IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

Date and Time :- **Tuesday 12 September 2023 at 10.00 a.m.**

Venue:- **Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.**

Membership:- **Councillors Pitchley (Chair), Cooksey (Vice Chair), Atkin, Bacon, Baker-Rogers, Barley, Bennett-Sylvester, Z Collingham, Griffin, Haleem, Hughes, Khan, McNeely, Mills, Monk and Wilson.**

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

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

AGENDA

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 25 July 2023 (Pages 5 - 16)**

    To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 25th July 2023 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. Written Statement of Action Update (Pages 17 - 97)

The consider an update on the progress against the Written Statement of Action following on from the support and challenge meeting 5, with the Department for Education and the National Health Service England.

9. Rotherham Safeguarding Children Annual Report (Pages 99 - 132)

To consider an update from the Rotherham Safeguarding Childrens Partnership regarding the 2022-2023 Annual Report.

The annual report reflects the partnerships commitment and achievements, as well as identifying areas that require continuous improvements, to ensure the Rotherham Safeguarding Childrens Partnership meet the overarching priorities of being Safe at Home, Safe in the Community and having Safe Safeguarding Systems.

10. Work Programme (Pages 133 - 134)

To consider and approve the Commission's Work Programme.

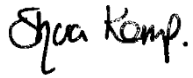**11. Improving Lives Select Commission - Sub and Project Group Updates**

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 the 31st October 2023 commencing at 10:00am in Rotherham Town Hall.

Sharon Kemp,
Chief Executive.

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IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday 25 July 2023

Present:- Councillor Pitchley (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Bacon, Baker-Rogers, Cooksey, Z. Collingham, Griffin, Haleem, Hughes, McNeely, Monk, Wilson, Barley, Bennett-Sylvester and Mills.

Apologies for absence:- No apologies were received.

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

95.   MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON

Resolved: - That the minutes of the meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission, held on 13 June 2023 be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

96.   DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

97.   EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Minute 102 (Rotherham Youth Justice Service Progress Report) was part exempt from the press and public. The Chair moved the following resolution:-

That under Section 100(A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 (information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual/financial information).

Resolved:- That members of the press and public be excluded for part of this item.

98.   QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

99.   COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair advised that all the items regarding communication were covered on the agenda.

100. **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - UPDATE**

The Corporate Parenting Panel met on 20 June 2023 and consideration was given to the following items during the meeting:

- An update was provided on the closure of the House Project, which included how many children the project had assisted to transition into independence and the next steps in the closure process.
- An update was provided on the outcome of the Staying Close funding bid and the feedback provided to the local authority by the Department of Education.
- An update was provided on the Corporate Parenting Panel Strategy, including the timescale for the revised strategy.
- An update was provided on the Regulation of Sixteen Plus and Dispersed Accommodation, including the relevant timescales, the next steps and potential challenges.
- An update was provided by the Looked After Children's Council, which included an overview of its activities, including the VIP summer festival.
- The Performance Monitoring Report was presented to the panel, which included trend data, graphical analysis and latest benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages.

The next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel was to be held on Tuesday 12th September 2023.

101. **CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND YEAR END PERFORMANCE**

The Chair welcomed the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People to the meeting. The Cabinet Member outlined that the report gave an overview of the performance outturn for the reporting year April 2022 to March 2023, for Children and Young People's Services. It included areas of performance that were working well alongside other areas that required a continued focus.

The Chair invited to the meeting Helen Sweaton, Joint Assistant Director of Commissioning and Performance, Anne Hawke, Head of Service for Performance, David McWilliams, Assistant Director of Early Help and Family Engagement, Nathan Heath, Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion and Monica Green, Assistant Director of Childrens Services. The Chair invited Helen Sweaton and Anne Hawke to give the presentation.

The presentation gave an overview of the following content:

- A brief overview of the report highlighted that performance measures were considered against local targets including targets based on benchmarking measures, which were in line with

statistical neighbours, national and regional colleagues and demand and activity.

- A review of existing measures was conducted throughout the last year to ensure a robust set of measures were in place. As a result of the review there was robust accountability and governance, such as monthly performance boards and quarterly quality assurance days.
- The report was the first Children's and Young Peoples Service Performance and Year End Performance Outturn Report since the new measures were put in place.
- The new format of the scorecard was discussed, an example was provided of the workshop held in March where the new format of the scorecard was provided in detail to members, to assist their understanding of the different iterations of performance.
- The new scorecard included 56 performance measures across the service, 22 of those targets could be benchmarked. Some measures were split into various indicators and had multiple components, which include a combination of a count, percentages and a family split.
- 34 of the performance measures focused on specific activities and/or demand activities. 23 of the measures focused on the education service. The education service measures were separate from the benchmarking and activity measures, due to the timeline of the academic year.
- Progress against targets was discussed, this included highlighting that 37% of the measures were below thresholds during the year. 32% of measures were within the amber tolerance range and 31% were above target.
- The fluctuation in travel direction was in line with national benchmarking data and reassurance was provided that the service was aware of the fluctuation in travel directions. This was monitored regularly, with oversight provided when required.

- The performance data for Early Help and family engagement was discussed, it was advised that there were areas that worked well during the year, an example was provided that 89.3% of families were contacted within 3 working days of allocation, with a target set of 75%.
- 87.6% of Early Help assessments were completed within 45 days during the year. It was noted that the service was working closely with colleagues nationally, to develop an agreed set of measures to ensure better future benchmarking. There was also a robust and embedded performance management framework within Early Help.
- Early Help assessments completed by partners was a key measure for the service, 25.6% of assessments were completed by partners, there was more work being completed to increase this figure.
- 92% of children aged 0-5 living in the 30% most deprived areas in Rotherham were registered with a children's centre during the year. This was an improvement on the previous year's performance of 87%. Engagement in children's centres activities had also

increased from 72% to 78%.

- One continued area of focus for the service was the step-down handover process from Social Care (duty and locality) to Early Help, the target was 14 working days for a joint visit to take place. Performance was showing below the target of 85%. This has since been addressed and the May figures showed this had now improved to 93% and 89% respectively.
- A key area of focus for the service was the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) category. Improvements were required last year and new targets had been set as a result. This involved an increase in targeted work with datasets to improve performance and quality.
- Within children's social care, the re-referral rate had significantly reduced, with a target of 22%. This highlighted the improvement of practise at the case closure stage, ensuring the families were resilient and successful.
- The rates of the Children in Need, Child Protection and Looked After Children (LAC) cohorts were on a steady decline. The children in care figures had also significantly reduced, this figure included 36 un-accompanied asylum-seeking children. This was an unforeseen cohort of children when the forecast and associated plan to reduce numbers was completed. The number of care leavers had increased throughout the year, with 92.6% of care leavers living in suitable accomodation.
- There was a significant improvement on initial child protection conferences completed within 15 days of a section 47 and this had reached 88.7%.
- There had been a reduction in overall caseload numbers and improvement in case closure timescales, this had enabled the service to focus on the children who needed help the most.
- Some term two information for education was available and was presented to members. It was advised that there was not an outturn report for education, due to no attainment information being available at the time of the presentation.
- At the end of term two 90% of two-year-olds were taking up an early education place, this was an improvement on last year and exceeded the target.
- 99% of primary children were allocated one of their three admission preferences on the recent national offer day, there had also been an increase in vulnerable children taking up an early education place. 96% of secondary school children were allocated one of their three admission preferences on the recent national offer day.
- At the end of term two, there was 435 children that were electively home educated, this was a significant increase on last year. This was a continued area of focus for the service.
- There were 253 suspensions in primary schools and 3254 in secondary schools. This was reflective of the challenges within Rotherham and aligned with regional and national trends.
- There had been significant changes and improvements within inclusion, following on from the Special Educational Needs and

Disabilities (SEND) inspection conducted in July 2021. The Department of Education and the National Health Service England marked the progress of the service via a support and challenge meeting conducted recently. The Department of Education provided assurance they were confident with the progress of the Written Statement of Action.

- The Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) team were now fully staffed following a significant recruitment drive. The numbers of children on an EHCP had increased with 3019 children on an EHCP by the end of March 2023.
- Transition reviews were an area of continued focus with 30.9% of transition reviews completed within the statutory deadline. A clear action plan was being developed across the service to improve the performance measure.
- The improvements made by the Children and Young People's Services had been made in difficult times, due to the pandemic, the national challenge of workforce, rising demand and reducing funding available.

The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation and invited questions, this led to the following points being raised during discussions:

- Significant increases in suspensions and permanent exclusions were a concern for the service, this was a regional and national challenge in the period of the return to school post pandemic. Rotherham had developed a collaborative approach and was two years into a three-year plan to develop an inclusion partnership, this was being led by academy leaders, primary and secondary inclusion panels had also been developed.
- The statistics for suspensions and permanent exclusions were numbers of suspensions and exclusions issued, the scorecard statistics included the statutory return provided to the Department of Education. The number of pupils and school days lost were also calculated, this information would be provided on a one-page overview to give a breakdown of the data to members.
- The government had made changes in areas such as direction off site, this was a key challenge to the local authority as it allowed schools to direct a child off site for a fixed period to support their education and reintegration. This aligned with the risk of permanent exclusions and aligned with constituents where a child had been educated in one school where they have been at risk of permanent exclusion and the school had made a supportive decision to break the cycle of behaviour.
- The local authority had a statutory obligation to provide pupils excluded from school with education on day 6 of the permanent exclusion. This was provided through support by the Aspire Pupil Referral Unit. Managed moves were completed in certain situations, such as one-off incidents or if there were complicated factors that had driven the actions towards permanent exclusion.
- Children with a recognised SEND need were aligned closely to the

statutory element and in cases of this nature an emergency review was held, often before the child had reached the permanent exclusion threshold. This would then be followed up with a statutory consultation alongside additional support provisions provided to the child by utilising the Pupil Referral Unit.

- The increase in NEETS was a national issue and the Local Government Association was requesting the development of a register of children that were being electively home educated, to enable more rights for local authorities around safeguarding.
- The levels of NEET young people in Rotherham included 'not known' young people, whose statuses were unknown to the service. For example, at the beginning of the week there was more than 6200 sixteen- to seventeen-year-olds in Rotherham, 299 of these individuals fell into the NEET Category. This figure included young people who were yet to decide what to do in September and 85 of these individuals were yet to be contacted.
- Derbyshire had a good approach to NEETs and benchmarking had been conducted by the service, this had resulted in the development of a new action plan, which included additional items to improve on last year's performance data.
- Career education was an area of primary focus in secondary Ofsted inspections and the emphasis from the inspection would lead to significant improvements in career education provision and would enhance the inclusive economy agenda.
- In respect of elective home education, parents had a legal entitlement to remove a child from school. It was outlined that there were significant concerns about this process and lack of statutory guidance. In Rotherham there was a collaborative approach where schools were asked to provide the service with information, if there was any indication that a parent may choose to electively home educate. There was a quick escalation process when there was a significant area of concern, and all challenges were assessed. More frequent audits were also completed and practise examples were provided to schools.
- The role of the virtual school had been extended to cover 16- to 19-year-olds, this was an area of continuing development. Alternative provision post-16 had been assessed, in order to ensure the services met all needs and continued to build provision around young people with SEND needs.
- The work completed on the High Need Safety Valve had a focus on improving transition data for children on ECH plans, to ensure good tracking and performance data. Case studies were also an area of focus to ensure context and impact was captured.
- There had been an uptake in places at children's centres in deprived areas and increased engagement post-pandemic, the primary reason for the increase in engagement was the re-introduction of face-to-face visits. The Family Hubs Programme was part of a national programme and was intended to build on the existing mechanisms available around children's centres.

- There were workforce challenges regarding the level of caseloads of social workers in key safeguarding teams as this had increased. To mitigate this there was a clear Workforce Strategy in place and there had been increased recruitment within the team. There were now placements offered to social work students through the Learning Academy. The service had increased its capacity to develop existing employees through development opportunities such as apprenticeships who wanted to enter the social work profession.
- There was a high level of oversight and scrutiny to Section 47 activity. The Section 47's were sampled with a panel monthly, to provide assurance that they met the prescribed threshold.
- The Department of Education had recognised that there were significant gaps in the SEND system nationally and it was one of the only government departments that had placed itself on an internal improvement plan, all local authorities would be required to respond and develop their plans in line with the improvement plan.
- There were mitigations in the system such as a focus on supporting schools to be inclusive, ensuring an emphasis on inclusive practise and ensuring good quality provision throughout the Borough.
- The inclusion plan was focused on supporting SEND children back into mainstream education, the development of the inclusion pathways and alternative provision plan, would be focused on providing schools with the capacity to support more children back into mainstream education.

Resolved:- That

- Members consider and accept the CYPS Annual Performance Report and accompanying scorecard for the outturn 2022/2023.
- The Assistant Director for Education and Skills provides:-
    - a one-page overview of the breakdown of statistics for suspensions and permanent exclusions.
    - a briefing outlining the Rotherham career options offer.
- The Early Years Strategy is submitted to this Commission for pre-decision scrutiny.
- That further scoping is undertaken to formulate the Commission's scrutiny of Elective Home.
- The presentation slides be circulated to all members of the Commission.

102. ROTHERHAM YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE PROGRESS REPORT

The Chair advised that as the item contained restricted information and as resolved in Minute 97, that the Panel would go into private session for the consideration of this item.

The Chair welcomed the service user and support worker to the meeting. The Chair invited the support worker to introduce the service user and discuss their journey within the Youth Justice Service.

The support worker outlined the circumstances that led to the nine-month referral order being applied. It was advised that the service user had engaged well with the service and completed all required offence specific work. There was a good working relationship between the service user and support worker. The service user had made great achievements since beginning the referral order, such as sitting their GCSE examinations and applying for further education.

The Chair thanked the service user and support worker for attending and invited questions, this led to the following points being raised during discussions:

- The CHANCE Group had been established with the aim of making services friendlier for children and young people.
- The Youth Justice Service were hopeful that the service user present would work with the service to help them share experiences and provide suggested areas for improvement.

The Chair reconvened the meeting in open session.

This report provided a summary of progress made by Rotherham Youth Justice Service against the following:

- The Action Plan submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in January 2021 following the HMIP Inspection in September 2020.
- Progress against the 'Areas for Consideration,' from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) Sector Led Improvement Peer Review, undertaken in March 2022.
- An update on the actions within the Youth Justice Service Plan 2022-23 Action Plan.
- Key Priorities for the Youth Justice Plan 2023-2024.

The Chair invited David McWilliams, Assistant Director of Early Help and Family Engagement and Chair of the Rotherham Youth Justice Partnership Board, Zulfiqar Shaffi, Youth Justice Service Manager and Abigail Henser, Senior Family Support Worker and Programme Facilitator to introduce the report and give the presentation.

The presentation gave an overview of the following content:

- The three action plans provided showed that all 81 actions had been completed, with robust evidence and scrutiny provided such as the Evidence Challenge Panel, CYPS Performance Assurance Board and the Safer Rotherham Partnership. The Challenge Panel was multi-agency. The Evidence Challenge Panel was multi-agency and provided scrutiny by challenging the action plans. The outcomes of the Evidence Challenge Panel were provided to the Children's Services Performance Management Board where the evidence and progress was scrutinised. The service also reported

to the Safer Rotherham Partnership on a quarterly basis where progress to the action plans was discussed.

- The first-time entrance (FTE) was defined as young people who received a youth conditional caution or court order. Rotherham had a reduction of 21% percent, compared to the same period in 2021. Rotherham's FTE was lower than the national and regional Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) area, and the youth justice family average.

- The reduction coincided with the development and implementation of the Out of Court Panel, which was a multi-agency panel that provided scrutiny and decision making, in relation to the process of referrals received by the service from the police.

- Rotherham's re-offending rate was the second lowest in comparison to other districts and included the average number of re-offences committed per child. The re-offending rate was tracked via the police national computer (PNC) and there was an eighteen-month delay on the data due to a combination of a twelve-month wait to see if a young person re-offended and a six month wait to incorporate criminal proceedings.

- There was also a binary re-offending rate that was based on the proportion of children who offended more than once. Rotherham was under half of the national average.

- In terms of scrutiny, the service was monitored against the rates of serious youth violence, which was based on convictions and associated sentences. In 2022 there was no serious youth violence and as of the 24th of July 2023 there was one young person sentenced for serious youth violence.

- There were different types of orders within the Youth Justice Service, including preventions. There was a lot of on-going prevention work taking place such as the 'Be Share Aware Programme'. The aim was to complete early intervention with young people who had not yet offended but were high risk of potential offending, at the earliest possible stage.

- There was a development area within the service that was focused on the breakdown of each out of court disposal offered to children and young people, to provide additional scrutiny and to ensure the right out of court disposal was given to the child or young person.

- The service had started to break down definitions of ethnicities, for example rather than only having 'White' as a definition, there was now multiple options such as 'White European' and 'White British' This was an on-going piece of work to tackle disproportionality and un-conscious bias.

- The key priorities of the service for the period of 2023 to 2024 was to focus on early interventions and prevention, health and wellbeing, education, training and employment and quality of practise.

- In relation to early interventions and preventions, the service would focus on the following:
  - Continuing to develop and strengthen the board oversight of the effectiveness of Out of Court Disposals and the Breach

of Statutory Orders decision making across the partnership.
- o Working across the partnership to improve and strengthen the Youth Justice Service and Early Help 'Prevention' Offer.
- o Continuing to better understand diverse children and young people in the youth justice system and respond to any over representation of groups.
- o Focusing on developing and co-producing a South Yorkshire Police & Youth Justice Service approach to the Out of Court offer & the Serious Violence Strategy.
- In relation to health and wellbeing, the service would focus on the following:
  - o Ensuring all children entering the Youth Justice System had full Health Assessments to address any unmet needs at the earliest possible stage to inform the assessment.
  - o Aiming to offer Speech and language Screening/Assessments to all children open to the YJS. These assessments would inform the developmental approach to support young people's understanding of their interventions.
  - o Strengthening the relationship with mental health services and to increase wider provision across the Youth Justice Service
- In relation to education, training and employment, the service would focus on the following:
  - o Developing and strengthening the Youth Justice SEND offer to assist children to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential.
  - o Understanding and responding to NEET children in the Youth Justice System and to develop support pathways into education, training, and employment.
  - o Supporting children to be 'ready' and prepared for Education, training, and employment through new and existing partnerships.
- In relation to quality of practise, the service would focus on the following:
  - o Delivering innovative and creative evidence-based programmes that would engage children and young people.
  - o Focusing on the Partnership Boards continuing development a problem-solving approach to issues and challenges.
  - o Strengthening and broadening the Youth Justice audit framework as well as undertaking thematic audits and closing the learning loop.

- The 'Be Share Aware' Programme was focused on educating children and young people on the consequences of sharing and receiving indecent images online. The programme was delivered on a one-to-one basis with children and young people within schools who had shared, received, or sent indecent images.
- The programme was based on research, information available regarding online safety and the relevant legislation.

