IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

Date and Time:- **Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 10.00 a.m.**

Venue:- **Rotherham Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH**

Membership:- **Councillors Monk (Chair), Sutton (Vice-Chair), Adair, Bennett-Sylvester, Blackham, Bower, Brent, Clarke, T. Collingham, Currie, Elliott, Fisher, Garnett, Harper, Hughes, Ismail, Robinson, Ryalls, Ms. L. Hickey, Mr. M. Hemmingway and Mr. J. Newman.**

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 (Pages 3 - 8)

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st July, 2026 as a true and correct record of the proceedings and to be signed by the Chair.

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. Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Update

To receive a verbal update from the Vice-Chair on the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board from the meetings of 30th June and 8th September, 2026.

7. CYPS Performance Report 2025/2026 Outturn (Pages 9 - 40)

To consider the performance outturn for the reporting year April 2025 to March 2026 for Children and Young People's Services.

8. Family Hubs Performance Update (Pages 41 - 67)

To receive an update on the performance of Rotherham's Family Hubs Programme during 2025-26 and how it demonstrates its growing reach and impact across the borough.

9. Work Programme (Pages 68 - 69)

To consider and approve the Commission's Work Programme.

10. Improving Lives Select Commission - Sub and Project Group Activity

For the Chair/Project Group Leads to provide an update on the activity regarding sub and project groups of the Improving Lives Select Commission.

11. Urgent Business

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

The next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission will be held on Tuesday 3 November 2026 commencing at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

John Edwards,
Chief Executive.

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday 21 July 2026

Present:- Councillor Monk (in the Chair); Councillors Bennett-Sylvester, Blackham, Bower, Brent, Clarke, T. Collingham, Currie, Elliott, Fisher, Garnett, Harper, Ismail and Robinson.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Adair, Hughes, Ryalls, Sutton, Ms. L. Hickey, Mr. M. Hemmingway and Mr. J. Newman.

Also in attendance were:-

Councillor V. Cusworth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member
Mr. N. Devlin, Service Director for Education and Inclusion
Mrs. K. White, Service Director for Family Help

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

12. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission, held on 9th June, 2026 be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:**-** That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for (Minute No. 17 (SEND Reform Plan) on the grounds that the appendix to that report involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

15. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

16. CORPORATE PARENTING PARTNERSHIP BOARD UPDATE

The update from the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board meeting held on 30th June, 2026 will be deferred to the next meeting.

17. ROTHERHAM'S LOCAL SEND REFORM PLAN SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which detailed how local areas were to respond to the Schools White Paper and associated national government policy in their requirement to develop Local SEND Reform Plans to address rising demand, reduce unsustainable high-needs financial deficits, and fix a fragmented system.

Councillor Cusworth, Cabinet Member and Deputy Leader, introduced the report by confirming the extensive engagement that had taken place with the Department for Education (DfE) on Social Care and SEND Reform which supported the progression of a wide-ranging programme aimed at delivering a more consistent, high-quality system for children, young people and their families.

The Council had undertaken significant work to support the All Local Areas SEND submission on 19th June, 2026 focusing on current provision and specialist high-needs places. This would lead to an increase in local provision and capacity, ensuring children and young people could access the right support, in the right place, at the right time. This reflected the growing complexity of need and the Government's commitment to improving sufficiency and reducing reliance on out-of-area placements.

Niall Devlin, Service Director of Education and Inclusion, was invited to give a presentation and update on Rotherham's Local SEND Reform Plan System Transformation.

An update was provided on the SEND Improvement Plan, which was submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) on 19 June. The plan remained in draft status pending DfE feedback and the timeframes for acceptance were outlined.

The Directorate remained confident that the SEND Plan would be accepted, but util such time it was it remained restricted.

The Commission were advised of the wider context of SEND and Social Care Reform, including the challenges presented by the forthcoming White Paper and the need to understand how local plans aligned with the broader national reform programme. The Expert at Hand model was also discussed, with recognition that further scrutiny would be required as reforms developed.

