be integrated into the whole commissioning cycle for services for children and young people.	Children, young people, families and carers benefit from additional social value in Rotherham e.g. more employment opportunities.	William Shaw	
Develop and Deliver the Early Help Strategy	More Young People aged 10+ are able to be cared for safely in their families and communities.	David McWilliams	
Increase investment and capacity in Family Group Conferencing		David McWilliams	
Develop 'Wrap around' Edge of Care Services for families with young people aged 13+		Matthew Boud	
Expand the Supporting Families program.	More children, young people and families benefit from additional support to improve outcomes and access employment.	David McWilliams	

END

Work programme 2022/23 – Improving Lives Select Commission

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
14 June 2022	End of year performance report on Child Exploitation	To review the Council's activity over the past year with regard to Child Exploitation.	<p>Resolved: That the Improving Lives Select Commission agreed the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That details of the key performance indicators assigned to the Post CSE Contract providers be shared with the commission. 3. That consideration be given as to how information can be relayed to elected Members regarding potential child exploitation hotspots within their wards. 4. That further information would be provided to the Improving Lives Select Commission should the number of prosecutions associated with child exploitation increase. 5. That a site visit to the Evolve Service be arranged for members of the Improving Lives Select Commission to create a greater understanding of its operation. 6. That a link to the LGA 'Must Know: Online harms' document be circulated to members of the Improving Lives Select Commission. 7. That members of the Improving Lives Select Commission be notified once the date for Safeguarding Awareness Week has been announced. 8. That further information regarding the project to develop an in-depth child exploitation training programme be provided to the Improving Lives Select Commission when available. 9. To provide clarification if the Child Matters 2 training course which focuses on CSE could be attended by members of the Improving Lives Selection Commission.

	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.	
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups	
26 July 2022	Adult Safeguarding	To provide information on safeguarding performance and case studies of Safeguarding activity in Rotherham.	<p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report and presentation be noted. 2. That the forthcoming seven-minute briefings be shared with Members when available. 3. That a dashboard of performance on a page be provided to members on a regular basis. 4. That the next quarterly report include wider context including benchmarking, timelines and breakdowns of referrals by pathway and type of action taken where information may not meet the threshold for safeguarding. 5. That the refinement of the safeguarding app be prioritised or delivery.
	CYPS Performance	To receive a report on CYPS performance over the previous year.	<p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the Chair and Vice Chair of Health Select Commission and the Director of Public Health and representatives of NHS England be consulted about exploring the potential expansion of Public Health links with early education whereby development of healthy preventative habits related to dental hygiene can be promoted among children who attend Rotherham schools. 3. That a briefing be received in respect of latest trends in elective home education with a view to understanding the implications of COVID-19 on students and on vulnerable young people. 4. That a deep dive be undertaken to consider positive elements of flexible learning delivery that benefit many learners with a view to ensuring that positive progress is retained where possible. 5. Toward increased awareness of Children's Centres, that the local offer be clarified and

			publicised both within the community and to Members for the purpose of sharing this information widely within wards. 6. That consideration be given to including a session on Business Intelligence Dashboard performance data in the forward plan for Member Development.
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.	
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	
28 July 2022 Health Select Commission	Carers Strategy/Support for Carers	Joint item with Health Select Commission.	Resolved: 1. That the report be noted, and that an update be received at the appropriate time to feed into the refresh of the Carers strategy. 2. That the refreshed strategy take into account the feedback from Carers to refine and improve the support offer. 3. That consideration be given to how best to ensure the refreshed strategy includes provision for urgent respite care. 4. That future reports in respect of Young Carers include strong evidence of co-production and assurances that the perspectives of Young Carers are being heard. 5. That the service prioritise provision of access to leisure and culture activities for respite for Young Carers.
6 September 2022	Looked After Children's Care Leavers Strategy (inc. Sufficiency)	LAC Sufficiency Strategy - Consider the refreshed Sufficiency Strategy and make additional recommendations for improvements KLOE: -what work is being undertaken to reduce demand in a safe and sustainable way	