- There were certain areas throughout the Borough that had higher referral rates into the programme, therefore targeted work with schools within those area's was completed. As a result of this, the programme was extended to all children and young people within school settings, who had not committed any offences regarding indecent images.
- The programme included a role play scenario, a video shared on 'think before you share' and a discussion around social media and cyber bullying.
- The service had good links with the Community Safety Team and any concerns regarding specific websites were shared with the Team. As a response, the Community Safety Team developed bulletins that were shared with schools, Social Care and Early Help.
- The 'Be Share Aware' Programme was adapted on a regular basis to include any new concerning websites. Omegle was an example of a concerning website that was popular amongst young people, the website was designed to talk to strangers and this posed a high risk to children and young people.
- The outcomes of the sessions were captured and evidenced via an evaluation form completed by the attendees. The evaluation form included three questions, scored between 0-10, the questions were signs of safety led and focused on knowing the law around sharing indecent images, sending indecent images and feeling safer online.

Resolved: That

- Members note the contents of the report and the progress of the Youth Justice Service in completing the three accompanying action plans.
- Members note the offer to engage with the CHANCE Group and the offer to visit and observe aspects of the Rotherham Youth Justice Service duties.
- That the 'Be Share Aware' Programme resources are distributed to members.
- That the presentation be circulated to the Commission.

103.   **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered its Work Programme and the chair provided the following update:

- The Work Programme was circulated to members for comment and was considered at Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
- The item on Domestic Abuse was yet to be scheduled on the work programme.
- The Work Programme would be added to the agenda for each meeting for comment and refinement.

Resolved: - That the Work Programme for 2022/23 be approved.

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

There Chair advised that there were no updates to provide.

105. **URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair advised that there was no urgent business.

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

The next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on 12th September 2023 commencing at 10am in Rotherham Town Hall.

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on 12th September 2023 commencing at 10am in Rotherham Town Hall.

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council

Public Report
Improving Lives Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Improving Lives Select Commission – 12 September 2023

Report Title
Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Ofsted/Care Quality Commission - Written Statement of Action Update (WSoA).

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report
Nicola Curley – Strategic Director, Children & Young Peoples Service

Report Author(s)
Mark Cummins SEND Transformation Project Lead
Mark.cummins@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
The report gives an update on progress against the Written Statement of Action following support and challenge meeting 5 with the Department for Education and NHSE.

Recommendations

1. For the Improving Lives Select Commission to accept the report and note the progress made following the final support and challenge meeting as part of the Joint Written Statement of Action

2. For Improving Lives Select Commission to note the planned activity and progress as part of preparation for inspection under the new framework and SEND Development plan for Rotherham.

List of Appendices Included
Appendix 1 - Written Statement of Action

Appendix 2 - Performance reporting pack for support and challenge 5

Background Papers

Ofsted/ Care Quality Commission SEND Local Area Inspection – Written Statement of Action – Cabinet paper 08/03/2022

[Area SEND inspections: framework and handbook - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](www.gov.uk)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Name of Committee – Click here to enter a date.

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Ofsted/Care Quality Commission - Written Statement of Action Update (WSoA).

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) – (Appendix 1), as a result of four main areas of identified significance weakness:

- The variability in the quality of EHC plans, including the contribution of health and social care partners.

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

- The quality of provision for children and young people's preparation for, and transition to, adulthood.

- 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.

1.3 Following the local area inspection in Rotherham there has been significant focus on addressing the direction given. Senior leaders across Education, Social Care, Health, and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have met to ensure that processes are in place to address the delivery of Rotherham's Written Statement of Action. This included the creation of a SEND Executive Group that includes RMBC Directors of Children's/Adult Services/ Senior Leaders from across a range of health partners and other leaders across education/health.

1.4 The SEND Executive Group is a key decision-making group addressing any identified challenges and support for the subgroups for the four areas of identified weakness to make continued progress/improvements.

1.5 The SEND Strategic Partnership Board, jointly chaired by RMBC Director of Children's services and CCG (now known as Integrated Care Board -ICB) Executive Place Officer agreed that there should be four subgroups established each one of them leading on an area of weakness.

1.6 From March 2022 each sub-group has met on a monthly basis to deliver against defined action plans linked to the original inspection. Each sub-group

has multi-agency representation across health, social care, education, adult services and from Rotherham Parent Carer Forum.

1.7 Each sub-group has a set of KPI's which form the WSoA performance scorecard, each sub-group also produces a monthly highlight report which identified key progress, issues and risks which are presented to SEND Executive Group

1.8 The Department for Education and NHSE have held 5 support and challenge meetings to measure progress against the WSoA. Each meeting is supported by a note of visit with feedback on progress and recommendations for the next period.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The most recent support and challenge meeting was held on the 5th of June. The overarching aim was to judge the rate of progress for each area of the WSoA accounting for implementation and focusing on evidence and impact measures.

2.2 The performance reporting pack submitted for support and challenge 5 is included as Appendix 2. The performance reporting pack included updated action plans, performance data and narrative document which detailed key developments during the period.

2.3 In line with the recommendations from previous support and challenge meetings there was a renewed emphasis on demonstrating evidence of impact and outcomes, this included providing a range of additional quantitative and qualitative measures including performance metrics, case studies, questionnaires and direct feedback from parent carers and young people.

2.4 As part of Support and Challenge 5 the local area were keen to demonstrate the significant investment into creating a shared multi-agency commitment to SEND in Rotherham. To facilitate the initial part of the meeting focused on Senior Leaders providing updates from across Social Care, Education, Inclusion, Health, Adults, Rotherham Parent Carer Forum, and the Cabinet Member for CYPS.

2.5 Comments from the draft note of visit following support and challenge 5 suggested that Rotherham has made considerable progress in its focus on 'impact'. Impact relates primarily to "the day-to-day lived experiences of children, young people with SEND and their families".

2.6 Following support and challenge meeting 5 it was confirmed that Rotherham wouldn't be subject to a re-visit based on progress against the Written Statement of Action, instead any re-inspection would form part of the timetable under the new framework. To support a multi-agency SEND Inspection planning group has been established to identify key activity for preparation for inspection under the new framework.

2.7 We also received confirmation that the formal support and challenge process in its current form will not extend beyond meeting 5 and that progress will be embedded as part of business-as-usual practices and the SEND Development plan for Rotherham.

2.8 To support with next steps in line with the SEND Development Plan, each sub-group is currently reviewing its membership, governance, action plans and future performance requirements. This will ensure that progress against each area is maintained along with a focus on preparation for inspection. This work will continue to be overseen by the SEND Executive Group.

2.9 The SEND Development plan will inform the new SEND Strategy for Rotherham, this will build on learning from our Written Statement of Action with an increased emphasis on measuring impact.

2.10 The current position of the Written Statement of Action has been presented as part of the Performance Board with actions continuing to be formally signed off as part of the established evidence challenge panel process.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 This report is for information purposes and to provide feedback on the progress made against the Written Statement of Action.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 There are no specific proposals as the report is for information and feedback purposes only.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Not applicable as this report is for information purposes only.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 Not applicable as this report is for information purposes only.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Not applicable as this report is for information purposes only.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 Not applicable as this report is for information purposes only.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Referenced within the report and Appendix 1

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1   Referenced within the report and Appendix 1

11.   Implications for CO$_2$ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1   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 we are committed to long term targets to mitigate these areas of concern in the borough.

12.   Implications for Partners

12.1   Ongoing updates are provided to key stakeholders including Parent/carers forum, health leaders, school leaders, Schools Forum, and other associated stakeholders. The SEND Executive and SEND Partnership board involve all Key Stakeholders and SEND is a Place Priority for Rotherham.

13.   Risks and Mitigation

13.1   All areas of SEND Written Statement of Action report to SEND Executive Board with all risks and mitigations accountable to the board. SEND is an also a Rotherham Place Board Priority.

Accountable Officer(s)
Name, Nicola Curley - Strategic Director Children's Services
Name, Nathan Heath – Assistant Director Education and Inclusion
Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	**Date**
Chief Executive		Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Nicola Curley – Strategic Director, CYPS	15/08/23
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Councillor Cusworth	30/08/23

Report Author: Mark Cummins, SEND Mark Cummins SEND Transformation Project Lead

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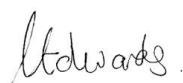
The inspection identified 4 areas of significant concern and prescribed that a Written Statement of Action (WSoA) be produced to outline how the areas of significant concern will be addressed. This WSoA, focuses on those 4 specific areas of concern.

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

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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

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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:

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Governance Structure

Progress updates provided to:

The Place Board *

Improving Lives Select Committee *

Senior Leadership Team

CCG Operation Executive

* Note: The Place Board and Improving Lives Select Committee will have a role in monitoring the progress of the implementation

SEND Area Inspection Written Statement of Action (WSoA)

High Needs Block Transformation Programme

DfE update meeting to update on progress against deficit

CYPS Transformation Board (to manage and monitor the CYPS Improvement Plan - Monthly

Frequency of meetings - Half Termly

SEND STRATEGIC BOARD

Frequency of meetings - Monthly

SEND EXECUTIVE BOARD

CYPS PERFORMANCE ASSURANCE MEETING (PAM) - Quarterly

CYPS Improvement Plan
Contains high level actions and progress against the Significant Areas of Concern

SUB-GROUPS
Frequency of meetings - Monthly or more frequently as required

1. EHCP Sub-Group
* SEND Action Plan
* Highlight Report

2. Graduated Response Sub-Group
* SEND Action Plan
* Highlight Report

3. PFA Sub-Group
* SEND Action Plan
* Highlight Report

4. Local Offer Sub-Group
* SEND Action Plan
* Highlight Report

Partners own organisational plans and monitoring arrangements

Key - Decision Making

Decision Making Meeting

Information Meeting

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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.

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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.

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- 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.

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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	**Improve the Quality Assurance framework for Education Health and Care Plans, this will mean that:** • 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 **Key Impact Measures** • 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		

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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	**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:** • 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)				

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Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	• 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 **Key Impact Measures** • 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	**Ensure that all current EHCP templates in use are transferred to one single template, this will mean that:** • All EHC plans are on the same template and are consist in relation to approach, expectations, and standards **Key Impact Measures** • 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		

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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	**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:** • 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) **Key Impact Measures** • 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	**Develop a management information system to enable measurement of the effectiveness of EHCPs for individual children and young people, this will mean that:** • 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 **Key Impact Measures** • 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		

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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
• 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

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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	**Continue to embed the Four Cornerstones Approach and the Rotherham Charter Gold Accreditation process across the local area, this will mean that:** • 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 practitioners 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 practitioners 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 **Key Impact Measures** • 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		

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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	**Audit Outreach Support and provide recommendations for developments (if appropriate), this will mean that:**
	 • Early intervention is in place to prevent needs escalating
	 • Education settings, parents/carers, and health/care practitioners 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 practitioners 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
	
	 Key Impact Measures
	 • 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:
	     ○ 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)				

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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	**Integrate SEND into full school improvement processes to enable support and challenge to schools, this will mean that:** • 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				

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Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	• Education settings, parents/carers, and health/care practitioners 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 practitioners 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 **Key Impact Measures** • 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: o Fixed term exclusions – SEN Support CYP from 913 to 880 o Fixed term exclusions – EHCP from 192 to 162 o Permanent exclusions – SEN Support CYP from 22 to 12 o 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 1st annual report		
2.4	**Continue to develop tools to promote the graduated response, this will mean that:**				

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Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	• 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 practitioners 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 practitioners 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. **Key Impact Measures** • 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: ○ 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		

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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	**Provide system wide CPD which includes a refresh and promotion of the SENCO network event, this will mean that:**				

- All practitioners 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 practitioners 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

Key Impact Measures
- 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:
  - 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)

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Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	• 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/carer 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	**Audit the Graduated Response and continuum of provision in line with the SEND Code of Practice, this will mean that:** • 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				

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Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update

	• Education settings, parents/carers, and health/care practitioners 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
	
	Key Impact Measures
	• 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:
	   o Fixed term exclusions – SEN Support CYP from 913 to 880
	   o Fixed term exclusions – EHCP from 192 to 162
	   o Permanent exclusions – SEN Support CYP from 22 to 12
	   o 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**				

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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
• 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.

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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	**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:** • 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 **Key Impact Measures** • 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		

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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	**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:** • 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 **Key Impact Measures** • 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		

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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	**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:** • 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 **Key Impact Measures** • 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		

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Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
3.4	**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:** • 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 **Key Impact Measures** • 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		

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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

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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	**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:** • 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 • Practitioners 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 **Key Impact Measures** (baseline and reporting to be established) • 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 Sweaton**	April 2022		

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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	**Develop ongoing and sustainable systems and processes, this will mean that:** • 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 **Key Impact Measures** (baseline and reporting to be established) • 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	**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:** • 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				

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Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	- There is a knowledge and confidence related to a wealth of provision - Practitioners 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 **Key Impact Measures** (baseline and reporting to be established) - 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	**Develop and deliver a joint communications and engagement strategy to promote the Local Offer, this will mean that:** 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				

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Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	• 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 • Practitioners 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 **Key Impact Measures** (baseline and reporting to be established) • 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	**Promote the Local Offer, this will mean that:** • 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 • Practitioners 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.				

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Ref	Action	Lead	Target End Date	RAG	Progress Update
	Key Impact Measures (baseline and reporting to be established) • 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
• 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

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- 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.

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Priority Workstream Subgroups

Group	Chair	Members
Education Health Care Plans	• **Julie Day,** Head of Service Inclusion • **Ian Tankard,** Head of Coleridge Primary School	• **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	• **Carol Taylor,** Principal Educational Psychologist • **Rachel Amos,** Principal Educational Psychologist	• **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

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Group	Chair	Members
		• **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	• **Ian Spicer,** Assistant Director Adult Care, and Integration • **Vicky Whitfield,** Designated Clinical Officer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group	• **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

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Group	Chair	Members
		• **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 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.
Local Offer and Communication	• **William Shaw,** Head of Service Commissioning • **Jayne Fitzgerald,** Rotherham Parents Carers Forum	• **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

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Group	Chair	Members
		• **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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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 Practitioner 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

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Rotherham

Local Area Written Statement of Action for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Summary for May 2023

Section 1 - Purpose of Plan

The Written Statement of Action (WSoA) is a dynamic document that will remain under constant review and is updated over time. Milestone completion dates are included in the WSoA.

This document gives an overview of the progress against each of the four areas for development and how work is monitored on a timely basis in relation to a governance structure. Progress against actions within each priority will be rated as follows:

Progress (BRAG)

Action completed (B)	Action on track (G)	Action in progress with some concerns(A)	Action at significant risk / no progress (R)	Action not due to start (G)

The BRAG rating above is used to inform the monitoring process undertaken by Rotherham's SEND Executive Group. Rotherham has four subgroups which hold individual action plans showing greater detail and shorter timeframes to support the wider developments.

RAG Status	
Blue	Action complete
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.

Impact measures form part of a WSOA scorecard with quantified targets identified where appropriate, for example, the percentage of sections within Education, Health and Care Plans that have been audited as compliant.

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Section 2 – Progress over time
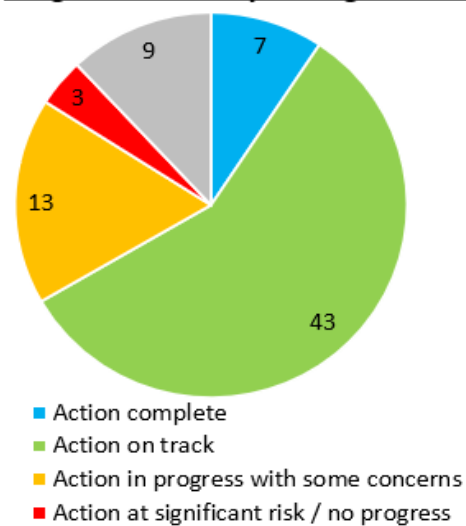
Section 3 – Quantitative Summary – May 2023

Overall we have :-

4 Prioirty Areas

23 Sub actions

75 measures

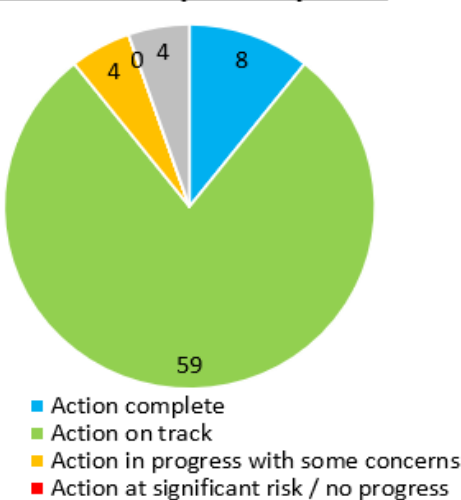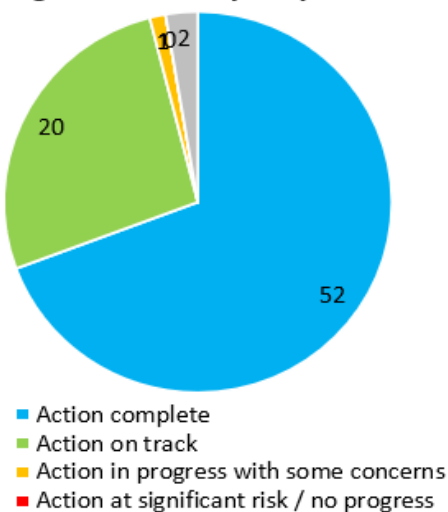| Status	Overall	
	Quantity	Percentage
Action complete	52	69.3%
Action on track	20	26.7%
Action in progress with some concerns	1	1.3%
Action at significant risk / no progress	0	0.0%
Action not due to start	2	2.7%

Priority Area 1

1 Area

6 Sub actions

24 measures

Status	Area 1	
	Quantity	Percentage
Action complete	16	66.7%
Action on track	5	20.8%
Action in progress with some concerns	1	4.2%
Action at significant risk / no progress	0	0.0%
Action not due to start	2	8.3%

Priority Area 2

1 Area

7 Sub actions

24 measures

Status	Area 2	
	Quantity	Percentage
Action complete	14	58.3%
Action on track	10	41.7%
Action in progress with some concerns	0	0.0%
Action at significant risk / no progress	0	0.0%
Action not due to start	0	0.0%

Priority Area 3

1 Area

4 Sub actions

13 measures

Status	Area 3	
	Quantity	Percentage
Action complete	10	76.9%
Action on track	3	23.1%
Action in progress with some concerns	0	0.0%
Action at significant risk / no progress	0	0.0%
Action not due to start	0	0.0%

Priority Area 4

1 Area

6 Sub actions

14 measures

Status	Area 4	
	Quantity	Percentage
Action complete	12	85.7%
Action on track	2	14.3%
Action in progress with some concerns	0	0.0%
Action at significant risk / no progress	0	0.0%
Action not due to start	0	0.0%

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Section 4 – BRAG on a Page- May 2023