An overview of SEND finance and funding arrangements was provided, including the operation of the Safety Valve programme and funding for high-needs provision. Further detail as provided on how the funding was distributed and the amount the authority had secured through the Safety Valve programme over a four-year period, enabling investment in schools, strengthening SEND provision and reducing the accumulated deficit. The programme concluded in April 2026.

The presentation and detail shared covered the following areas:-

- Background to SEND Reforms.
- DfE National SEND Reforms Timeline 2026-2030.
- Rotherham Local SEND Reform Plan Overview.
- A Shift Toward Early Intervention and Inclusion.
- SEND 3-Year Transformation Roadmap (2026–2029).
- Experts at Hand, Inclusion Bases, and Workforce Development.
- What Success Will Look Like by 2029.
- Governance.
- Key Oversight and Partnership Arrangements.
- Key Risks and How They Will Be Managed.
- Overall Impact for Children, Families, and the System.

A discussion and question and answer session ensued. Members of the Commission raised issues in the following areas and received in-depth responses from the Service Director for Education and Inclusion and Service Director for Family Help along with the Cabinet Member to their queries briefly noted as:-

- Rotherham's Local SEND Reform Plan System Transformation involving all schools, including academies.

  There was a strong collaborative relationship between the Council, academy trusts and school leaders in developing the inclusion strategy, with broad sector buy-in.

- Confidence in the new education management system.

  The new integrated education and social care management system had recently gone live, improving data sharing and oversight, while further work was underway to develop enhanced monitoring and early-warning systems. The proposed parental confidence measure would also be co-produced with the Rotherham Parent Carer Forum through surveys and engagement activities to ensure families could effectively shape and assess services.

- Ofsted inspection arrangements and referrals.

  Accountability concerns would be addressed by outlining mechanisms including annual discussions with Ofsted, regular engagement with the DfE, grant funding conditions, independent reviews of inclusion bases and the development of clear standards for inclusive provision across all schools.

- Recruitment and retention of the workforce and mitigation of risk of demand and overload on professionals.

  Rotherham had a strong recruitment and retention record, with additional investment in Educational Psychology services, reduced reliance on agency staff, development of local talent pathways and a positive working culture helping to attract and retain skilled professionals despite national workforce pressures.

- Expert at Hand Model and whether the demand for support could be attributed to screen time on devices.

  The complex causes of speech, language and developmental difficulties recognised that factors such as early childhood experiences, home environments, screen time, poverty, genetics and the lasting effects of the pandemic could all contribute, highlighting the importance of early intervention and support.

- Distrust in the system and how parents confidence and trust could be improved.

  Legislation required the Council to name the most suitable and cost-effective provision capable of meeting a child's needs, while recognising parental concerns and highlighting that SEND reforms, increased investment and improved provision were intended to rebuild confidence and improve outcomes in what was widely acknowledged as a challenging national system.

- Performance indicators and reducing demand for Education and Health Care Plans whilst managing parental expectations and feedback.

  Funding and the Expert at Hand model had been targeted towards areas of greatest need, using data on attendance, exclusions and EHCPs to provide earlier intervention, increase support in schools and strengthen the tracking of outcomes for children with SEND.

- The potential risk that increasing numbers of parents would seek special school places, alternative provision or elective home education and the contingency plans to address this.

  Confidence in mainstream education would be improved through early intervention, stronger SEND support, and inclusion reforms, while maintaining existing services and increasing opportunities for children with SEND to thrive in mainstream schools wherever appropriate.

- Best educational establishment in meeting the needs of a child with significant SEND needs.

  Early investment and targeted interventions for younger children were reported to have improved outcomes, reduced the need for specialist placements and been well received by schools.

  Specialist provision would continue for children with the most complex needs, while expanding inclusion bases and strengthening mainstream support to meet needs closer to home.