		<p>-How will the Strategy contribute to better outcomes for children and families and how will the impact be measured and reported?</p> <p>-what are the risks attached to the strategy</p> <p>- How are the views of current and previous service users captured to inform the development of the strategy?</p>	
	SEND inspection WSoA.	<p>Resolved March 2022 to receive a progress report on the achievement of the objectives contained in the action plan at the September 2022 meeting.</p> <p>-Overall progress report against the areas of improvement outlined in the SEND WSoA KLOE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation update - Risks - Measures in place to - Review outcomes/performance 	
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.	
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	
21 September 2022 (10-12) NEW	Draft Early Help Strategy	<p>Workshop/Interactive session for ILSC Members/Cabinet Member, CYPS, Officers (David McWilliams/Susan Claydon) and Partners/Stakeholders to consider and feed into the draft Early Help Strategy.</p> <p>Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress made since EHS 2016-2019 - System (collective working and what else can be done) 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workforce (how do we retrain/recruit/develop and offer shared training going forward/service user apprenticeships/new skills required post pandemic/social media) - Offer (present universal offer and targeted offer) 	
25 October 2022	Adult Safeguarding	To provides a progress report on the partnership's performance against its objectives during the current year. The Chair has requested that the Independent Chair attends this meeting. Also to provide an update on activity around the peer review (if available).	Proposed to seek a progress briefing note via Chair of Safeguarding Board and invite attendance at Jan 2023 meeting to inform members on the activity as part of the annual report.
	Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Resolved March 2022 to receive a report on in-year activity for the RSCP at the September 2022 meeting. Focus to be on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The safety of vulnerable babies and young children. • The Front Door strategy and how well it is serving residents. • Operation Makesafe and the further work is being carried out with some hoteliers. Cost of living crisis and its impact on Safeguarding. (Moved to OSMB Work Programme)	
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.	
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	
6 December 2022	One Adoption South Yorkshire	Resolved September 2021 to bring a further report in 12 months' time.	
	Rotherham Youth Justice Service Progress Report	Resolved May 2022 That a further report on the Rotherham Youth Justice Service be brought to the September 2022 meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission, with the focus of the	

		report to be determined by the Chair and Vice-Chair in advance of the meeting.	
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.	
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	
31 January 2023	Legislation Update		
	Pandemic Related Risks to Children's Development	Referred from HSC April 2022	
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.	
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	
7 March 2023	SEND Sufficiency	Resolved March 2022 to receive a progress report at the March 2023 meeting.	
	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.	
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	
25 April 2023	Work Programme	To consider the committee's work programme.	
	Project group updates	For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the work of the project groups.	

Items pending scheduling or removal

Item	Details	Status
Counter extremism in schools/ Radicalisation of young people and extremism	Resolved in September 2019 That a report be submitted to this Commission as part of 2020/21 work programme outlining how the local authority was meeting its Prevent duty. That an update on its counter extremism work be submitted to this Commission as part of 2020/21 work programme. That this update includes an evaluation of the work in schools and further details of the work with adults and neighbourhoods and any specific work	To be scheduled

	<p>with parents and carers. Focus to be on work being done in schools.</p> <p>Referred to ILSC from OSMB</p>	
CYPS - High Needs Block Update and Recovery Plan	<p>Scrutiny acknowledged that it was early days in the recovery plan process with steps outlined to reduce the deficit. Overall position.</p> <p>OSMB had other updates on this particular issue and other services within CYPS, but Chair confirmed continuation at work planning meeting on 27 May 2020.</p> <p>June 2021 – Strategic Director Children’s and Young Peoples Services/Assistant Director – Education/Chair and Vice-Chair to meet to discuss focus of the report.</p> <p>Moved from OSMB Work Programme December 2021</p>	To be scheduled

Items to be scheduled during 2022/23

Item	Details	Status
Post-CSE Support	To receive a report on the implementation of the ILSC Report recommendations approved by Cabinet 14 February	To be confirmed for December meeting
Adult Mental Health Services	Joint item with HSC	To be considered as a joint item with HSC in 2022/23
Children’s Mental Health Services	Joint item with HSC	To be considered as a joint item with HSC in 2022/23
NHS Frailty Index	Resolved January 2022 that it be recommended to the Chair of the Health Select Commission that consideration be given to carrying out a joint piece of work on how the NHS Frailty Index is used by health services in Rotherham.	To be considered as a joint item with HSC in 2022/23

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