Ref	Actions	Target Date	Progress Plan - RAG Rating Jan 23	Progress Plan - RAG Rating May 23	Performance Scorecard - Ref No	Supporting Evidence Supplied
Sub actions 1.1 - Improve the Quality Assurance framework for Education Health and Care Plans, this will mean that:						
1.1.1	Integrate EHCP and SEND into full CYPS framework	Jul-22	Green	Blue	1.0	√
1.1.2	Review the Health and CCG framework alongside the CYPS framework to ensure consistency	Jul-22	Green	Blue		
1.1.3	Establish internal QA processes within the EHCP Team and wider Inclusion Service	Sep-22	Green	Blue		
1.1.4	Embed 'lessons learned' including outcomes from audits and Practice Learning Days and benchmarking data to inform service improvement	Dec-22	Green	Blue		
1.1.5	Facilitate parents, carers, and young people to enable them the opportunity to audit and QA independently	Jul-22	Green	Blue		
1.1.6	CYPS commissioning responsible for commissioning all external SEND placements (education and care) based on the EHCP	Dec-22	Green	Blue		
1.1.7	Develop a Communications Strategy to ensure key messages are communicated to stakeholders	Dec-22	Green	Blue		
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	Sep-22	Green	Blue		
Sub actions 1.2 -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						
1.2.1	Work with training providers to coordinate and deliver a CPD offer	Jun-23	Green	Green	1.1	√
1.2.2	Deliver CPD to Parents and Carers	Jun-23	Green	Blue		
1.2.3	Deliver CPD to Health/CCG Practitioners	Jun-23	Green	Blue		
1.2.4	Deliver CPD to Social Care Practitioners	Jun-23	Green	Green		
1.2.5	Deliver CPD to Schools and Settings	Jun-23	Green	Blue		
Sub actions 1.3 - Ensure that all current EHCP templates in use are transferred to one single template, this will mean that:						
1.3.1	Develop a new agreed EHCP template	Apr-22	Green	Blue	1.1,	√
1.3.2	All new EHCP Plans to be on the new template	Jun-23	Green	Blue		
1.3.3	Transfer old EHCP Plans onto electronic template as part of annual review process.	Jun-23	Amber	Amber		
Sub actions 1.4- 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:						
1.4.1	Undertake a review of current internal practice and operational processes	Jul-22	Green	Green	1.1 and Insight	√
1.4.2	Develop and implement new operating procedures	Oct-22	Green	Blue		
1.4.3	Deliver training to the team on the new operating procedures	Dec-22	Green	Green		
Sub actions 1.5- Develop a management information system to enable measurement of the effectiveness of EHCPs for individual children and young people, this will mean that:						
1.5.1	Develop a management information system to track effectiveness	Jan-23	Green	Blue	1.1 and Insight	√
1.5.2	Undertake both internal and external benchmarking to measure progress of changes implemented	Jun-23	Green	Blue		
1.5.3	Undertake peer review of EHCPs in Borough to measure progress of changes implemented	Jun-23	Grey	Grey		
Sub actions 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	Jun-23	Grey	Green		√
1.6.2	Undertake ADCS Peer Review	Sep-23	Grey	Grey		

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

Priority Area 2- 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	Actions	Target Date	Progress Plan - RAG Rating Jan 23	Progress Plan - RAG Rating May 23	Performance Scorecard -Ref No	Supporting Evidence Supplied
Sub actions 2.1- Continue to embed the Four Cornerstones Approach and Rotherham Charter Gold Accreditation process across the local area, this will mean that:						
2.1.1	Introduce the Four Cornerstones Approach self-evaluation tool and training opportunities to all schools via the SENDCO network	Apr-22	Blue	Blue		
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	Jul-22	Green	Green		√
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	Dec-22	Green	Green		
Sub actions 2.2 -Audit Outreach Support and provide recommendations for developments (if appropriate), this will mean that:						
2.2.1	To audit outreach support and provide recommendations for developments if appropriate for **Specialist schools or settings**	Jul-22	Green	Green		
2.2.2	To audit outreach support and provide recommendations for developments if appropriate for **RMBC central services**	Dec-22	Green	Green	2.0, 2.1, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 2.10,	√
2.2.3	To audit outreach support and provide recommendations for developments if appropriate for **Health/CCG providers**	Jul-22	Green	Green		
2.2.4	To audit outreach support and provide recommendations for developments if appropriate for **Social Care**	Jul-22	Green	Green		
2.2.5	To audit outreach support and provide recommendations for developments if appropriate for **other local providers**	Sep-22	Green	Green		
Sub actions 2.3- Integrate SEND into full school improvement processes to enable support and challenge to schools, this will mean that:						
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.	Jun-23	Green	Blue		
2.3.2	Deliver presentations at Governors meetings	Jun-22	Green	Green	2.6, 2.7, 2.11, 2.12	√
2.3.3	Recognise positive judgements related to SEND in school/setting Ofsted's and share as examples of good practice.	Ongoing – July for 1st annual report	Green	Green		
Sub actions 2.4 - Continue to develop tools to promote the graduated response, this will mean that:						
2.4.1	Develop the Graduated Response electronic portal	Feb-23	Blue	Blue		
2.4.2	Implement networking/communication opportunities including SENCO Padlet	Apr-22	Green	Blue	2.2	√
2.4.3	Develop and implement internal mechanisms within Health/CCG and RMBC including membership of the EHCP panel	Feb-22	Green	Blue		
Sub actions 2.5 - Provide system wide CPD which includes a refresh and promotion of the SENCO network event, this will mean that:						
2.5.1	Deliver training on provision mapping and the graduated response	Apr-22	Green	Blue		
2.5.2	Deliver training on assess, plan, do review cycle and support plans	Sep-22	Green	Blue		
2.5.3	Deliver training on person centred planning	Apr-22	Green	Blue		
2.5.4	Deliver training on The Local Offer	Sep-22	Green	Blue	2.2, 2.3, 2.4	√
2.5.5	Deliver training on school information reports	Jul-22	Green	Blue		
2.5.6	Deliver training on parent/carer and children and young people's voice and involvement (co-production)	Apr-22	Blue	Blue		
2.5.7	Deliver accredited training for emotionally literate support assistance (ELSA) and maintain accreditation through supervision	Jun-23	Blue	Blue		
Sub actions 2.6 - Audit the Graduated Response and continuum of provision in line with the SEND Code of Practice, this will mean that:						
2.6.1	Link to other working groups where appropriate in relation to provision and practice for SEMH	Jun-23	Green	Green	2.8, 2.9, 2.10, 2.11, 2.12	√
2.6.2	Provide mechanisms to gain stakeholder experiences and opinions to identify strengths and weaknesses related to provision meeting need	Jun-23	Green	Blue		
Sub actions 2.7 - Carry out a review of progress to identify ongoing areas for development from June 2023						
2.7.1	Undertake an annual review to assess progress against the identified outcomes and impact measures	Jun-23	Amber	Green		√

	Ref	Actions	Target Date	Progress Plan - RAG Rating Jan 23	Progress Plan - RAG Rating May 23	Performance Scorecard - Ref No	Supporting Evidence Supplied
Priority Area 3- CYP with SEND experience quality provision for their preparation for, and transition to adulthood.	Sub actions 3.1	**Sub actions 3.1 - 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:**					
	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	Jun-22	Green	Blue		√
	3.1.2	Co-produce with education, health and care providers, good practice guidance for protocols of effective transitions	Dec-22	Green	Green		
	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.	Mar-22	Green	Blue	3.0	√
	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)	Jun-23	Amber	Blue		√
	3.1.5	Implement Quality Assurance Framework and develop an action plan to address areas for improvement (including impact of training programmes)	Jun-23	Green	Blue		√
		Sub actions 3.2 - 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:					
	3.2.1	Review local needs and identify gaps in current provision or areas for development against NDTi/PfA minimum standards	Jul-22	Green	Blue		
	3.2.2	Develop an action plan to address the areas identified as high priority through the above gap analysis	Dec-22	Amber	Blue	3.3, 3.4	√
	3.2.3	Produce transition pathways for Rotherham's Preparing for Adulthood Cohort for four prioritised Health Services	Jun-23	Green	Green		
		Sub actions 3.3 -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:					
	3.3.1	NDTi to review the Local Offer from a Preparing for Adulthood perspective and make recommendations for improvement	Jun-22	Green	Blue	4.0, 4.1	√
	3.3.2	Participate in the Local Offer subgroup to implement recommendation (4.4.1)	Mar-22	Green	Green		
		Sub actions 3.4 -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:					
	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	Jun-22	Green	Blue		
	3.4.2	Develop an action plan to address the areas identified as high priority through the above review	Dec-22	Green	Blue	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5	√
	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	Jun-23	Green	Blue		

Priority Area 4 - All parents and carers of CYP with SEND in Rotherham are aware of the Local Offer and able to access the very valuable information included in it.
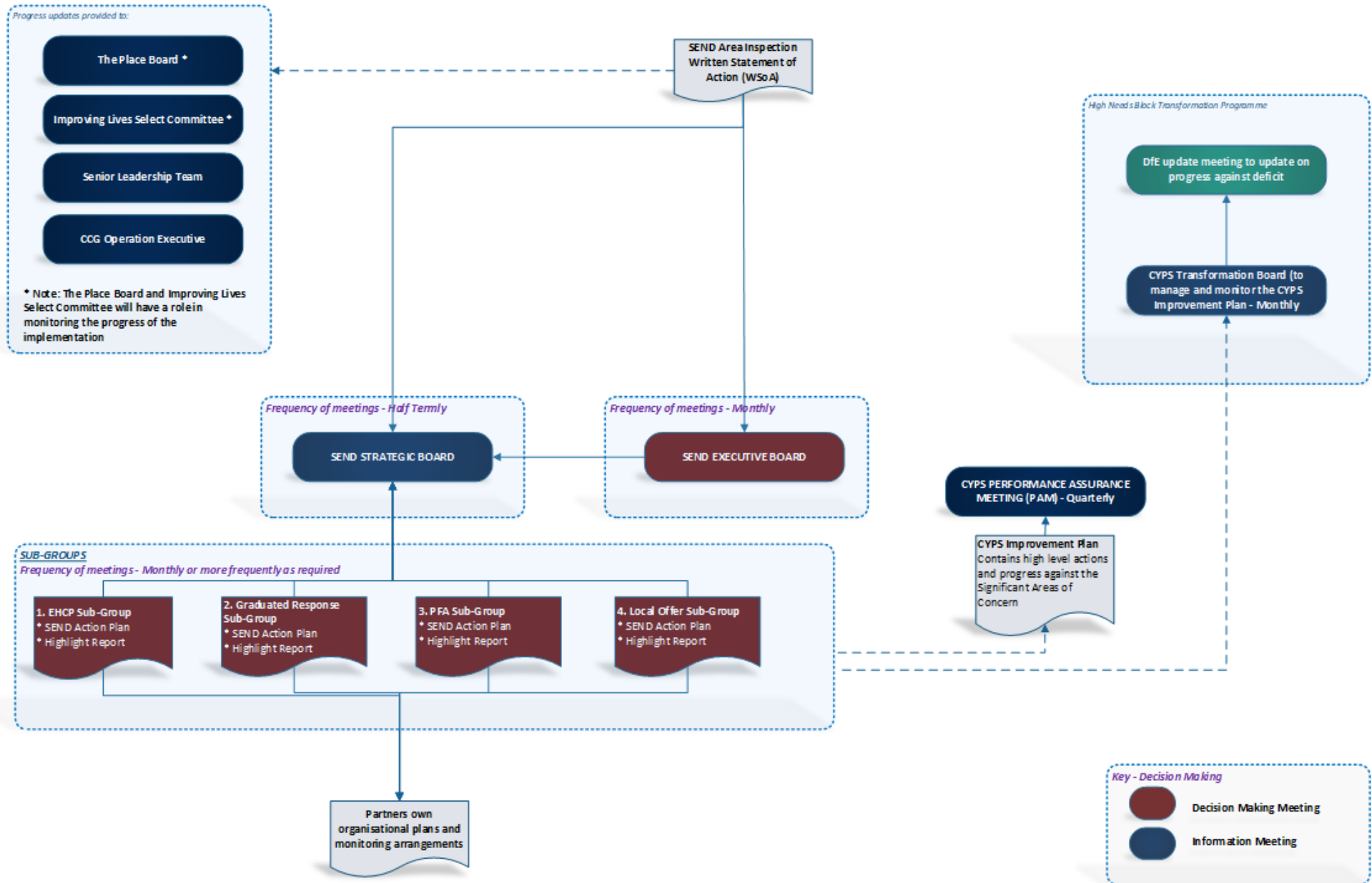
Ref	Actions	Target Date	Progress Plan - RAG Rating Jan 23	Progress Plan - RAG Rating May 23	Performance Scorecard - Ref No	Supporting Evidence Supplied
Sub actions 4.1 - Reconstitute the Local Offer steering/reference Group comprised of practitioners, parents/carers, to lead a review of our Local Offer website, alongside our key services/practitioners/stakeholders and children and young people, this will mean that:						
4.1.1	Undertake benchmarking against other Local Authorities to identify best practice	Jun-22	Green	Blue	4.0, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3	√
4.1.2	Increase the accessibility of the Local Offer site with a partner friendly plan	Apr-22	Green	Blue		
4.1.3	Increase and develop the content of the Local Offer so that is representative of Rotherham and the wider SEND system	Sep-22	Green	Blue		
Sub actions 4.2 - Develop ongoing and sustainable systems and processes, this will mean that:						
4.2.1	Collate engagement activity and ensure it is used to develop site	Jun-22	Green	Blue	4.1, 4.2, 4.3,	√
4.2.2	Provide feedback to stakeholders	Jun-22	Green	Blue		
4.2.3	Measure and monitor the use, accessibility, and effectiveness of the Local Offer site	Jun-22	Green	Blue		
Sub actions 4.3 - 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:						
4.3.1	Establish a clear role to hold responsibility for Local Offer to embed improvements and support communication/engagement with Local Offer	Sep-22	Blue	Blue	4.3, 4.4	√
4.3.2	Develop a process across the SEND system and the Place Partnership to maximise the use of the Local Offer	Apr-22	Green	Blue		
4.3.3	Develop a steering group mechanism so that children and young people's voice/activity is central in Rotherham Local Offer	Apr-22	Green	Blue		
4.3.4	Audit regularly education settings engagement and link to Local Offer	Jun-23	Green	Blue		
Sub actions 4.4 - Develop and deliver a joint communications and engagement strategy to promote the Local Offer, this will mean that:						
4.4.1	Implement a clear and accessible long term communication plan that develops the local offer to support all areas of SEND system	Mar-22	Green	Green	4.5	√
Sub actions 4.5 -Promote the Local Offer, this will mean that:						
4.5.1	Promote the Local Offer across the wider SEND system for example SENCO Network events	Jan-22	Blue	Blue	4.4, 4.5	√
4.5.2	Audit the use of the Local Offer across the wider SEND system for example Education Settings and partners	Dec-22	Green	Blue		
Sub actions 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	Jun-23	Grey	Green		√

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Section 5 – Performance Measures for WSOA Scorecard

We have received approval via our Performance Board for our Written Statement of Action scorecard, this includes agreed baseline measurers, tolerances and RAG rating. The performance scorecard is updated on a monthly basis with specific performance measure references included in our BRAG.

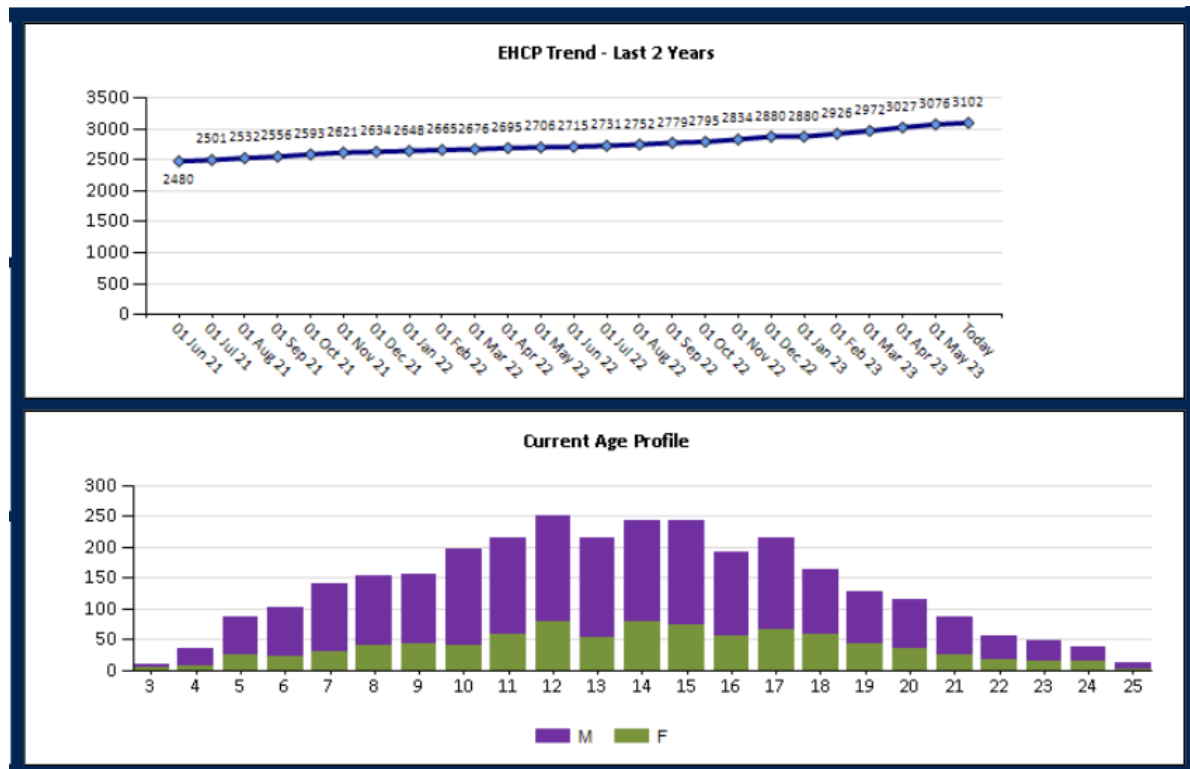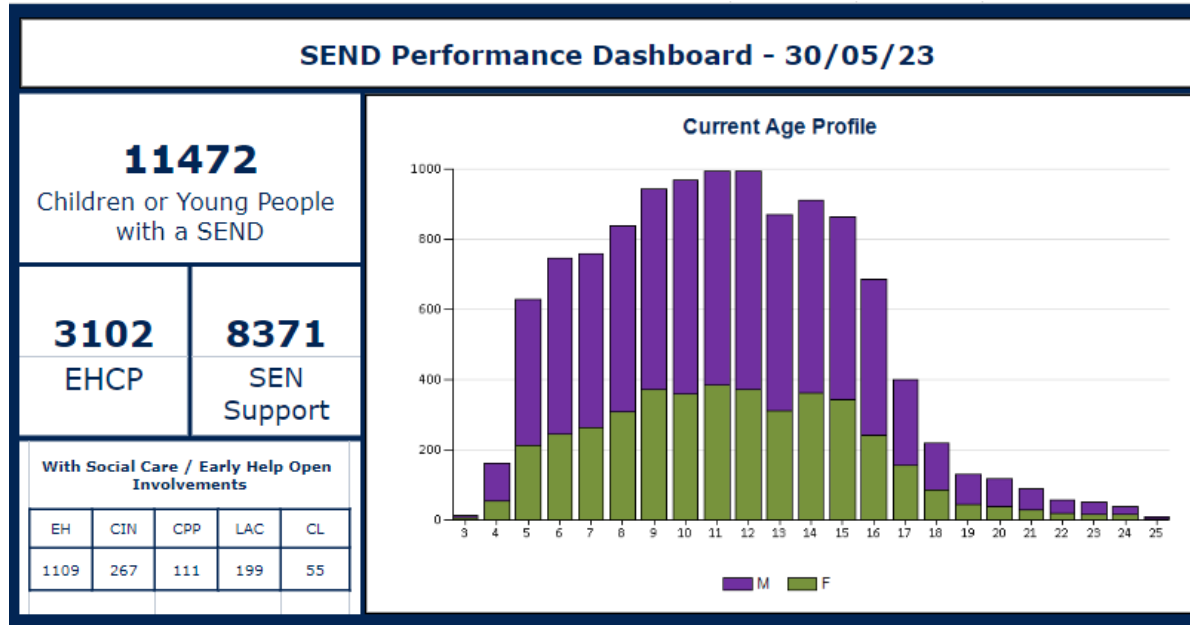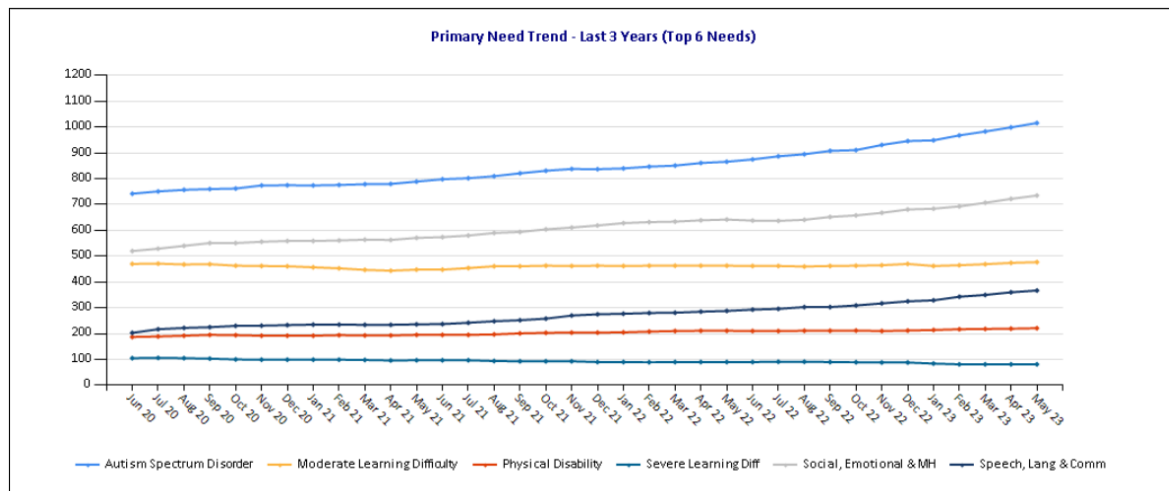The full performance scorecard updated to April 2023 is included as an appendix.