- Workforce development wider than the teaching cohort to deliver the plan and make it a success.

  Improving SEND awareness and training across the whole school workforce was essential to delivering effective inclusion and better outcomes for children.

- Potential increase in the demand for Education and Health Care Plans ahead of implementation of SEND Reform and the role and input from Early Years.

  SEND demand was expected to continue growing, particularly in Years 1 and 2, but improved early years funding, monitoring, tracking and support arrangements were helping to identify needs earlier and strengthen planning for future demand.

The Chair thanked Members of Improving Lives for their in-depth questioning and the responses from the Service Directors for Education and Inclusion and Family Help and the contribution from the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member welcomed any further questions on the SEND Reform Plan for which responses would be provided.

Resolved:- (1) That the draft Local SEND Reform plan and ambition of the Vision and Priorities be received and noted.

(2) That the plan delivery and impact be received and the contents scrutinised.

(3) That consideration be given to further scrutiny of the performance of the Local SEND Reform Plan following its implementation and this be considered at the first meeting of the Commission early in the new year.

18. WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair invited the Commission to consider the Work Programme which had been circulated with the agenda and invited any comments or suggestions for inclusion for the 2026/27 municipal year and respective scheduling.

The Work Programme set out clearly the dates of the Commission's meetings for the municipal year and where items may be scheduled for respective agendas which were updated whenever there were changes.

It was pointed out that the work programme was very much a live document and the Chair was keen to hear from Members if there were any particular areas of focus or even specific items that were listed so these could be scheduled for consideration.

Resolved**:-** (1) That the draft work programme for 2026/27 be approved with the current agenda items for inclusion.

(2) That the Governance Advisor be authorised to make any required changes to the work programme in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair and reporting any such changes back to each meeting for endorsement.

19. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Improving Lives Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Improving Lives Select Commission – 15 September 2026

Report Title
CYPS Performance Report 2025/2026 Outturn

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

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

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Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
The report includes the performance outturn for the reporting year April 2025 to March 2026 for Children and Young People's Services. It includes areas of performance that are working well alongside other areas where a continued focus is required.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that Members consider and accept the CYPS Annual Performance Report and accompanying scorecard for the outturn 2025/2026.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 CYPS Performance – Members Scorecard – Q4 (March 2026)

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

CYPS Performance Report 2025/2026 Outturn

1. Background

1.1 This report evidences the council's commitment to improvement by providing performance information which enables the scrutiny of service achievement levels and the associated impact on the outcomes for children and young people. It should be read in conjunction with the appended performance data report, which provide trend data, graphical analysis, and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages.

1.2 The report provides a summary of performance under key themes across Children & Young Peoples Services (CYPS) including Family Help, Social Care, Education and Inclusion at the end of the 2025/2026 reporting year (and Academic year 25/26 Term 1 and 2) and represents the monthly report for March 2026.

1.3 Performance has been considered against local targets, including associated 'RAG' (red, amber, green) rating tolerances. These are reviewed annually and are set in consideration of available national and statistical neighbour benchmarking data and recent performance levels. It ensures focus on the effectiveness of services and achieving good outcomes for children and young people.

1.4 In addition to this annual report members are advised that strong operational performance management arrangements are in place across the service with a programme of service and team-based performance meetings which are well embedded across the directorate. On a monthly basis governance is provided by the CYPS Performance Board, chaired by the Executive Director of Children's Services, and attended by the Directorate Leadership Team, Heads of Service from across the directorate along with the Head of Service, Performance and Quality and the CYPS Performance Manager. In addition to this an Assurance Board is held each quarter which also provides a quality focus as well as performance management including work undertaken by the Young Inspectors, the Practice Learning Days (PLDs) and the monthly audit programme. Scrutiny is also provided by the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board (CPPB) and Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP).