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Governance Structure

Progress updates provided to:

- The Place Board *
- Improving Lives Select Committee *
- Senior Leadership Team
- CCG Operation Executive

* Note: The Place Board and Improving Lives Select Committee will have a role in monitoring the progress of the implementation

SEND Area Inspection Written Statement of Action (WSoA)

High Needs Block Transformation Programme

DfE update meeting to update on progress against deficit

CYPS Transformation Board (to manage and monitor the CYPS Improvement Plan - Monthly)

Frequency of meetings - Half Termly

SEND STRATEGIC BOARD

Frequency of meetings - Monthly

SEND EXECUTIVE BOARD

CYPS PERFORMANCE ASSURANCE MEETING (PAM) - Quarterly

CYPS Improvement Plan Contains high level actions and progress against the Significant Areas of Concern

SUB-GROUPS
Frequency of meetings - Monthly or more frequently as required

1. EHCP Sub-Group
   * SEND Action Plan
   * Highlight Report

2. Graduated Response Sub-Group
   * SEND Action Plan
   * Highlight Report

3. PFA Sub-Group
   * SEND Action Plan
   * Highlight Report

4. Local Offer Sub-Group
   * SEND Action Plan
   * Highlight Report

Partners own organisational plans and monitoring arrangements

Key - Decision Making

- Decision Making Meeting
- Information Meeting

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LA PREP TEMPLATE FOR WSOA REVIEW (SC4, SC5)
Local Area Preparation Template for WSoA Review Meetings SC5
20th June 2023

General update on progress or areas of significant impact on the local area e.g., staffing changes
Current Position EHCP Trends

SEND Performance Dashboard – 30/05/23

11472
Children or Young People with a SEND

3102 EHCP | **8371** SEN Support

With Social Care / Early Help Open Involvements

EH	CIN	CPP	LAC	CL
1109	267	111	199	55

EHCP Trend - Last 2 Years

2480 2501 2532 2556 2593 2621 2634 2648 2665 2676 2695 2706 2715 2731 2752 2779 2795 2834 2880 2880 2926 2972 3027 3076 3102

Current Age Profile

Primary Need Trend - Last 3 Years (Top 6 Needs)

Taking Stock Activity

In April we hosted a partnership event for all members of our 4 sub-groups. The event focused on identifying what has worked well across our sub-groups and what needs to happen next as part of identifying longer term sustainability. The outcome of the event influenced activity across each sub-group with the beginnings of developing refreshed action plans as part of a new SEND Improvement Plan for Rotherham

Broader activities also took place to support this work including capturing practitioner voice, parent voice and young people's voice. This was captured through surveys, continued engagement at Guiding Voices and with Rotherham Parent Carer Forum. Key themes from these activities have shaped each sub-groups forward planning and helped identified areas of progress and areas for future development linked to the forthcoming SEND Improvement Plan.

Evidence Challenge Panel and Evidence Bank

During the period we have accelerated development of our evidence bank to ensure there is evidence of activity against each action listed within our Written Statement of Action.

We have increased the frequency of our evidence challenge panel to reflect the additional activity in this period. This has seen an acceleration of actions being checked as complete. Further evidence challenge panels are booked to complete throughout Q2 and Q3.

Included as appendices and embedded within the additional information section of this document are examples of the evidence challenge panel process including evidence submitted, notes of and any resulting actions from the evidence challenge panel meeting.

Governance Review

- During the period we have renewed our membership and terms of reference for SEND Executive and SEND Strategic Board. This has ensured long term equal membership and commitment across Social Care, Education, Health, and Inclusion

- The refreshed SEND Executive Group has met 4 times during this period to support planning for SC5 and also to identify key themes to take forwards beyond WSoA

Internal Support and Challenge

SEND forms part of regular agenda items at Improving Lives Select Committee. In April this focused on SEND Sufficiency Phase 4 and the recently updated and approved School's Accessibility Strategy.

As part of the presentation Wales High School attended to update on their resource provision and share how working in partnership with the LA to develop their SEND Offer has improved outcomes for pupils at the school

SEND continues to be on the forward plan for regular updates to Improving Lives Select Commission. The Lead Member of CYPS meets regularly with Senior Leaders in SEND including Rotherham Parent Carer Forum.

The work of Genuine Partnerships and Parent/Carer Forum

The Genuine Partnerships group promote the Four Cornerstones model across Education, Health and Care services to ensure that decision-making shaping services involves children, young people and parent carers (e.g., borough wide training event 27th September 2022). Such a group is now moving around the country supporting other Local Authorities in implementing the Four Cornerstones of practice. This has been recognised and promoted by national leaders in SEND such as Brian Lamb.
https://genuinepartnerships.co.uk/

Leaders form the Parent/Carer Forum represent the region in national meetings to discuss future developments. For example, in relation to the Green Paper.
RPCF Rotherham Parent Carers Forum

Their latest impact report evidences how influential and important the group is in supporting families across the Borough. Please see below examples from the report:
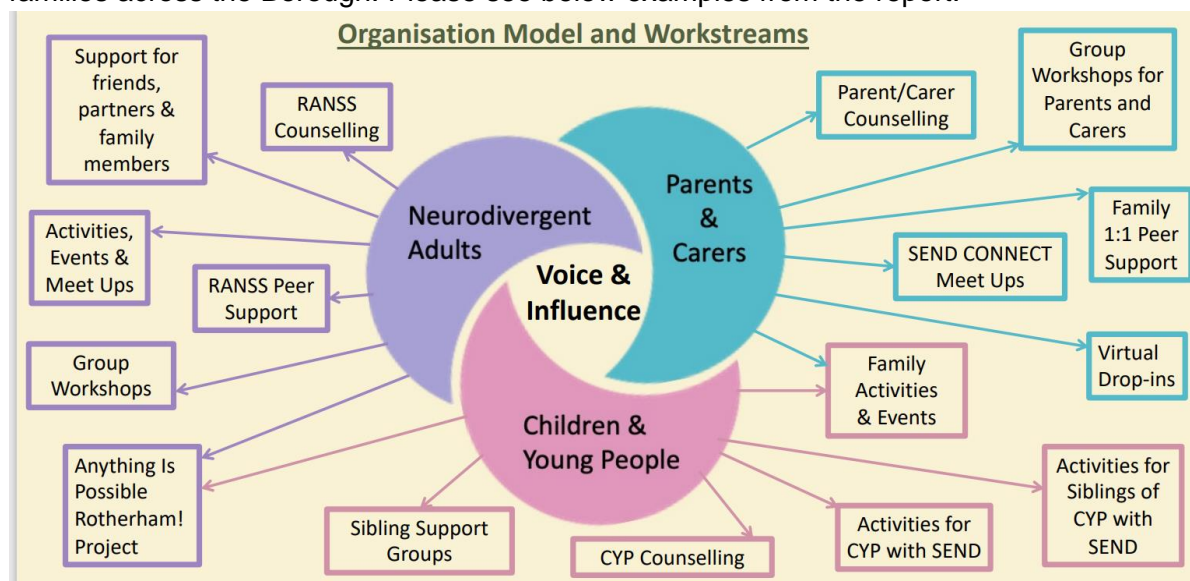
Parents and Carers Summary – April 2022 to March 2023

❖ **290** opportunities for parent carer participation were facilitated over the year including virtual drop-ins, face-to-face meet-ups, Listening Events, Family Activities and SEND events.

❖ The total number of parent/carer attendances at these participation events was **1911**

❖ **222** unique parent carers were actively supported through our Family Peer Support service.

❖ **27** Group training workshops were delivered in the areas of Managing Anxiety, Advocating for your Child, Emotional Regulation, Sensory Differences and Communication.

❖ SEND Connect volunteers supported **123** unique parents and carers at **74** face to face evening and daytime meet-ups with total attendances of **418.**

❖ **133** free parent carer counselling sessions were facilitated supporting **22** unique individuals.

Words & Phrases that Parent Carers Use to Describe RPCF

WSoA Actions/timescale check		
Are there any actions behind schedule?	N	
Action	**Reason**	**Mitigation/remedial action**
1.3.3	Delayed due to volume of plans that require transferring	A task and finish group has been identified as a requirement to complete this work
1.5.3 and 1.6.2	Both actions are linked	We are currently identifying a neighbouring Local Authority to partner on this work

RISE Support received in this reporting period	
WSoA area of work	All 'RISE' support was completed up until monitoring 4. However, Rotherham is working in partnership with NDTi, Sheffield and Doncaster to provide PfA training as a South Yorkshire partnership.

Support/Activity		Provider
Impact/Outcomes from the activity		

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

What were the issues identified within this weakness?

(The issues identified in the report which made up the judgement)

- Parents and carers whose child or young person is going through the statutory assessment process do not know who to contact. Often, they do not know the identity of their child or young person's caseworker

- Health practitioners do not know how many children and young people have SEND support or EHC plans. Some health records do not identify children and young people with SEND and/or their EHC plans. The quality of health information in plans is variable.

- Parents and carers and staff in schools describe a 'postcode lottery' in which the quality of an EHC plan is dependent on the expertise of the caseworker who oversees it.

- Targets are variable in the extent to which they are 'SMART' (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely). Often, targets, outcomes, needs, and provision are merged and unclear

- There is a sizeable backlog of annual review paperwork

- Over time, academic outcomes for children and young people with an EHC plan have not been high enough and for those receiving SEND support have been variable.

What are the key components of the change you have achieved?

(Identify the key areas which now look different)

1.1 Improve the Quality Assurance Framework for Education, Health, and Care Plans:
- Significant developments and changes in the Education Health and Care Planning (EHCP) team are proving to be effective to support the quality of plans as well as the whole service delivery.

- A Locality Model implemented from September 2022 supports the building of professional relationships between the team, schools/settings, and parents/carers.

- EHCP Coordinators and Managers are building in opportunities to visit schools to develop relationships and attend/arrange meetings with parents and practitioners about individuals.

- Arrangements are in place to allow all those in the EHCP Team to access Level Four NASEN training related to the legal framework, practice, and process for EHCPs.

- Full team, managers, locality team and 1:1 meetings are now embedded in the EHCP Team to allow there to be a consistency of approach and understanding. Process maps have been designed. A newly appointed reviewing manager and complaints/resolutions manager add strength to the EHCP Team structure.

- Meetings between SENDIASS, Rotherham 's Parent/Carer Forum (PCF) and the EHCP Team provide the opportunity to discuss parental satisfaction and to understand themes causing concern. This supports any areas for further development.

- The full quality assurance framework has been revised and the quality assuring of EHCPs is integrated into the framework and includes representations from health.

- A core multi-agency group, with parental representatives, carries out audits of plans on a monthly basis. A performance report is created to support understanding and learning. Senior leaders support 'deep dive' events that are additional to usual QA processes.

- A full QA event of November 2022 allowed 90 delegates to contribute to recommendations for change. As a follow up the core group have addressed changes to practice. New QA descriptors are now being used which include those promoted by IPSEA.

- The newly established bi-annual events will continue to QA existing EHCPs with the desire that over time they will be judged as good because of core group and practitioners being more involved at an earlier stage. Judgements will also change from giving overall compliance feedback to a RAG rating. Examples of good plans are being held centrally to support developments and CPD.

- Internal QA processes within individual teams are established. Liaison takes place between specific services such as Therapy services, Education, Health, and Care Planning Team (EHCP Team), Educational Psychology, SENDIASS, Specialist Inclusion Service, Portage, Early Years, etc. to establish and implement QA opportunities within each team as well as strategic CYPS joint work.

- CPD opportunities have been provided to support the development of the quality of plans. For example, SENCO network events provide an opportunity for school based and centrally based practitioners to work alongside each other to develop joint understanding and to create developments.
  .
- The CYPS commissioning team responsible for commissioning all external SEND placements have processes and record keeping in place based on the EHCP to determine effectiveness of placement.

- Commissioners and the EHCP team have reviewed the process and working practice between both teams in relation to placements of children and young people in Independent Specialist Providers (ISPs). A new search tool and robust tracking systems are now in place as well as strong working relationships which provide more rigor.

- An electronic system 'INSIGHT' is being used to hold all data related to EHCPs. The Local Area SEND report provided by LGI is used to match figures to national averages to ensure all are working together to be in line if not better in all areas.

- The Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) has been pivotal in working especially with the therapy services to develop practice. The DCO forms part of the QA core group and therefore has access to an overview and report showing themes and areas for development.

- The DCO has worked with appropriate practitioners to provide a quarterly audit into provider practice to be implemented to ensure there is ongoing monitoring as part of business as usual, for example in the therapy service. The CYPS performance team are working with key health practitioners to provide a more joined up database which includes involvement in the advice and report writing as part of the 20-week process.

- Discussions between the Manager of Children's Disability Team and practitioners regarding those with an EHCP takes place during supervision sessions. Meetings for newly established SEND Champions have been arranged to allow SEND to become a greater priority as business as usual. These will be led by the designated SEND lead in social care.

- A key piece of work is taking place to explore relevance of MASH practitioners providing a simple 'triage' on the needs and position of a child as part of the statutory assessment process for EHCP rather than there being a basic response of 'not known'. This will help to further develop social care information, advice, and involvement in SEND.

- The designated leads in social care and health as well as representatives from Early Help and Children's Disability Family Support & Autism Information and Advice Service Manager attends EHCP panel and request for statutory assessment panel allowing there to be a wider oversight of children and young people and their families.

- The designated lead and the Children's Disability Family Support & Autism Information and Advice Service Manager are working alongside our DCO and Principal Education Psychologists to create and deliver a training package for practitioners across education, health, and care

- Health records are now clearly showing markers for SEND across teams (including whether a CYP has an EHCP) following a piece of work with the appropriate IT teams in provider services. Final EHCPs are attached to all health records.

1.2 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:

- The SEND Strategic Partnership Board have approved that all appropriate staff within education, health and care should have mandatory 'Level One' training on the understanding of SEND and implementing the SEND Code of Practice. Our DCO, Principal Educational Psychologists and leads in social care have worked together to design the training together and then provide multi-agency delivery. A 'Level Two' course will then be rolled out where there is specific content related to different teams e.g., Children's Disability Service.

- The SEND awareness raising video funded though NHS is completed and is available on the SEND online toolkit. Workshops have been delivered to CAMHS practitioners. Therapy teams will receive update sessions. There are plans to provide more opportunities to a wider workforce to ensure maximum uptake.

- SEND Champions are in place across social care. The designated lead for SEND in social care is working with them to ensure there are enough opportunities for learning and development related to SEND.

- Parents/carers form part of CPD planning and delivery. For example, they are members of the core Genuine Partnerships group, and such a group is working with other Local Authorities to support embedding the 'Four Cornerstones' of practice.

- SENCO network events are used to provide a forum for related to all aspects of the statutory process.

- Listening events take place between parents/carers and practitioners to establish joint understanding and to support learning and developments.

- SENDIASS and PCF provide workshops for parents covering a wide range of topics.

- Practitioners meet with the young people's group 'Guiding Voices' to support strategic developments as well as to understand present experiences and opinions. Information around graduated response and EHCPs as well as other documentation is available on their website.

- Guiding Voices: Helpful Links – Rotherham SENDIASS

1.3 Ensure that all current EHCP in use are transferred to one single template:
- An electronic software package (IDOX EHCP Hub) is being used to support the statutory assessment and EHCP process. This includes the creation of the actual plan.

- Meetings between IDOX company, EHCP team, SENCOs, parents/carers, practitioners have taken place to address detail and changes. Peer to peer support is available. A designated member of the EHCP Team has a robust link with the company to allow for ongoing communication and developments.

- An opportunity was created to allow a core group to scrutinise Liquid Logic and CAPITA and to compare it to the IDOX EHCP Hub. It has been decided that the EHCP Hub will be used for one more year. We await the outcome of the Green

Paper implementation plan to understand what developments are needed if for example there is to be a national template for an EHCP.

- Effective use of data is being embedded within the EHCP Team. A full SEND database has been created to support the monitoring of business as usual as for example, the identification of SEND and the growth of EHCPs. (INSIGHT)

1.4 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:

- A reviewing manager is now in post as part of the EHCP Team. This strengthens oversight and capacity and provides a specific focus on certain groups for example Looked After Children.

- A task and finish group was set up to address acknowledgement of reviews as well as to review present practice and produce recommendations for change.

- 'INSIGHT' database provides effective use of tracking data. The CYPS performance teamwork alongside the EHCP Team to ensure data is fit for purpose and complies with national requests.

- SENCO network events have been used as an appropriate forum to highlight good practice in relation to annual reviews. For example, the event that took place on the 20th March 2023 looked at person centered planning and was delivered by practitioners from a special school alongside senior Educational Psychologists.