2. Key Issues

2.1 **Family Help - Summary of what was working well against some key measures during 2025/2026**

2.1.1 In 2025/26 we had an increase in the number of families engaged with Family Help, from 894 in the previous year to 1270. This means we are supporting more families at the earliest opportunity. We also increased our timeliness of engagement with 92.7% meeting the target of 3 days from initial contact.

2.1.2 For those who had a Family Assessment of Need (FAN), we met our timeliness measure of completion within 45 working days for 90.5% of assessments. 380 of the 845 assessments were undertaken by partners, such as schools and health colleagues, ensuring support is provided at the earliest opportunity by those who know children and their families well, and at an appropriate level preventing escalation.

2.1.3 Our Outreach and Engagement team met their ambitious target of registering 95% of children aged 0-5, living in the 30% most deprived Super Output Areas with Rotherham Children's Centres (now named Best Start Family Hubs) by 31st March 2026. Super Output Areas are small geographical areas developed from Census 2001 information. At year end, we had 95.2% registered. This early engagement is important in ensuring children and their families are connected with appropriate support and resources or that they know where to find them should the need arise.

2.1.4 Following registration, 81.2% of these children accessed Children's Centre (Family Hub) activities, well exceeding the target of 65% engaged within the year.

2.1.5 Our Outreach and Engagement team also support our older children preparing for adulthood. The team work directly with young people to break down barriers and find suitable Education, Employment, and Training (EET) provision. The annual outturn figures are based on a 3-month combined average for statutory reporting covering December, January, and February 2026. For these figures, lower is better. Our NEET (Not in ETT) figure was 4.9%, just above the target of 4.5%. However, our 'Not Known' figure was 0.5%; this is well below our target of 1.5% and shows a strong performance in finding young people whose destination is not known so that we can provide support if they are NEET. Our overall combined figure for both NEET and Not Known young people, was 5.5% within our target of 6%.

2.1.6 The Rotherham Youth Justice Service focuses on preventing young people entering the youth justice system, and ensuring that when they do, we work to 'child first' principles to ensure the best possible outcomes for young people and victims of crime.

2.1.7 The use of custody in Rotherham remains at 0.04, the same as the previous year. For comparison, the national average is 0.09 with statistical neighbours at 0.06.

2.2 **Family Help - Summary of areas of continued focus against some key measures during 2025/2026**

2.2.1 The rate of young people who were first time entrants into the criminal justice system was 184 in the latest reporting period. This is an increase compared with 171 in the same period of the previous year. Further work continues led by the Youth Justice Partnership Board to ensure a strong preventative offer for children at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

2.2.2 The rate of re-offending was 22.4, an increase when compared with 13.2 in the previous reporting year. This will be a continued area of focus within the service. Whilst this has increased, our performance is significantly below Statistical Neighbours average of 33.5 and the national average of 31.7.

2.2.3 Likewise, for re-offences by re-offenders, the latest data shows a rate of 4.09 in Rotherham this year, compared with 2.86 in the previous year, the national average for this measure is 4.47, whilst statistical neighbours have reduced to 1.78 in the same period.

2.3 **Children's Social Care - Summary of what was working well against some key measures during 2025/26**

2.3.1 To monitor and compare ourselves both nationally and to other local authorities like ours (known as statistical neighbours), we monitor rates of children against our 10,000 population figure. Our rates of children open to social care are all within our set targets this year.

2.3.2 Our rate of Children in Need (CiN) at the end of 2025/26 was 320.1, a slight increase from 310.7 in the previous year, but still remains within target. This is below statistical neighbour average of 406.4 and the national average of 330.3.

2.3.3 Our rate of children with a Child Protection Plan (CPP) at the end of 2025/26 was 43.3, a reduction on the previous year of 54.2 and within target. Our child protection population has safely and steadily reduced since 2022. This sits below statistical neighbours average at 57.3 and is closing in on the National average of 40.6.

2.3.4 Our rate of Children in Care (CiC) at the end of 2025/26 was 80.8 compared to 83.0 last year and is the lowest rate in Rotherham since 2016. This is below the statistical neighbour average of 100.7, but above the national average of 67.0. Children in care numbers continue to reduce through focussed work on rehabilitation and permanence, including Special Guardianship Orders. Rotherham continues to support the National Transfer Scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), set up by the government to ensure a more equitable distribution across local authorities, meeting the overall best interests of these vulnerable children. Our CiC data includes unaccompanied children (16/481), making the cohort slightly larger than it would otherwise be based on local children.

2.3.5 In 2025/26, 58.5% of contacts coming through the front door were identified as Social Care and 39.1% were identified as needing Family Help. This shows a slight increase into Early Help and reduction in those going to Social Care for a second year running. Accessing Early Help services means families can access the support earlier without the need to step up to Children's Social Care (CSC). Family Network Meetings (FNM) and the use of Family Group Conferences (FGC) support families to develop plans to support themselves without the need for CSC intervention.

2.3.6 Sometimes children will be re-referred into the service after a previous intervention. We received 19% of re-referrals for the year, within the target of 22% (lower is better), in line with statistical neighbours at 19.9% and below the national average of 22.4%.

2.3.7 Once a child has a referral to Social Care and an assessment is deemed necessary, the timeline set in the Working Together Guidance is 45 working days for completion. We have a target which aims for 90% of assessments to be completed within that timeframe. We have continued to meet this target, with 90.8% of all assessments complete within the year, within 45 working days. Again, this is good performance compared with statistical neighbours at 84.6% and the national average of 85.7%.

2.3.8 At the end of 2025/26, we had 1.6% of children on child protection plans lasting 2 or more years. This is below our target of 2.5% (lower is better).

2.3.9 In 2025/26, 96.8% of children on a Child Protection Plan (CPP) had their plan reviewed with timescale. This is a 1% improvement on last year but just misses our target of 97%. However, we remain above our statistical neighbour average of 92.1% and the national average of 90.6% evidencing that our performance is strong when comparing with other local authorities, whilst our high target keeps us focused on this area to aim to achieve more for Rotherham children.

2.3.10 Every looked after child must have a care plan. This is a detailed plan which covers how a child's current needs will be met and the arrangements for the child's care now and into the future. We review these plans regularly and have targets set to monitor compliance. At the end of 2025/26, 96.3% of children in care had their care plan reviewed in time. This is above target and an improvement on the previous 2 years.

2.3.11 Within our Leaving Care Service, 94.9% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation, just below target by 1%, but an improvement of 0.8% on last year. Whilst this is below target, it remains above national average of 89% and statistical neighbour average of 89.7%. The national top quartile is 93.1%. The highest reason for unsuitable accommodation is young people in custody.

2.4 Children’s Social Care - Summary of areas of continued focus against some key measures during 2025/26

2.4.1 From the beginning of a child’s journey within CSC, we track and measure the timeliness of the contact response. For those contacts going through to Social Care, 80.3% had a contact decision within 1 working day, a reduction on the 86.8% the previous year, and remains below our 88% target. Ongoing assurance work completed assures us that children are not adrift and that a high majority of contacts requiring an immediate safeguarding response are actioned in a timely manner.

2.4.2 When a child is subject to Section 47 (S47) investigation and they progress to an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC), we have a target to hold the ICPC within 15 days of the S47. In 2025/26, 83.4% of ICPCs were complete in time, an improvement on 80% last year, but below the target of 86%. The reasons for those out of the 15-day timescale vary, but we are aware of the reason for every case. Whilst we are below our local target, we are above both the national average of 81.4% and statistical neighbours at 78.7%. There continues to be a focus on timely requests for initial conferences, supported by enhanced senior management oversight with notifications to Service Directors and DCS for review where necessary.