- Job descriptions and work practices within the EHCP team have been scrutinised to ensure that activity connected to statutory annual reviews forms part of everyday practice.

- An action plan is in place to ensure that further developments are implemented. This will include enhancing the use of the EHCP hub portal to support the annual review process.

- Information is examined at the CYPS Performance Board to ensure there is adequate focus and activity related to measures.

IMPACT
(a) What has been the impact on <u>service users</u>?
SENDIASS comment that there is greater satisfaction in the system.

- Listening events with the Parent/Carer Forum and information provided by them indicate a shift in confidence.

- The new EHCP Team Locality model is proving to enhance communication and build relationships between schools/settings and parents/carers.

- There is a very close relationship between activity and developments as part of EHCPs with that of promoting and embedding the Graduated Response. For example, ensuring that there is evidence of the graduated response and involvement of appropriate specialist's forms part of the decision-making discussion for a

statutory assessment. The majority of requests for statutory assessment are deemed to be appropriate and are approved.

- Since the beginning of the WSoA more plans are being written using the EHCP Hub template.

- There has been fluctuating monthly results on 20-week timeliness but since January 2023 there is evidence of a positive improvement.

- The quality of plans is improving.

- The EHCP panel discusses the request for a cease of EHCP and approves appropriately feeling confident that a young person no longer needs the framework in order to succeed.

(b) What evidence do you have that demonstrates this impact?
Think of examples of children/YP/families who now have a better experience through service change and the KPIs/outcome measures you set)

SENDIASS service report indicates from January – March 2023 that 143 out of 419 involvements are related to children and young people with an EHCP (34.4%). Figures for Sept – Dec 2022 were 177 out of 462 (38.3%).

Voice of Parents/Carers examples from May 2023:
- o 'My son is now in post 16 and preparing for adulthood, promoting independence, travel training etc has all made a huge difference to his self-confidence'

- o 'We have had a review and the EHCP is more specific and personalised.'

- o 'Having a named person /case officer and locality lead made it easier to communicate'

- o 'There is a willingness from EHCP team to work on current plan to ensure it is of quality and meets needs and criteria.'

Example voice of young people:
On the 22nd May 2022 IW commented to the Head of SEND that she 'feels believed and am given the chance to have things to say. I felt in charge of my review. It seems like changes are being made and people are getting the opportunities in education.'

Example request to assess panel on the 10th May 2023 concluded that nine out of twelve requests had good evidence of the graduated response.

EHCP - Requests for Assessment

Requests for Assessment - Rolling 24 Month Trend
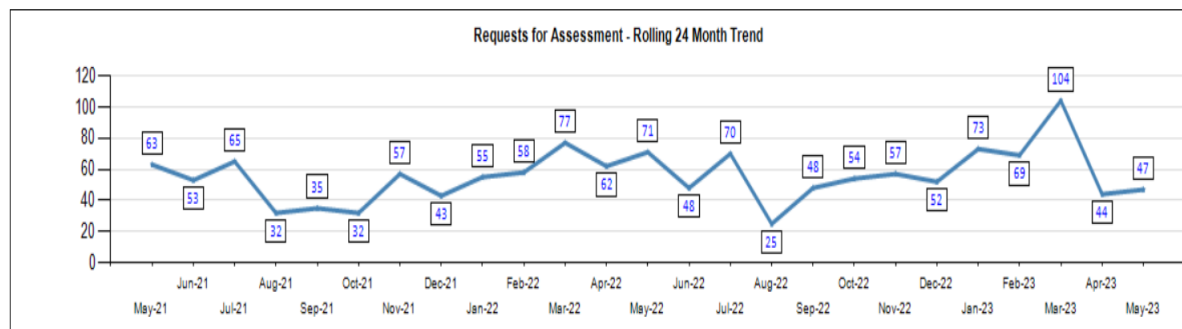
The table below shows the requests to assess being submitted and the amount that are being declined.

Requests for Assessment - Outcome Summary - 5 Academic Year Trend
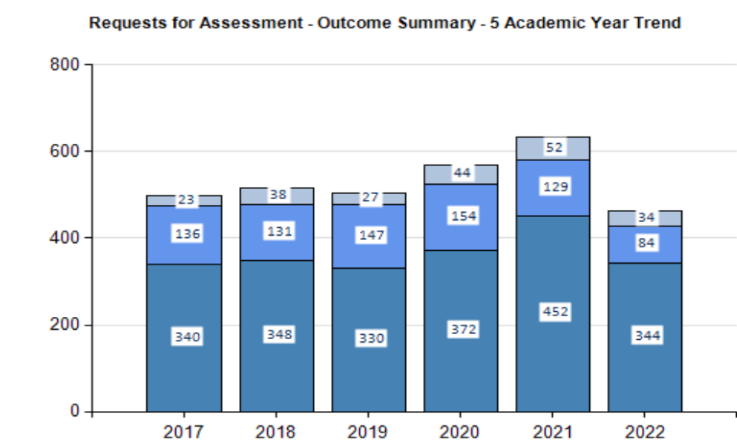
As of 10th May 2023, 1551, plans out of 3079 are on the same template.

Databases on complaints related to Education, Health, and Care Plans as part of the corporate complaints procedure show that there are fewer than five in any month. (Some of which are long standing).

As of the 10th May 2023 there were five mediations logged and 18 tribunals. The majority of the cases are related to parents/carers requesting specialist school placements.

The quality of plans appears to be improving over time. The table below shows the percentage of sections judged to be compliant.

% of Sections Compliant in EHC Plans Q2 to Q4
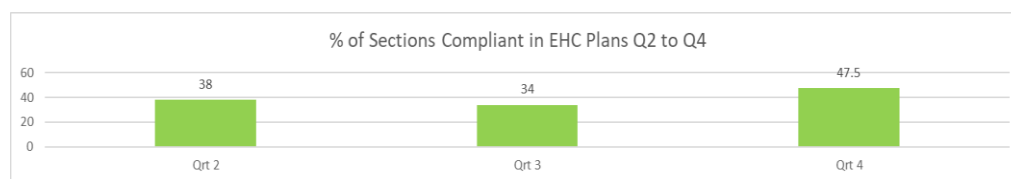
20-week timeliness January 2023 was at 16.7% as the EHCP Team focused on 'backlog' plans.

As of 10th May 2023, accumulative figure sits at 43.4%. Discounting backlog the EHCP Team are performing at 100%.

Since January 2023 the backlog has reduced from 143 –to 22. The common contributor to backlog is in the difficulty in finding an appropriate placement for a child or young person and difficulty with involvement of Educational Psychologists as part of the statutory assessment process.

Since April 2021 153 EHCPS have been ceased.

The quality of health submissions has been improving as shown through the 'within health' audits set up.

Date	% of quality indicators adhered to in report	% of quality indicators adhered to in report	% of quality indicators adhered to in report
	Paediatric therapies	CAMHS	EHC medicals
March 22	83	45	63
June 22	-	56	-
Sept 22	80	60	-
Dec 22	89	84	-
March 23	95	82	80

Overall timeliness of submissions is now standing at 80% within 6 weeks for Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust and 87% for Rotherham CAMHS *(figures from March with no exceptions removed e.g. was not brought)*

Key next steps
(Any areas where you want to develop further especially if you have not yet achieved the KPIs/outcome measures you set)

- Embed bi-annual QA events

- Request for more SEND champions in social care

- Review the workshop opportunity for parents in relation to the use of the EHCP electronic Hub

- Continuation of meetings between the EHCP Team, SENDIASS and the Parent/Carer Forum

- DCO, leads in social care and Principal Educational Psychologists to continue to arrange/provide programme of delivery for the SEND CPD sessions

- Reviewing Manager in the EHCP Team with support from other key practitioners to implement annual review development plan

- MASH process in relation to social care involvement to be embedded

- Invest in appropriate task and finish activity to ensure all EHCPs are on the same template

- Continue to explore opportunities for effective recruitment and deployment of Educational Psychologists

- Work with regional DfE lead on developing specificity in EHCPs

- Identify long term requirements to sustain the increase in EHCP audits following recent stock-take activity.

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

What were the issues identified within this weakness?

(The issues identified in the report which made up the judgement)

- A serious weakness in the implementation of the graduated approach to identifying and meeting children and young people's SEND, especially in key stages 1 and 2

- Some SENCos and school staff require further training in the graduated approach

- SENCo network meetings are not well attended. Approximately 40% of the local area's SENCos miss vital updates, input from a range of multi-agency practitioners and essential training.

- Children and young people with SEND do not attend their schools and settings often enough. Too many pupils with SEND are also excluded from their schools and settings

What are the key components of the change you have achieved?

(Identify the key areas which now look different)

- Appointment of SEND School Improvement Officer

- Regular multiagency primary and secondary inclusion panels for pupils at risk of exclusion

- SEMH outreach teams working across primary and secondary phases

- Information on the Local Offer website is now more accessible and identifiable in relation to the graduated response

- Cross phase Inclusion network formed and now meeting regularly with CPD opportunities included

- SEND Resource (online toolkit) is further developed and 'live' on the Local Offer – now available to all school/setting staff, families, and young people. Hits on the Resource have increased, and this has been maintained.

- Increased attendance at SENCo events – promotion of the Graduated Response and collation of examples of Good Practice

- Greater implementation of the Four Cornerstones approach in schools and settings, promoting the voice of families and young people

- Greater understanding of roles and responsibilities promoted through the development and implementation of governor training (re SEND pupils, exclusions)

- Funded training offer to all schools and settings around meeting the needs of pupils with social communication difficulties (licensed partner to AET)

- Development of SEND Champions within Social Care has increased knowledge of SEND processes and resources

- Increase in number of Emotionally Literate Support Assistants (ELSAs) completing training and accessing continuing supervision through the EPS

- Early signs of good, graduated response submitted in majority of cases that proceed to statutory assessment.

- Improved quality of referrals to Neurodevelopmental pathway, now including graduated response information; increase in percentage of referrals screened as appropriate

- The Autism Information and Advice Service has extended its remit to include those families awaiting assessment

- Successful bid for Wave 10 funding for With Me in Mind to extend reach to 70% of Rotherham schools, so offering greater support for mental health needs at graduated response

- With Me in Mind and Genuine Partnerships working collaboratively to develop a whole school approach to embed emotional health and wellbeing resulting in a Mental Health Award for settings

- Increased interagency working e.g., an Educational Psychologist is now working for part of the week in the Child Development Centre, promoting a greater understanding of the ordinarily available provision within schools

- Multiagency group formed to develop guidance for schools around identification of need and support for SEND in relation to rising exclusion figures, to complement the Whole School Approach and Competency Framework overseen by the SEMH Strategy Group encompassing representatives across health, social care and education

IMPACT
(a) What has been the impact on <u>service users</u>?
- Increased knowledge of approaches that support inclusion and progress within the classroom at graduated response level across key stages

- Increased support and challenge to schools through monitoring visits (SEND School Improvement officer) and Peer Reviews has increased inclusive understanding

- More schools developing and implementing the Cornerstones approach and promoting the voice of families and young people

- Wider offer of alternative and resource provision within the borough to address identified need. This is aligned to our sufficiency planning detailed within our Safety Valve agreement.

(b) What <u>evidence</u> do you have that demonstrates this impact?
Think of examples of children/yp/families who now have a better experience through service change and the KPIs/outcome measures you set)

- Case Studies from the SEND School Improvement Officer and the Strategic Lead for Inclusion and Alternative Provision

- Significant increase in access to the SEND Resource

- Increase in schools and settings engaging with Genuine Partnerships to explore and apply the Cornerstones approach to co-production with families and young people

- Strong attendance at co-produced event involving LA, Genuine Partnerships and Guiding Voices and feedback received

- Case studies of 'good practice' from schools and settings in promoting and applying the Graduated Response

- Positive Feedback from SENDCo Network days and maintained high attendance from across schools

- Number of qualified ELSAs working in schools and receiving ongoing Supervision from the EPS

- Young people have created a video which is on the Local Offer around strategies they have found helpful in meeting their needs. They have delivered training to SENDCos which was positively received

Key next steps
(Any areas where you want to develop further especially if you have not yet achieved the KPIs/outcome measures you set)

- Finalise and begin rollout of Graduated Response training to multiagency audience so that education settings, parents/carers, and health/care practitioners are aware that an EHCP is not appropriate for every child with additional needs, and they will understand and explore other options through the graduated response where suitable – dates identified to begin training with social care colleagues. This requires expansion across service areas in RMBC and ICB. It will be mandatory and become 'business as usual'.

- Extend the content of the SEND resource to encompass additional advice regarding early years and post 16 age groups. Links to Early Years information through the Local Offer website and SEND Resource under development and officers are identified to take this forward. Similar links through the PfA subgroup to be developed in line with the continuing format of this group.

- Map out information on the SEND Resource (online toolkit) to give clarity on ordinarily available provision – this is currently in development and will become 'business as usual' through the SENDCo Resource and Local Offer.

- Information provided to Referral Panel to have full evidence of graduated response. Baseline and measure developed now that there is stability in the EHCP team.

Ongoing analysis of sources of referral is proceeding, this will be monitored through the Referral Panel membership.

- Exclusion data analysis and narrative requires further development in relation to local context against national picture to facilitate clear action plan to work towards reducing the rising figures. Groups established to take this forward and report back to SEMH Strategy Group and the proposed continuing Graduated Response monitoring group.

- Establishment of clear pathways for support and resources relating to SEMH needs including anxiety and emotionally based non-school attendance. This is already in development through co-production between practitioners and RPCF, overseen by SEMH Strategy Group.

- Ongoing development of methodology for gathering parent voice at local authority level for those children at SEN support for example, through a QR code questionnaire in schools and settings. If successful, this could be extended to children and young people.

- Increase the numbers of parents and carers who are able to gain knowledge and effectively challenge provision at the graduated response level, through further consultation with RPCF and via the SENDCo network. It is proposed that a task and finish group is established to take this forward, reporting back to the Graduated Response monitoring group.

- Project work for Guiding Voices (2023-2024) is 'business as usual' subject to LA funding to facilitate this.

- Ongoing work for Genuine Partnerships (2023-2024) has been proposed and will be sustained.

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

What were the issues identified within this weakness?
(The issues identified in the report which made up the judgement)
- The number of young people with SEND going into employment is very low.

- Transition between children's and adult's social care services is not seamless. Communication between children's and adults' services and children and young people and their families is poor.

- The number of young people moving on to independent living is also low in Rotherham

- On reaching the age of 18, support ceases for too many young people and their families.

- Many parents and carers do not know who to turn to for help and support.

What are the key components of the change you have achieved?
(Identify the key areas which now look different)
- Embedding the NDTi PfA minimum standards ensuring person-centered 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.

- A joint multi-agency standards and quality assurance framework for transition for young people with SEND in line with NDTi minimum standards is now in place. We have engaged with education, health, and care providers to develop good practice guidance for protocols of effective transitions, we have agreed guiding voices will co-produce good practice guidance for the local offer – this is in their workplan for 23/24.

- NDTi training has been provided to staff working in schools, colleges, and support services to develop an understanding of Preparing for Adulthood. A multi-agency training programme is in place which embeds the Four Cornerstones of Co-production, person centered and strength-based approaches.

- NDTi (CDC) training has also taken place for staff across education, health and care services who write Education, Health and Care Plans and contribute advice following Education Health and Care statutory assessments.

- The Quality Assurance Framework is now being implemented and the initial QA report recommendations (including the impact of training) have been suggested as actions to be added to the new PfA Action Plan – this has been agreed by key stakeholders (ASC, CYPS, ICB, DWP and RPCF) at the PfA Strategic Board.

- A gap analysis has been completed of support service, health services and provision for young people in preparation for and transition to adulthood based on the NDTi PfA minimum standards. This identified 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. These are reflected in the new PfA Action Plan.

- A review of local needs has taken place and identified gaps in current provision. This has informed an action plan, under the PfA outcomes, with subgroups leading on each area, to address the areas identified as high priority through the above gap analysis. This has been signed off by the PfA Strategic Board and the Sub-groups are reviewing the actions identified during the gap analysis.

- Four transition pathways have been produced for Rotherham's Preparing for Adulthood Cohort. Work continues with South Yorkshire ICB to develop the pathway for epilepsy. The development work is impactful as we have already seen evidence that the emergency response to diabetes is improved however the complexity associated with designing a south Yorkshire wide pathway – whilst the right thing to do- has resulted in a delayed timescale.

- Rotherham's communication strategy is in place to ensure Rotherham's PFA offer is known, accessible and visible. This includes clear links to the Local Offer. NDTi reviewed the Local Offer from a Preparing for Adulthood perspective and made recommendations for improvement. These have been implemented. PfA Strategic

Board members are active participants in the Local Offer subgroup and work continues to develop the information available e.g., guiding voices good practice guidance.

- In addition to the publication of the good practice guidance, which includes clarity on what is expected at year 9 the EHCP outcomes for post 16 students against the NDTi minimum standards have been reviewed to ensure that they demonstrate aspirations, progression, and independence, making best use of advice and guidance within the PfA outcomes framework. This identified a number of gaps. In addition to what isn't working, we have collated evidence of where PfA works well which has informed the development of the action plan across all outcomes.

IMPACT

- **What has been the impact on <u>service users</u>?**

- Guiding Voices were able to demonstrate positive experiences utilising the refreshed PfA section on the Local Offer to support their post 16 progression. This was following an earlier NDTI supported review

- Rotherham has been successful in securing DfE funding to help increase the number of Supported Internships (2 years remaining) and set up a SEND Employment Forum, which was launched in March by RiDO & partners

- Positive feedback from stakeholders involved in Project Search – the following quote is taken from a case study *"These internships are amazing and those that struggle like is one of the best things to get young people into the working world giving an opportunity and not having to give up at first hurdle keep trying and trying success will come over time . I'm grateful for supporting internships and recommend to everyone 😃"*

- During the recent menti survey parent carers told us that more information about PfA was available on the local offer and that some schools are implementing the guidance and including preparation for adulthood in the curriculum at an earlier point.

(b) What <u>evidence</u> do you have that demonstrates this impact?
Think of examples of children/yp/families who now have a better experience through service change and the KPIs/outcome measures you set)

- KPI 3.1 demonstrates that outcomes for young people aged 16-24 with SEND are higher in Rotherham when compared to the national average as of March 2022.

- The number of young people in supported internships has continued to rise through Project Search – KPI 3.2

- Feedback from RPCF following survey with families in May related to PfA Section on the Local Offer *"there is better information about preparing for adulthood than*

previously" and *"My son is now in post 16 and preparing for adulthood, promoting independence, travel training etc has all made a huge difference to his self confidence"*

Key next steps
(Any areas where you want to develop further especially if you have not yet achieved the KPIs/outcome measures you set)
- Agree sign off of the action plan and work programme for the PfA sub-groups, this will create a long term sustainable plan for PfA in Rotherham aligned to core outcomes – Community Inclusion, Health, Education and Employment, Independent Living

- Co-produce good practice guidance and launch on Local Offer

- Embed the QA Framework across PfA providers to demonstrate clear KPI's and outcomes in line with the good practice guidance and minimum standards.

- Continue to review and 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.