2.4.3 Last year we reported an increasing trajectory of children on a CPP for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of their last plan. Whilst this had started to decrease in the last few months of 2024/25, we ended last year (31/03/2025) at 17.3%, remaining above our 8% target (lower is better). In response to the rising numbers, an audit was undertaken early in 2025 sampling 47 children (23 families). The findings from this audit resulted in several recommendations, which has informed training and development programs for professionals involved in child protection.

2.4.4 A further audit was undertaken in October 2025 to measure the impact of the initial work. This showed some positive improvements and provided additional recommendations and actions to strengthen this further. A practice learning day was delivered in March 2026 with a focus on reducing repeat plans, alongside the development of an action plan and a “7 Minute Briefing”. The outcome of all this work started to take effect in 2025/26, evidenced by reducing numbers, finishing the year (31/03/2026) at 12.2%. Recently shared national data (Q4 2025/26) shows that our current performance is now comparable to the latest national average of 13.3%.

2.4.5 At the end of March, 90.6% of children on a CPP had received a visit within the previous 2 weeks. This below our target of 95%. Performance in this area had dipped in Quarter 4 and has been addressed directly with social work teams. Weekly oversight by Service Managers and the Head of Service is in place to improve consistency and strengthen compliance with visiting requirements.

2.4.6 At the end of March, 97.3% of children in care had up to date visits completed within timescale. This is a slight increase on the previous year but just misses our target of 98%. As part of our annual measure review, the Performance Board agreed that this target should remain high at 98%, stressing the importance of visiting our children within timescales. We will continue to closely monitor this within teams.

2.4.7 Health and dental assessments continue to be an area of focus and is often discussed at both Performance Board and at the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board, attended by partners in Health. This is due to a lag in the data so often appears to be RAG rated as ‘red’ and under performing, but we know that there is a delay in the data coming through and being entered on to our case management system. We are pleased to report that at the end of March 2026, we now have 93.3 % of children in care recorded with an up-to-date health assessment, which is above the target of 92%. We have 88.2% of children with an up-to-date dental assessment now recorded, which remains below target and rated as ‘amber’. For comparison, the national average for Health Assessments is 90% with our statistical neighbours at 91.6%. For Dental Checks, the latest national average is 81% with our statistical neighbours at 82.5%. We are performing above all comparators for both health and dental checks for our children in care.

2.4.8 For dental assessments, this still remains below target across the year. This was raised at Performance Board in February 2026 and an action taken to dip sample the data for reasons behind this. The Service Manager did this work and presented it at Performance Board in March. The sampling revealed that 20 of the children had received their dental checks but these had not been updated on the system and 15 young people had refused their dental checks. We also know that a number of health and dental assessments have been delayed due to capacity in health services. This gave us some actions to take away, including instructions for workers needing to update the system, and has been taken to the Health and Wellbeing Group. We agreed at Performance Board that we would provide an update in 6-8 months' time to see how these actions have taken effect.

2.4.9 We have a target of placing 80% of children in care in family based settings. We remain below target in 2025/26 with 76.3% in family based settings. We continue working with in house fostering and external Independent Fostering Agencies to increase the number of children stepping down from residential placements to family based settings.

2.4.10 At the end of 2025/26, 58.5% of children in care for at least 2 years had remained in a stable placement, below the target of 68%+ (higher is better). 12.2% of children in care had 3 or more placement moves, above the target of 8% (lower is better). We reported last year that we had undertaken dip sampling following challenge at Performance Board. The most prevalent themes were difficulties associated with the child or young person's complex needs or challenging behaviours. The resilience of foster carers has also been problematic, and we have seen an increase in carers giving notice on children's placements. Another factor was the new processes in place that involves tracking children in Step Down Panel and 16+ Panel until they reach a destination which would be considered permanent. This has driven practice around children returning home and moving young people into independence and continued into 2025/26. This created a momentum of planned moves for children, which impacted the placement stability measure. However, this does mean that more children are in placements aligned with their assessed needs, which is positive for those children.