Area 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

What were the issues identified within this weakness?
(The issues identified in the report which made up the judgement)
- Communication with parents and carers is weak. Many parents and carers of children and young people with SEND in Rotherham have not heard of the local offer.

What are the key components of the change you have achieved?
(Identify the key areas which now look different)
- Recruited Local Offer Coordinators in to permanent positions who have now been in post since September

- Developed a co-production approach ensuring parent / carers and children and young people are actively involved in feedback and developing the local offer

- Implemented a change and development process for updating Local offer involving all partners and EHC services

- Measuring progress of activity and impact through actions plans, KPI and monthly highlights reports

- Developed and implementing a system wide partnership communication plan including virtual and face to face activity

- Continuous update and responses to the "you said we did" on a monthly basis with Rotherham Parent Carer Forum as part of a robust communications plan

- Worked with an external partner to develop a new site for the Local Offer. The new site has been designed in coproduction with parents, young people & practitioners

- Active ongoing promotion of the Local offer to parent/carers & young people giving rise to increased activity in coproducing the site.

IMPACT

(a) What has been the impact on <u>service users</u>?

- Feedback loop is embedded to inform new developments on the Local Offer. Such as a change request was altered to meet the suggestion given by a young person who had previously helped with the testing of the new site.

- The numbers of schools linking to the Local Offer site continue to increase. This is linked to programme of activity to promote the site through established routes across SEND e.g., SEND QA process in schools developed as part of Safety Valve

- New site has now launched, and longer-term communication plan is starting to be implemented via flyers, posters, presentations, service meetings & social media. The new site has increased functionality to understand customer journey and analytics helping identify future areas of development. The new site also offers opportunities for direct feedback.

- The Local Offer are working to personalise the approach of content based on key audiences of young people, parents/carers, and practitioners.

- We have seen an increased engagement from service leads in ensuring their content is kept up to date & is relevant and accurate.

(b) What <u>evidence</u> do you have that demonstrates this impact?
Think of examples of children/yp/families who now have a better experience through service change and the KPIs/outcome measures you set)

- From the original survey carried out with parents and carers facilitated by Rotherham Parent Carer Forum 98% of initial areas identified by parents and carers have been actioned and completed

- 92.9% of actions are now completed as detailed within the WSoA, all have attended evidence challenge panel for formal sign off.

- Increase in users, new users, length of sessions and reduction in bounce rate – website analytics

- Reduction in number of requests received identifying issues on the site – KPI 4.0

- Increased change requests and increased number responded to within 4 weeks

- Increased positive responses from parent / carers via Parent Carer Forum – KPI data 4.3 -4.4

- Increase in engagement – PCF data

- Young people feedback - A young person from our guiding voices group has been involved in testing the accessibility of the new site right from the beginning & has feedback that "this is one of the best sites he has ever used"

- Continued evidence of co-production – case study of young person who produced the improved Local Offer Logo.

Key next steps
(Any areas where you want to develop further especially if you have not yet achieved the KPIs/outcome measures you set)

- Work is underway to establish a long-term sustainable plan for the Local Offer that builds on the significant progress made during WSoA

- Launch event for the new site planned for week commencing 12th June.

- Communication plan on going & events planned throughout the year.

- Establish a range of formal and informal activities with partners to support bringing the Local Offer to a wider audience

- Ongoing development of content based of service, partner, parent / carer and young people's feedback

- Agreed to maintain subgroup with refreshed membership, terms of reference and Local Offer development plan

- Stronger analytics & performance data to drive areas for further development and understand client user journey

Any additional information

It has been agreed that all subgroups will continue in an appropriate format and will contribute to a new SEND Development Plan from September 2023.

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Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council

Public Report

Improving Lives Select Commission

Summary Sheet

Improving Lives Select Commission: September 2023

Report Title:

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership – Annual Report 2022-2023.

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report: Nicola Curley, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author: Darren Downs, Independent Chair, Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership

Ward(s) Affected

All wards

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – RSCP Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required:

No

Exempt from the Press and Public:

No

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership – Annual Report 2022-2023.

1. Background

1.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Childrens Partnership is required to publish and annual report, and the report attached is the 2022-2023 report.

1.2 The annual report reflects the partnerships commitment and achievements, as well as identifying areas that we need to continue to make improvements to, in order to ensure we meet the overarching priorities of being Safe at Home, Safe in the Community and having Safe Safeguarding systems.

1.3 The report highlights the statutory inspections that have taken place this year, with South Yorkshire Police graded as "Outstanding" when it comes to protecting vulnerable people, and Rotherham's Children Services graded as "Good" with specific reference to the proactive partnership approach through the EVOLVE, and ensuring a child focussed approach.

1.4 The report touches on plans in the partnership for the future years, and how we plan to continue building and strengthening the partnership further with a focus on exploitation, neglect and safeguarding in education.

1.5 In addition the report mentions that Safeguarding Awareness Week this year will be hosted by Rotherham and is a key time to celebrate and promote the work that is taking place, improve relationships and increase the visibility of the services on offer.

1.6 The report will form the basis and themes of the annual learning event and conference in 2024, which is being developed across the partnership.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Please see attached report.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Not Applicable.

4. Consultation

4.1 The report has been developed across the partnership and all the statutory partners have been consulted and inputted into the report. They have all taken the report through their respective committees for information across the partnership.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Not Applicable

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

6.1   Not Applicable

7.   Legal Advice and Implications

7.1   Not Applicable

8.   Human Resources Implications

8.1   Not Applicable

9.   Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1   These issues are highlighted within the report.

10.   Equalities and Human Rights Implications

10.1   These issues are highlighted within the report.

11.   Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

11.1   Publication of this report is the responsibility of the Rotherham Safeguarding Childrens Partnership, and the partnership has been fully consulted and involved within the publication.

12.   Risks and Mitigation

12.1   Not Applicable

13.   Accountable Officer(s)

13.1   Nicola Curley - Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services.

	Named Officer	**Date**
Strategic Director, Children & Young Peoples Service	Nicola Curley	15/08/2023
Cabinet Member for Children & Young People	Cllr Cusworth	30/08/2023

Report Author: Darren Downs, Independent Chair, Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership

This report will be published on the RSCP 's website.

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ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

Annual Assurance Report 2022/23

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the annual assurance report from the Rotherham Safeguarding children partnership (RSCP) for the year 2022-2023. This annual report summarises the activity of the RSCP within the year and the assurance gained in relation to the safety of children in the Rotherham area. In line with statutory guidance (Working together to Safeguard children 2018), it:

- gives an overview and provides transparency about the activity undertaken by safeguarding partners between April 2022 and March 2023

- highlights how the safeguarding partners have committed to work together effectively in a multi-agency approach to identify where action can be taken to improve the services provided to children and their families

- provides assurance as well as identified areas for further development

- provides evidence of how the RSCP have worked together to deliver services to children and families effectively as the country moves out of the restrictions in place due to the Covid -19 pandemic

- gives an overview of the RSCP mission and strategy, the effectiveness of the governance structure and the functioning of the business unit, culminating in outline plans for 2023-24 and beyond.

The RSCP priorities set out in 2020 have continued to be themed under three key headings:

- **Safe at Home**

- **Safe in the Community**
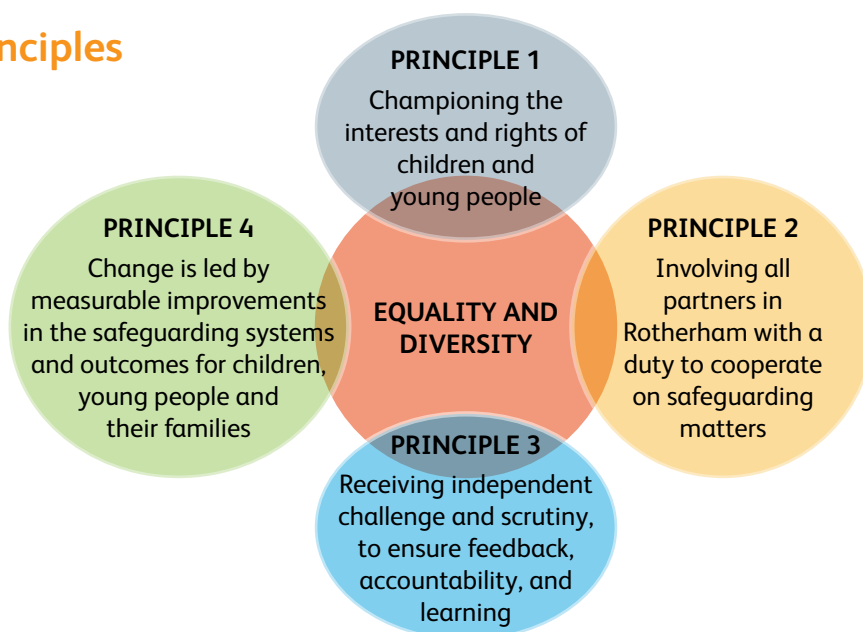
- **Safe Safeguarding Systems**

The above priorities were also informed by key principles which underpinned all activity undertaken by the partnership to safeguard promote the welfare of children in Rotherham as follows:

Chris Edwards, Chief Officer, NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive, Rotherham Council

Sarah Poolman, Assistant Chief Constable, South Yorkshire Police

RSCP Principles

PRINCIPLE 1
Championing the interests and rights of children and young people

PRINCIPLE 4
Change is led by measurable improvements in the safeguarding systems and outcomes for children, young people and their families

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

PRINCIPLE 2
Involving all partners in Rotherham with a duty to cooperate on safeguarding matters

PRINCIPLE 3
Receiving independent challenge and scrutiny, to ensure feedback, accountability, and learning

FOREWORD
from the RSCP Independent Chair – Darren Downs

It is a great pleasure to not only contribute to the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) annual report but to also be the independent chair of the partnership, taking on the role in early 2023, and I look forward to continuing to provide reassurance and scrutiny over the coming years.

The Annual Report 2022-23 reflects our commitment and achievements, as well as identifies areas where we need to continue to make improvements to ensure we meet the overarching priorities of being Safe at Home, Safe in the Community and having Safe Safeguarding systems. Since becoming the independent chair, I have been impressed by the strength and level of engagement across the partnership and the commitment and passion to safeguard our children and give them the best start in life.

The partnership has had some new members in the last year, and it is an ideal opportunity to thank those that have left the partnership for their work and commitment in recent years, as the position we are in now is in part due to their efforts. The year has seen more statutory inspections with South Yorkshire Police graded as "Outstanding" when it comes to protecting vulnerable people, and Rotherham's Children Services graded as "Good" with specific reference to the proactive partnership approach through the EVOLVE, and ensuring a child focussed approach.

Rotherham has a large proportion of its population between 0-19 years of age, with 23.2% of people falling into that category, and nearly 51,000 below the age of 15. The concentration of children varies across the borough with some areas seeing 25% of their population aged between 0-15 years of age, which presents some challenges. The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan

(CPP) was 398 at year end, which is a significant reduction from 505 in July 2022, and a really positive sign. The vast majority of the CPPs relate to Emotional abuse, often linked to domestic abuse, and good evidence of the reasons for continued collaboration between the statutory boards and in particular the Rotherham Safer Partnership.

One area where further work is needed is addressing the disproportionate level of children from our minority communities on plans and cared for by the partnership, at 23% and 30% respectively, compared to 8.9% of the population. This, along with the work on understanding and reducing the volume of referrals entering the system and building relationships with children to strengthen their voice in all our activities, is key for next year's activity.

As we move into the next year and plans are refreshed for the 2023-2036 period, I look forward to continuing to push the partnership to make positive improvements and give children the best start in life. Many of the previous projects and improvements such as EVOLVE, MASH, and MACE will all continue, and we look to strengthen services further with a focus on neglect and safeguarding in education.

Safeguarding Awareness Week this coming year will be hosted by Rotherham and is a key time to celebrate and promote the work that is taking place, improve relationships and increase the visibility of the services on offer and the work taking place, and I look forward to being involved in the week's activities. We are also planning an annual learning event and conference in 2024 to continue to build on safeguarding week and work with our communities and most importantly young people to create a joined-up offer with their voice at its heart.

WELCOME TO ROTHERHAM

Rotherham is a large minster town in South Yorkshire, England which along with its nearby settlements form the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham, with a population of 265,800 (ONS, 2021).

In Rotherham there are 61,600 0–19-year-old children living in the Borough (23.1% of the local population – ONS, 2021). There has been a significant increase in the Eastern European Roma population (from Slovakia and Czech Republic since 2004 and Romania since 2014), concentrated in a few central neighbourhoods (Boston Castle, Rotherham East, and Rotherham West).

Further local and national demographics information tells us that:

23% of children living in Rotherham are in low-income families (England 20% – 2022).

Our Free School Meal (FSM) entitlement rate is above national average, 25.2% compared to 23.1% at Primary phase and 24.1% compared to 20.9% at Secondary phase (DfE 2021/22).

According to the 2019 Indices of Deprivation, deprivation in Rotherham has **increased** with the Borough now ranked **44th** most deprived district on average IMD score, compared to 52nd in 2015. Rotherham's rank means that the Borough is amongst the 14% most deprived local authority areas in England.

In 2019, the key drivers of deprivation in Rotherham remained **Health & Disability, Education & Skills,** and **Employment**. Of these, Health & Disability deprivation was most severe and widespread whilst Employment and Education deprivation were more concentrated and polarised. Health and Crime deprivation have

WELCOME TO ROTHERHAM

increased the most since 2015 according to the Indices.

20.1% of our school age population is from Black and Minority Ethnic background (BME) (England 36.1%) (DfE 2021/22).

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is claimed for 7.7% of children aged under 16 years in the local authority area compared with 5.3% in England as a whole.

The Borough is divided into 25 wards covering a wide diversity of urban, suburban and rural areas, covering an area of 110 square miles. Between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of Rotherham increased by 3.3%, from around 257,300 in 2011 to around 265,800 in 2021. Population growth for Rotherham was lower than the average for the Yorkshire and Humber region and roughly half of that for the UK.

23.2% of Rotherham's population are aged between 0-19 years. There are 50,900 children aged 0-15 in Rotherham and 26,100 young people aged 16-24. Whilst the majority get a good start in life, child poverty is highly polarised across the Borough and life chances can vary greatly. In the most deprived areas, 25% of the population are aged 0-15, but in the least deprived, the proportion is only 16%. Rotherham has a lower proportion of young people aged 18-24 than the national average due to young people moving elsewhere to study or work. In the 2021 census Rotherham saw Yorkshire and The Humber's joint third-largest percentage-point rise (alongside **Doncaster** and **Kirklees**) in the proportion of lone-parent households (from 10.7% in 2011 to 11.8% in 2021).

Rotherham is the 52nd most deprived district in England.

2022/23 (2021/22)	Rotherham	Statistical Neighbour Average	National Average
No of children subject of CP plans (per 10,000)	70.4 (82.7)	59.2	42.1
No of children looked after (per 10,000)	96.2 (97.8)	102.4	70.0

In Rotherham 398 children were subject to a Child Protection (CP) Plan at the end of March 2023, whilst this is above statistical and national averages, but there is a downward trend from a high of 505 children in July 2022. There were 396 children subject to a CP plan as at 31 March 2023, broken into the following categories:

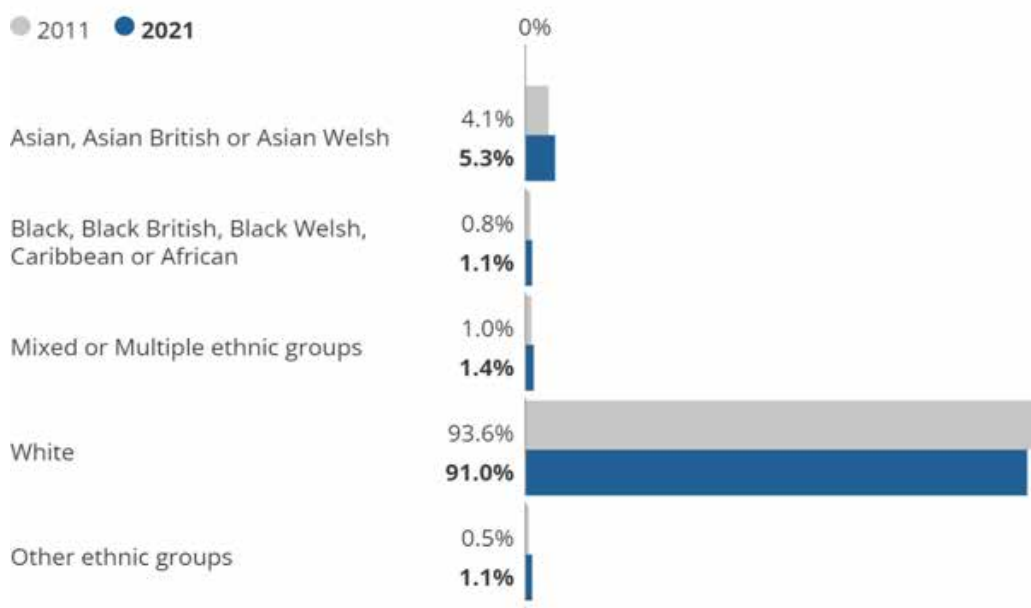| Category of Abuse	No
Emotional	210
Neglect	141
Physical	25
Sexual	18
Multiple	2

It can be seen that the vast majority of CP plans are open due to Emotional Abuse – often linked to the impact of domestic abuse and neglect.

As the area moved out of the restrictions in place due to the Pandemic, there was a rise in children protection figures, possibly caused by more referrals and increased concern on children returning to school. However, the evidence appears to be that this small spike has subsided and that support to families in Rotherham is gradually reducing the number of children requiring protection or care. Behind this is a commitment to involving wider family members as early and effectively as possible, resulting in risk reduction being achieved, or children requiring removal for their safety being placed within their family. We have also seen a gradual reduction in care applications as children are supported to remain in the care of their families.

Equality and Diversity

Percentage of usual residents by ethnic group, **Rotherham**

○ 2011 ● **2021**

Ethnic group	2011	2021
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	4.1%	5.3%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	0.8%	1.1%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	1.0%	1.4%
White	93.6%	91.0%
Other ethnic groups	0.5%	1.1%

Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

The RSCP is mindful of the representation of children from minority ethnic/global majority backgrounds within statutory processes, and will be launching an equality, inclusion, and diversity strategy over the next 3-year period. For children on child protection (CP) plans and in our Care, it is evident that those from minority ethnic groups are overrepresented, with children from non-white backgrounds representing 23 % of those subject to a CP plan and 30 % of children in care. As a further example, children from a Gypsy/ Roma background constituted 5.5. % of those on CP plans and 8.1 % of children in care compared to a population of 0.049 % in the borough.

GOVERNANCE

The Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership was established in September 2019 in accordance with the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

The Executive Group has undergone a membership change in 2022-23. The new membership includes Nicola Curley, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, Laura Koscikiewicz, Chief Superintendent and District Commander for Rotherham, Sue Cassin, Chief Nurse, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), alongside the new Independent Chair for the RSCP, Darren Downs. The RSCP Independent Chair Jenny Myers, left her role in October 2022, with Darren Downs taking up his role in March 2023. In addition, the new partnership business manager took up his role in mid-February 2023.

The Executive Group continues to set the strategic direction and priorities of the Partnership, which in turn are aligned with those of the Health & Wellbeing Board and Rotherham Safer Partnership. The three main partners made up of Rotherham Council, South Yorkshire Police and the Health organisations continue to work collaboratively with the wider partnership and the Voluntary Consortium. We continue to demonstrate a commitment to ensuring the voice of children and young people is at the heart of the safeguarding agenda in Rotherham.

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership has four Delivery Groups that lead on delivering the partnership assurance activities, innovation, improvements, learning and practice development. Each Delivery Group has a nominated chair and representatives from across the different multi-agencies that make up the partnership. In addition, the Executive Group has oversight of the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP).

GOVERNANCE

Structure

Funding Arrangements

The Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership funding is provided by the three main statutory agencies. Management oversight for budget spend, is provided through the Partnership Executive Group by-monthly meetings.

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Funding	
Rotherham Council	£115,352
NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group	£115,352
South Yorkshire Police	£44,475
Totals Budget	**£275,179**

MASH

In May 2022, the MASH (Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub) moved from a position of a reliance on online referrals to a more restorative approach of telephone discussions. There are exceptions currently to this such as South Yorkshire Police, Youth Justice Service and night staff at the hospital, but this approach has been well received by most partners. Schools particularly welcome the opportunity to discuss potential referrals.

Senior management was strengthened within First Response with the introduction of an additional Service Manager post in March 2023. This has allowed for the line management of Evolve to move to First Response and for the development of a new Engage team to be established within their structure. Engage is being developed to work to a tightly defined remit to ensure that resources are targeted for those families most in need such as:

- Children who have been subject to Police Powers or this is likely to occur imminently.

- A family has requested Section 20 accommodation and support is required to prevent this.

- There has been a recent escalation in the family circumstances leading to a crisis which may result in family breakdown.

Engage will work in collaboration with young people and their families to identify solutions to problems and promote family:

- practical support to children and families such as support to medical appointments, school meetings and any other identified tasks such as support to improve home conditions.

- support to all family members during key times of tension, including mealtimes, night/morning routines and weekends.

- observation of family life to provide feedback and further guidance.

- convening and chairing a 'rapid' Family Network Meeting, as well as supporting ongoing referrals to Family Group Conferencing

- work with the family to develop a safety plan that all understand.

- engaging the young person/people in pro-social activities at key times of stress and support to access partner delivery to meet this need.

- developing bespoke parenting sessions

- explore support needs including access to parenting programmes.

As a result of positive feedback and impact in 2021-22, the Baby Clinic has continued to take place on a fortnightly basis. A positive review of the pilot found the following:

- it was working well, attendance was good and there was a positive commitment from midwifery services.

- Consent always gained from Mothers prior to any discussion at baby clinic as well as for any referrals resulting from the discussion.

- Generating good discussion leading to improved plans for Mothers and their babies.

- The richness of the discussions in baby clinic has highlighted some important issues such as late booking policy, and blanket policy for under 16-year-olds for wider discussion.

- Moved from a position of many babies being discussed at clinic initially to a more balanced approach.

- There is improved understanding in operational relationships between social care, midwifery and early help and a better understanding of each other's roles.

MASH

- Feedback from Maternity staff – they feel the relationship with the women is better as the outcome from baby clinic is a multiagency decision, and not just the midwife.

The review identified some areas for improvement:

- The baby clinic was set up as a temporary measure focusing on a particular area of practice. The richness of the discussions at the meeting are helping to shift practice and culture and as such the clinic will be open to review going forward.

- Terms of Reference has been amended to ensure that there is a supervisory discussion prior to baby clinic to prevent baby clinic being used as a supervision session. This needs to continue to be in place.

- Understanding and application of thresholds. At times, there continues to be a disconnect with health colleagues' threshold for risk of significant harm, which is not always in alignment with social care. At times, midwives have a worry about one aspect but from a social care perspective it may not be viewed as much of a worry (or that they are aware of mitigation for the worry).

- The hospital safeguarding team have been working on the threshold descriptors moving forward and feel things are better than they were, but improvement needs to continue.

CHILD EXPLOITATION

Rotherham's 2019-2022 Strategy was developed by the multi-agency partnership under the auspices of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP). The strategy was published five years following the Jay report, whilst it was published after the national strategy, it follows key aims:

- **Safeguarding Vulnerable Children**
- **Support to Victims and Survivors**
- **Learning & Development**
- **Child Protection and Detection of Crime**

Progress and Achievements

Safeguarding Vulnerable Children - Responding to Child Exploitation

Achievements

- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is now included within the remit of Evolve alongside Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), creating a single Child Exploitation pathway. Additional resource was provided by the Council to increase staffing and this is now an effective service meeting the needs of all children and young people at risk of or subject to exploitation. Missing – Through positive work with children, residential homes, and foster carers the number of Children in Care who go missing has significantly reduced, alongside repeat episodes, with the year ending on the

CHILD EXPLOITATION

lowest number of Children in Care reported as missing throughout the year

- Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) are held to discuss children at risk of exploitation and to coordinate information regarding potential suspects and offenders. These meetings replaced the RAM – (Risk Assessment Management). The change brought Rotherham into line with national terminology ensuring that those in attendance at the meeting, including partners from across a regional border, understood the remit of the meeting.

Ongoing actions

- Preventative work is undertaken with regular high risk missing young people on a 1:1 basis to safeguard, provide intervention, build a relationship, and to look at diversionary activities through the provision of a dedicated advocate.

Support to Victims and Survivors - Post Abuse Support, Child Sexual Exploitation commissioned services for victims and survivors

Achievements

- Consultative referral pathway through the Trauma and Resilience Service (TRS) which is delivered through RDaSH and funded by the CCG (now ICB). Using this pathway, professionals can refer cases into these services, and TRS will allocate cases to the specific service above according to available capacity and specialisms

Ongoing actions

- Post Abuse Support, Child Sexual Exploitation commissioned services for victims and survivors. The service is an all-age service; however, this is predominantly to serve transition working as there is an internal pathway of support within the Council for under 18s

Learning & Development – Awareness Raising and Training

Achievements

- Annual Members Session - Introduction to Child Exploitation, tackling it in Rotherham

- Safeguarding Awareness Week (SAW) - Child Exploitation and County Lines training delivered by Rotherham Council and SYP - 31 events available to book onto with 615 staff across Rotherham registered attending. The Spot the Signs campaign was refreshed for Safeguarding Awareness Week (SAW21) in November 2021. Social media posts were shared via Rotherham Council and reached over 18,000 people, with over 400 people visiting the link provided in the posts to the Rotherham Council Child Protection web page

- The Evolve service continues to raise awareness through delivering of Child Exploitation training on a quarterly basis. In total we have trained 150 staff in the borough. In addition to this the team have attended team meetings, and a variety of schools to raise awareness

- A series of social media posts were also shared in the run up to Child Exploitation Awareness Day(18 March) highlighting how members of the public may see signs of exploitation in their everyday lives with links to local and national reporting mechanisms and support available.

CHILD EXPLOITATION

- Online harm and risk is a key concern regarding child exploitation. Training has been delivered to over 60 professionals, with the upcoming Safeguarding Awareness Week in November 2023 focusing specifically on online abuse including risk of exploitation

- Over the last 12 months we have continued to welcome both internal and external scrutiny into the processes and action we take to prevent those within our communities been and risk of, and subjected to child exploitation

- External inspections from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) grade SYP as 'outstanding' when it comes to protecting vulnerable people; specifically referencing our partnership approach

- Ofsted rate Rotherham's Children's Services as 'good', specifically referencing the proactive partnership approach through Evolve ensuring a child focused approach

- Internal scrutiny through Members, through SRP and through RSCP via reports, briefings, and scrutiny

- The Child Exploitation Delivery Group oversees Child Exploitation for the RSCP and has continued to look to develop our approach including devising a new workplan and a new data dashboard to give us a more nuanced understanding of how our actions are safeguarding children in Rotherham from exploitation

- Central to the work we do is the voice of the child, and we ensure that it is the golden thread that runs throughout all our work and meetings in this area

Ongoing actions

- The Evolve service continues to raise awareness through delivering Child Exploitation training on a bi-monthly basis

CHILD EXPLOITATION

Child Protection and Detection of Crime - Operation Keep Safe and Operation Makesafe

Achievements

- Operation Keepsafe (explain) – Early Help and South Yorkshire Police led on Keepsafe Interventions in 2021 and 2022, including during SAW 2021 and 2022, across the Borough, and worked with approximately 1700 children and young people across the Rotherham Borough.

- Operation Makesafe is a national initiative that originated in South Yorkshire, about raising awareness of child sexual exploitation within the hotel & leisure industry. South Yorkshire Police have extended the approach to taxis, takeaways, and other vulnerable locations. The initiative focuses on training people working within these sectors to be aware of the early warning signs of CSE, encouraging them to report concerns to the police.

- Teams from Early Help Outreach and Engagement, Evolve, Evolve Police and Neighbourhood Police visited key target areas late at night to identify young people out and ensure their safety. Children and young people were returned home and a safe and well check undertaken, advice provided.

- Joint action with Rotherham Council community safety and licensing – overcoming challenges due to Covid-19 lockdowns. A staff training video was produced – with both public and private versions, in addition posters and literature supported the campaign. This was based upon the successful 'Spot the Signs' campaign.

- Operation Duxford was launched in February 2023, this consisted of visits to hotels in Rotherham, handing out posters/flyers and engaging with staff in these premises. The impact of this intervention will be documented and reviewed throughout 2023, and the operation will Identify any premises that require further engagement.

Ongoing actions

- Operation Keepsafe will continue to provide interventions jointly with the police to raise awareness and keep children in communities safe.

- Operation Makesafe will continue activities, including the launch of a new Operation Makesafe national training package. SYP and the Rotherham Council community safety team will continue to carry out engagement work with relevant premises to raise awareness of the signs of exploitation and what action to take should they have concerns, specifically.

  o March to May – training to be provided by police and Rotherham Council community safety. Engagement where appropriate with licensing, and any other agencies that may have an interest in the premises

  o May to August – Further engagement visits with hotels that have completed training, ensuring compliance and offering feedback to staff.

  o Engagement visits with all Rotherham hotels to be scheduled to provide updates on policy, new legislation, etc. To expand visits out to other premises, such as taxi companies, Air BNB's, etc.

A new 3-year strategy for Child Exploitation will be launched by the RSCP in 2023.

CHILD EXPLOITATION

Independent Child Sexual Exploitation Review

The Independent Chair of Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership led an independent review of South Yorkshire Police and Rotherham Council's response to CSE in Rotherham. This followed the Council motion of 10 November 2021 responding to a Conservative briefing paper published on 3 November 2022.

The independent review, consisting of experienced experts in CSE and child safeguarding, published their findings on the 19 May 2022, and presented their report to Rotherham Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board on 27 May 2022.

Key findings of the CSE review were:

The response of the Rotherham Division of South Yorkshire Police (SYP) and the Council to information provided by the Conservative Councillors was effective and robust and that the specific allegations from the briefing paper were not founded.	SYP in Rotherham had a strong multi-disciplinary partnership approach to CSE and all the information provided by the Conservative Councillors was able to be tracked and where appropriate, action was taken.	No evidence was provided to support the claim that council staff said their managers told them not to talk about CSE or make reports about CSE.	Significant progress has been made in Rotherham in its response to CSE and that it has developed strong leadership, accountability and locally developed multi-agency relationships and scrutiny.

Rotherham has a strong CSE strategy. We found evidence that authorities are working effectively to keep children safe and not only are there robust performance frameworks and effective pathways for intelligence, but also areas of good practice.

However, there is always some learning and areas for improvement. Whilst the review is not making any firm recommendations it does make some suggestions for improvements, such as more detailed training for Councillors on local safeguarding systems and processes after being elected and the on-going need for SYP and Council to work to re-build public trust and confidence, which is likely to be required for a considerable time."

The review led to an enhanced response in relation to the support for staff regarding exploitation and improvements in the manner in which our data influences and contributes to practice.

- A multi-agency task and finish group was developed to review the findings

- Induction and annual training on Child Exploitation for members, will continue after successfully running for two years

- Increased scrutiny and use of data – a data scorecard for scrutiny at partnership and Executive level.

- Rebuilding and developing trust and confidence through our ongoing media campaigns and awareness raising

- Positive engagement with survivors through our commissioned services and at operational level, keeping children and young people safe through our collective statutory and local responsibility at all levels.

LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

The RSCP continued to deliver a portfolio of training, consisting of face to face and online learning. We learnt from the Pandemic that a mix of online and face to face met differing needs and offered flexibility for trainers. As can be seen from the table below, attendance at training remained lower than re pandemic levels. This is not unique to Rotherham. There are several factors for this including the impact of the Covid pandemic in 2022, and staff capacity. Partner staff have received training and those attending the training below are new starters. For example, over 92 % of TRFT staff working with children in family health services have received Level 3 safeguarding training. The partnership will seek continue to provide a diverse and responsive training offer to meet the workforce needs and keep it under review via our Practice and Learning delivery groups.

Date	Name of Course	Attendance
09/06/2022	Safer Recruitment	11
13/06/2022	Designated Safeguarding Leads	13
13/06/2022	LADO & Allegations Management	8
17/08/2022	Cumulative Harm & Childhood Neglect	6
22/08/2022	Child Exploitation & Contextual Safeguarding	14
24/08/2022	LADO and Allegations Management	4
27/09/2022	Safer Sleep	10
10/10/2022	LADO and Allegations Management	10
24/10/2022	Child Exploitation & Context. Safeguarding	11
01/12/2022	Cumulative Harm & Childhood Neglect	11
06/12/2022	LADO and Allegations Management	7
12/12/2022	Child Exploitation & Context. Safeguarding	13
11/01/2023	Barnardo's Training	15
24/03/2023	Barnardo's Training	24
24/03/2023	Barnardo's Training	24
Totals		**157**

LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

We have continued to oversee responsibility for promoting a culture of continuous learning and practice improvement across the partnership via the Learning and Improvement group. The group meets quarterly and is responsible for the learning prospectus, alongside improvement and policy development. For 2023 onwards we will be seeking feedback from all training courses and following up on non-attendance, with senior managers being made aware if required, for example for non-attendees.

In 2022-23 the partnership adopted the 7-minute briefing approach to sharing wider learning and learning for quality assurance, local and national learning. This approach created a consistent method to dissemination of information in a familiar format, as this tool also used by partner organisations. We also found these bitesize learnings were a quick way to produce and disseminate information in a timely manner.

Rotherham's drive to continue to learn about the risk that exploitation poses to our children and young people, has been at the forefront of our specialist Evolve team completing exploitation workshops to 16+ Education providers, in-conjunction with workshops to the Head Teachers of Rotherham secondary schools. The Evolve team on a bi-monthly basis has provided workshops to professionals from Social Care, Early Help Schools, culminating in 150 participants in attendance.

Practice Standards Group

The Practice Standards Group sits within the scope of the Learning and Improvement Delivery Group and offers advice on how professionals work together between agencies to safeguard children, reporting to the Safeguarding Children Partnership Learning and Improvement Delivery Group. Standards are upheld with reference to relevant safeguarding procedures and practice guidance, and the standards of conduct set out by professional bodies.

The Group carries out Appraisals of situations where there has been cause for concern, but the criteria for Serious Incident Notification or Safeguarding Practice Review is not met, or where outstanding practice is recognised.

The Group also reviews and offers advice in cases where the Chair of a Child Protection Case Conference has exercised their power of veto to overturn a majority decision (Vetoes).

Activities and Achievements

a) Group Processes

The Group continually reviews how it works, seeking to maintain a high standard.

At the Annual review Meeting held in November 2022, the current Agency Representatives confirmed their willingness to continue in their roles, and the Chair and Deputy Chair both confirmed their willingness to continue in their roles. The Group passed Votes of Confidence in each Representative, the Chair, and the Deputy Chair.

b) Meetings and Referrals

The Practice Standards Group met 7 times, and received 5 Referrals:

- Four requests to review a Case Conference Chair's Veto, and one Appraisal

c) Vetoes

In all four cases the Case Conference Chair's decision was that the child(ren) should remain subject to Child Protection Planning. The Practice Standards Group agreed with the Case Conference Chair's veto in all four cases.

d) Appraisal

The Appraisal process looks at real 'case' examples and identifiers relevant learning. In this example there was a lack of information from agencies previously involved and poor communication between them. The primary themes that emerged were around information sharing, communication, disguised compliance and splitting of professionals.

e) Impact

The Practice Standards Group has presented outcomes to the Learning and Improvement Subgroup and has outputted:

- 7-Minute Briefings:
  - o 'Hearing the Voice of the Child'
  - o 'Working Together with Parental Conflict over Contact'
- Learning on a Page:
  - o 'Working with Disguised Compliance and Splitting'

The Practice Standards Group features prominently within the Safeguarding Children Partnership website. This is where our outputs are lodged and made accessible.

f) Feedback

Following a Case Conference Chair's Veto, we received a response from the Chair who made the referral:

'Thank you for your response and rationale for why you think to uphold the veto decision. It's not always easy being in such a position, and always good to have oversight when a veto comes up'.

The Coming Year

a) In the coming year, the Practice Standards Group will continue to work with the Rotherham Safeguarding Partnership, and partner agencies, to promote the principles of the Rotherham Family Approach in upholding practice standards and highlighting examples of outstanding practice.

b) Following recent appointments to the Safeguarding Partnership Board, the Practice Standards Group will review representation of Education on the Group, ensuring the most appropriate Agency Representative is in place.

c) The Group is currently exploring with the Child Death Overview Panel whether there may be a useful function in offering a space for reflective learning in some cases. If this function is adopted, the Group Terms of reference will be amended accordingly.

d) The Practice Standards Group sections within the Safeguarding Children Partnership website are reviewed for accuracy and accessibility at each Group meeting. A major update and rationalisation of the Group's pages is planned in 2023.

PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Performance and Quality Assurance Delivery Group has had considerable change. The work of the delivery group has been reviewed, and an annual plan of activity has been revised to ensure partners are able to come together to exert influence and provide appropriate challenge to each other, in keeping with workstreams of providers and commissioners. Recognition of the need for deeper challenge to endorse working in line with the key priorities has led to changes in membership of the group, and strengthened senior input, making challenge more effective. There has been a recognition that partners need to own their commitment to being responsive and adaptable, and as such the delivery group now seeks assurance via action plans; these are then scrutinised at the delivery group before sign off.

Regularity of meetings means that the group now has a deputy chair to ensure effective management of the activity; the interim partnership manager has recently been replaced on a permanent basis, allowing greater continuity of information flow between delivery groups as we review our objectives. Communication with the Executive Group continues to be strengthened to ensure the group is guided to facilitate its assurance role.

Audit activity is monitored and commissioned through the delivery group, and this has fed into the wider development plan of the partnership.

PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

Joint Targeted Area Inspection

The RSCP agreed via the Executive Group to carry out an assurance exercise for a Joint Area Targeted Inspection (JTAI) to test readiness and resilience should the partnership be subject to an inspection under this framework. In keeping with recent JTAI activity the theme was focussed upon multi-agency processes linked to Early Help support and transitions to Social Care. The aim of this process was to test and make preparations for the following.

- The ability of all partners to respond to data set requests – such as Annex A information

- The capacity within the RSCP business unit to manage the process and store/share the data as required

- To test and manage the audit requirements of a JTAI, specifically in identifying the cohort of children and working with partners to complete 7 case file audits as required by JTAI inspectors. Three of these children would be identified for further 'deep dive' scrutiny by the partnership chair, acting as 'Lead Inspector'

- To support partners in raising awareness of the JTAI process and to identify any learning outcomes in order to be more fully prepared for a full inspection

In summary this was a successful process, with key learning regarding process management and information sharing. The audit and deep dive work revealed several learning areas around practice and has directly informed action plans for 2023-24. Further consent assurance activity is planned for 2023-24.

Audit and Assurance

Audit activity is at the cornerstone of assuring our children and young people are safeguarded and delivering improvement. Partnership audits have been undertaken with a focus on:

CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 5 WHO HAD SUSTAINED A PHYSICAL INJURY:

The scope of the audit included consideration of poverty and deprivation, a cohort of 'accidental,' 'non-accidental' and injuries referred to as 'unexplained along with assurance a Strategy Meeting and Child Protection medical had taken place.

FINDINGS:

Strategy meetings and information sharing was timely, effective, and informed safety plans. The trajectory of plans would be improved through consistent holistic assessment and planning by all agencies.

Agencies should ensure the right support is being accessed by parents to create meaningful and sustainable change in their lifestyle choices and parenting.

A consistent approach should be developed to ensure the inclusion of fathers, as well as advocacy for fathers when working within a multi-agency approach.

PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

THE USE OF POLICE POWERS OF PROTECTION:

SCOPE:

To evaluate and assure that the use of Police Powers is appropriate in protecting children and young people. The follow up intervention by Children's Social Care and its partner agencies has been effective in safeguarding and keeping such children and young people safe.

FINDINGS:

The use and rationale for Police Powers was considered proportionate, SY Police understood the legislation and process. There was evidence of good quality early discussions between Police and Social care. Strategy Meetings were compliant with Working Together guidance; they were effective in developing safety planning and next steps.

The voice of the child was heard and understood. Learning included that Strategy Meetings must consider a child protection medical examination and any rationale for this not being held to be consistently recorded in the minutes.

Partners should ensure meeting conclusions and outcomes are routinely shared in a timely manner to offer assurance.

Partners should continue to develop assessment and support where neglect is identified as an enduring concern, using the NSPCC SHAREDD tool, GCP2 and knowledge of the Neglect Strategy-updated 2022.

CHILD EXPLOITATION (CE)

SCOPE

The audit included an evaluation and assurance of the processes, pathways, and approach for identifying, assessing, and providing intervention to children and young people being exploited or at risk of exploitation in Rotherham.

FINDINGS

The audit found Clear evidence of multi-agency cooperation, management oversight and effective safety planning. Information sharing, missing protocols, MACE, and disruption processes (including NRM referral's) were shown to be well established and effective across the partnership.

Agencies' records reflect sound professional judgement and meet required standards.

Partners contribute meaningfully to assessments and comments and views are captured in young people's plans. Interventions are captured in assessments as is equality and diversity; this could be improved by recording in the young person's own words to reflect their lived cultural experience.

The knowledge and skills held by the Evolve (CE) Practitioners could be usefully shared with locality and partner practitioners to strengthen the whole system approach. Further work on engaging children with planning and contributing to their own safety plan would enhance the support and safety available.

SECTION II SELF-ASSESSMENT

The Section 11 Audit is designed to allow the RSCP/Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) to assure itself that agencies placed under a duty to co-operate by this legislation are fulfilling their responsibilities to safeguard children and promote their welfare. Chapter 2 of Working Together (2018) details the common features which must be demonstrated by agencies in order to fulfil their commitment to safeguard children and promote the welfare of children.

In September 2022, the RSCP and the RSAB) collaborated on completion of section 11 reporting from Rotherham's statutory partners. The self-assessment challenge was framed around 2 central questions from WT 2018.

STANDARD 3 – There is a clear line of accountability within the organisation for safeguarding children and adults

STANDARD 5 – There is effective workforce development for staff and children in relation to safeguarding & promoting the welfare of children, adults and families depending on the agency's primary functions.

A challenge event was held with chairs of the safeguarding partnership (children) and board (adults), alongside attendance from statutory partners. Representation was made to this panel from RDaSH, TRFT, ICB, SYP, SYFR and Rotherham Council, with all agencies offering assurance in relation to the 2 questions posed.

Highlights included:

- Evident passion and enthusiasm from South Yorkshire Police in addressing child exploitation and a clear focus on the victim and capturing the child's voice

- Well established audit and PDR processes in Rotherham Council

- RDaSH engages in regular safeguarding supervision which can be done as a group supervision or one-to-one, every 3 months. Children & Adult staff have supervision together which has provided good feedback due to the mixture of staff

- SYFR provides 7-minute briefings, which are sent out through internal communications every week highlighting good case studies, positive reactions regarding safeguarding outcomes

- TRFT use health details to monitor, such as looking at reasons for attendances to Emergency Departments, attendances to appointments and reviewing referral mechanisms in supervision to gauge safeguarding for children. The Was-Not-Brought Policy is in place for Children, looking at bringing this in for Adults to be as comprehensive as possible.

INSPECTION

Statutory partners continue to be subject to their own process of inspection and audit and there have been some considerable successes within the year 2022-23 as detailed below.

The Rotherham Foundation NHS Trust

Link to: Trust - RFR The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (29/09/2021) INS2-10689179691 (cqc.org.uk)

The most recent inspection of TRFT was completed in May/June 2021. The trust was graded as Good in relation to services offered to Children and Young people. Specifically in the area of safeguarding it was found that:

The Trust set out a clear and ambitious 'safeguarding quality improvement plan' to address the significant concerns. The chief nurse identified completion of the action plan and next steps were to continue moving forward and build on these foundations. Some of these initiatives were very new and not fully embedded across the trust. These new initiatives included the 'Think Family' template which was incorporated into the Meditech records as part of all adults' assessments in the urgent and emergency care centre (UECC) and the new safeguarding children's risk assessment which was shared with external partners and was due to be adopted. Leaders stated they had an action plan which incorporated a 'Think family' proforma in UECC all adults' assessments to strengthen the 'Think family' approach within the trust.

Partnership working had improved, and the trust met with the local council to discuss cases of concern and best practice. The chief nurse and named professional were the trust representative at various external panels, for example, the group for children sexual exploitation. Quarterly executive stakeholder meetings were held with police, the local clinical commissioning group and other parties so safeguarding concerns and updates on improvement plans were discussed and shared. Clear and cohesive governance structures ensured safeguarding was embedded at all levels and was an integral part of multiple strategic and operational committee and panels meetings with monthly reports provided to the board. These processes provided a mechanism to monitor, measure performance and effectiveness across the trust.

Auditing processes were effectively in place enabling the trust to monitor the quality and effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements for children and young people. Named professionals and the safeguarding team conducted safeguarding audits as part the monitoring safeguarding performance and quality, which included child protection medical and body mapping completed as part of a holistic assessment.

Safeguarding Staff understood how to protect women from abuse and the service worked well with other agencies to do so. Staff had training on how to recognise and report abuse and they knew how to apply it. Staff received training specific for their role on how to recognise and report abuse. Midwives and medical staff completed level three children's safeguarding and level two adults safeguarding training.

INSPECTION

South Yorkshire Police

A PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) is a regular assessment of police forces using inspection findings, analysis and professional judgment to assess how good forces are in several areas of policing. An inspection of South Yorkshire Police was carried out in late 2022, concluding with an 'Outstanding' grade for Protecting Vulnerable People. **Link to PEEL 2021/22: Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy – An inspection of South Yorkshire Police (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)**

Specifically finding that:

- The force has highly effective governance in place to protect vulnerable people

- The force understands the scale and nature of vulnerability

- The force has an effective performance and quality assurance framework

- The force listens to the views of victims to improve its processes

- The force works well to protect victims and children from domestic abuse (this in the context of the 4th highest rate of recorded Domestic Abuse in the UK)

- The force works well with other organisations to keep vulnerable people safe

- The force works well with other organisations to keep children safe

- The force has access to mental health support services for people in need of support

- The force has stopped the use of custody as a safe place for people detained under section 136

- The force understands the capacity and capability it needs to respond to vulnerable people

- The force has improved the well-being of officers and staff who investigate complex cases involving vulnerable people

Rotherham Council Children's Services

An Ofsted inspection of Rotherham Council CYPS was carried out in June/July 2022. The findings supported a strong continuation of improving practice, resulting in the Council's second Good rating in a row. **Link to: 50190644 (ofsted.gov.uk)**

Judgement	Grade
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Good
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Good
The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers	Good
Overall effectiveness	Good

In terms of partnership working the report noted that:

Well-developed approaches to building resilience in families and supporting children in their communities appropriately ensure that only those with the highest needs are supported by statutory children's services. Children are safeguarded well, including by the multi-agency Evolve service, which addresses child exploitation concerns. Children in care and care leavers services ensure good progress for those children for whom the council has specific responsibilities. Excellent direct work with children and the consideration of their views ensure that children are at the centre of decision-making, resulting in services that best meet their needs.

INSPECTION

In addition, leadership and a strong commitment to the children of the borough was clearly evidenced within the report;

Children's services are a clear priority for Rotherham Council, from the leaders of the council to the cabinet and across the different political parties., This has led to a whole-council commitment to children and families in Rotherham. There has been increased financial investment in order for services for children to continue to improve. There is a real focus on raising the aspirations of children across Rotherham. This can be seen in children being engaged in the development of the council plan through specific activity days.

In terms of partnership working the report noted that:

'Senior managers from key partner organisations report that children's services have continued to improve both strategically and operationally. They describe mature partnerships that allow healthy challenge across the organisations in order to ensure consistent high-quality services. They state that, due to the legacy issues, there is a real focus within the council on ensuring that things are done properly.'

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2023-24

The Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) will have a new three-year plan from 2023 – 2026. It will maintain an overarching remit in ensuring that children throughout Rotherham are Safe at Home, Safe in the Community and that Safe Systems exist to deliver excellent services. The RSCP will deliver against three key strategic priorities in this period.
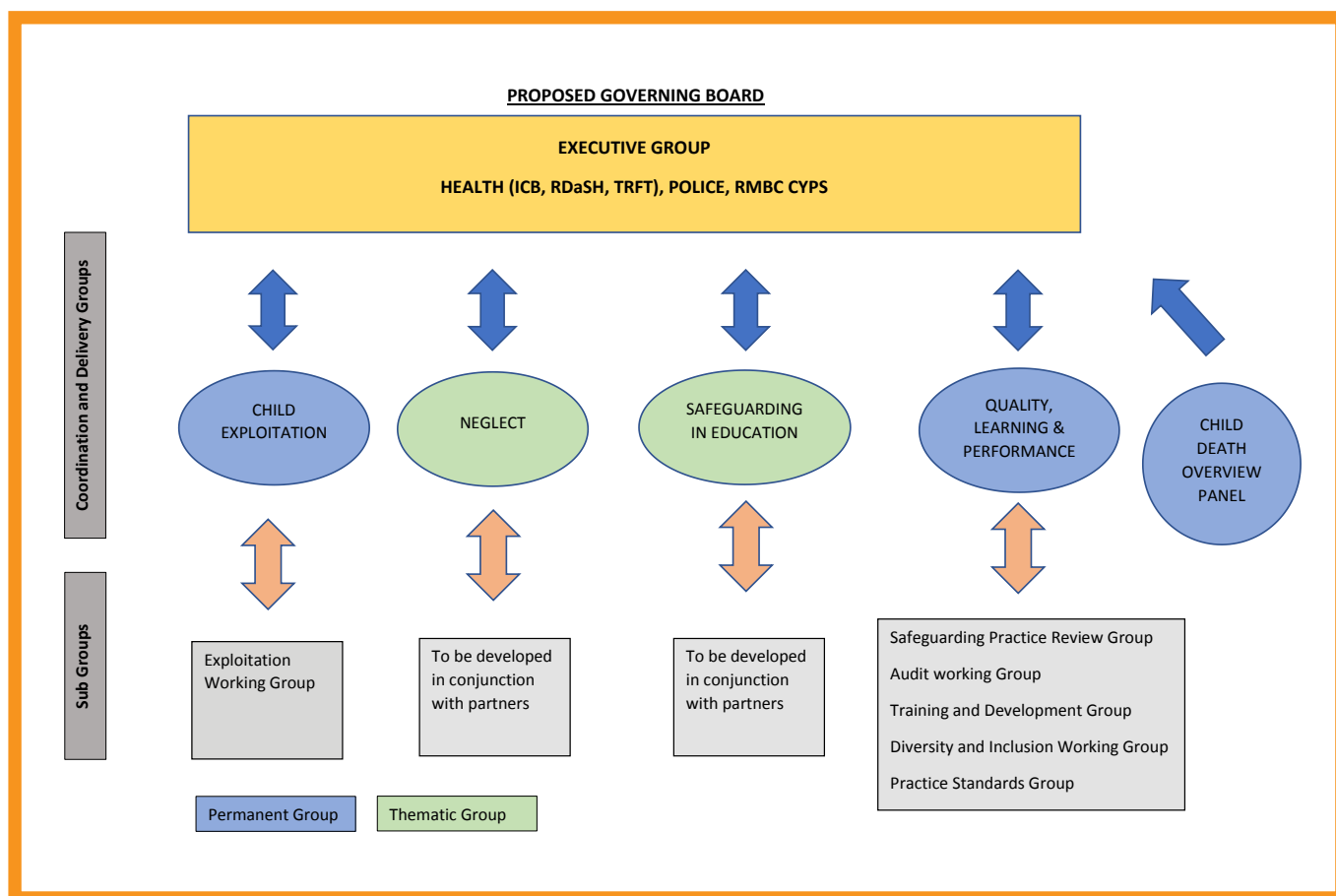
The strategic priorities are:

- **Neglect**
- **Safeguarding in Education**
- **Child Exploitation**

The following coordination and delivery groups will have oversight of the partnership's activities against these priorities:

- **Child Exploitation Coordination Group** – This is an established group with a 5-year strategic plan in place.

- **Neglect Coordination Group** –Neglect continues to be a significant factor in relation to child protection at a national level and has potentially damaging consequences for the life chances of those children and young people affected. Early identification of neglect and multi-agency coordination is key in reducing harm. This group will have the remit in relation to overseeing the impact of the neglect strategy and in delivering action plans and scrutiny to this key area.

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2023-24

- **Safeguarding in Education** – This is a new group to be formed to address and counter vulnerabilities for children in not accessing an appropriate education setting, including persistent absence, missing education, exclusion and suspension, reduced hours and unsuitable elective home education. The delivery plan and actions from this group will link directly to the Neglect and Child Exploitation groups, in understanding and addressing those combined factors which contribute to increased risk for children. It is anticipated that the group will take account of the benefits of deeper links with the education sector, specifically in recognition of the challenges identified as part of the Working Together to Safeguard Children consultation processes.

- **Quality, Performance and Learning Group** – this group will combine the remit of the previous Performance and Quality, Learning and Improvement and Safeguarding Practice Review (SPRG) delivery groups. It will have a broad remit with several subgroups reporting back, to include SPRG and training delivery.

PROPOSED GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE GROUP

HEALTH (ICB, RDaSH, TRFT), POLICE, RMBC CYPS

Coordination and Delivery Groups

| CHILD EXPLOITATION | NEGLECT | SAFEGUARDING IN EDUCATION | QUALITY, LEARNING & PERFORMANCE | CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL |

Sub Groups

Exploitation Working Group	To be developed in conjunction with partners	To be developed in conjunction with partners	Safeguarding Practice Review Group
			Audit working Group
			Training and Development Group
			Diversity and Inclusion Working Group
			Practice Standards Group

Permanent Group   Thematic Group

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2023-24

Child Exploitation

Child exploitation remains a key focus of the RSCP. There have been significant successes in Rotherham in the way in which children at risk of exploitation are supported by professionals. The CEDG has continued to look to develop our approach including devising a new workplan and a new data dashboard to give us a more nuanced understanding of how our actions are improving the lives of children in Rotherham. A new Child Exploitation Plan has been developed and agreed by the partnership which will support and enhance the support offered to children in line with the ethos of Prevent, Protect, Prepare and Pursue.

Safeguarding in Education

The RSCP is mindful of the national concern regarding children accessing education, specifically in the wake of the Covid Pandemic with 1 in 5 children persistently absent (Guardian 16 Mar 2023). More broadly the role that Education establishments and education in general plays in keeping children safe and determining their future opportunities cannot be overstated. The partnership is also mindful that Education services are not a statutory safeguarding partner, despite having much to contribute as highlighted in the Wood report (2021). Consequently, a significant priority for 2023 onwards will be the development of a 'Safeguarding in Education' Strategic delivery group, with broad aims to be developed in line with reducing persistent school absence, where safeguarding is a concern, ensuring children of school age are protected from Neglect and exploitation and increasing the involvement of education within the safeguarding arena in Rotherham.

Neglect

The RSCP Neglect strategy 2019-22 has expired and has driven progress in relation to the assessment and referral of issues of neglect for children in the borough. There are signs that neglect is recognised by professionals to a greater degree and the strategy has overseen a robust training offer. However, neglect in Rotherham remains a challenging area of child protection, with 33 % of child protection plans being attributed to neglect as at 31 March 2023. At a child in need level, we see neglect representing the majority of the concern and input from professionals. Neglect has strong links to the other strategic priorities in Education and Child Exploitation, and it is felt that continuing to raise the profile of this issue in creating a neglect delivery group will support working across the partnership. A three-year plan to tackle neglect is anticipated to reduce the prevalence of neglect at the sharp end of child protection practice alongside preventative strategies and further developments in awareness, assessment and reduction.

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership

w: www.rscp.org.uk
e: cyps-safeguardingboard@rotherham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Improving Lives Select Commission –Summary Work Programme 2023/24

The following principles were endorsed by OSMB at its meeting of 5 July 2023 as criteria to long/short list each of the commission's respective priorities:

Establish as a starting point:
- What are the key issues?
- What is the outcome that we want?

Agree principles for longlisting:
- Can scrutiny add value or influence?
- Is it being looked at elsewhere?
- Is it a priority – council or community?

Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria e.g.

T:	Time: is it the tight time, enough resources?
O:	Others: is this duplicating the work of another body?
P:	Performance: can scrutiny make a difference?
I:	Interest – what is the interest to the public?
C:	Contribution to the corporate plan?

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
13 June 2023	Counter extremism in schools/ Radicalisation of young people and extremism
25 July 2023	CYPS Performance and Year End performance Rotherham Youth Justice Service Progress Report
12 September 2023	Written Statement of Action Update Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report
31 October 2023	Adults Safeguarding Partners Annual Report
5 December 2023	Looked After Children's Sufficiency Strategy Update Domestic Abuse Strategy Update (Council Plan Performance)
30 January 2024	Child Exploitation Update (Including post abuse support) Carers Strategy Update
5 March 2024	Early Help Update

Suggested Review Activity
Elective Home Education – Workshop
Early Years Strategy – Workshop
Pandemic Related Risks to Children's Development - TBC
Preparation for adulthood tbc (with health?)
Suggested joint work with Health Select Commission
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Update
Place Partners Adult Mental Health Services