2.4.11 Further detail around placements was presented at Performance Board in February 2026 in response to the declining performance over the year and it was suggested that we undertake a Practice Learning Day for Placement Stability for further learning and awareness. We will also be doing further analysis to look at the number of placement moves that are planned positive moves.

2.4.12 For our children with a permanence plan of adoption, we measure the timeliness of their adoption process. The average number of days between a child coming in to care and being placed with their prospective adopters was 548.7 days, above the target of 365 (lower is better). The average number of days between a placement order being granted and the child being matched to an adoptive family was 260.4 days (lower is better), above the national target of 121 days. At the start of the year, we matched and placed a child with particularly complex needs with the search involving a sibling too. This inflated the average making it difficult to come back down as it is only a small cohort of children. Throughout the year, data has been reviewed jointly with the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) confirming that timeliness has been influenced by complexity of cases, including older children, sibling groups and delays in care proceedings.

2.4.13 For our older children leaving care or preparing to leave care, we initiate and maintain a Pathway Plan. At the end of 2025/26, 87.1% had an up to date Pathway Plan. At the end of 2025 we had some changes in the Leaving Care Management team, which impacted performance, but this is now improving and we will continue to monitor. The number of care leavers with up to date pathway plans increased in Q4 but remains below the target of 90%.

2.4.14 Within our Care Leavers cohort, 57.9% of young people were in employment, education, or training (EET) at the end of 2025/26, below the target of 66%. A third of these young people not in EET was due to illness or disability, or pregnancy or parenting. Whilst we are below our local target, we remain above the national average of 54% and statistical neighbour average of 50%. We are working with the virtual school and agencies to address the decline in the number of Care Leavers who are in EET. There is a joint focus group working to develop plans to support our children back into EET, with representation from children's social care, virtual school, early help, EHCP team, post 16 education provisions, care providers, and employment solutions.

2.5 **Education and Inclusion**

2.5.1 The year-to-date figures referenced in the March 2026 Members Scorecard include Term 1 and Term 2, as we are still in Term 3. We will report on the full academic year end data and attainment results in the Members Scorecard, during the Autumn Term.

2.5.2 Whilst education data is reported termly, we continue to check and challenge our education performance at the monthly CYPS performance board, working collaboratively with colleagues across the service to take a whole service approach on impact and outcomes.

2.5.3 **Summary of what was working well against some key measures during 2025/2026**

2.5.4 International research shows that children who spend longer in early years provision have better educational outcomes later. It also shows that high-quality early years provision particularly benefits children from low-income backgrounds. At the end of Term 2, 91.2% of eligible 2-year-olds were taking up an early education place in Rotherham, well above the 80% target. This is higher than statistical neighbours at 77.9% and the national average of 74.8%. A preferred education setting is important for both children and their families in their everyday lives. This year, 99.1% of primary children were allocated a place at one of their 3 preferences on National Offer Day, above the national average of 98.3%. For secondary pupils, 97.7% were allocated one of their 3 preferences, performing above the national average of 95.6%.

2.5.5 Attendance year to date remains stable when compared to the previous year, with 94.1% attendance in primary schools, similar to 94.3% in 2024/25; and 90.8% in secondary, similar to 90.5% in 2024/25.

2.5.6 For persistent absence, 15.4% of children in primary schools missed 10% or more sessions and 23.8% of children in secondary schools missed 10% or more sessions. This is a slight increase in primary compared to last year, but no change for secondary compared to last year.

2.5.7 Our Virtual School provides Personal Education Plans (PEP) for our children in Care. This is a statutory document that outlines a child's educational progress, needs, and aspirations, as well as the support they receive in their educational setting. It's a key part of a child's care plan and is used to ensure looked-after children receive appropriate educational support. The PEP is a living document that is reviewed termly, to ensure it remains relevant and effective. At the end of term 2, 96.1% of children in care had received an up-to-date Personal Education Plan in the term, consistently remaining above the 95% target throughout the year.

2.5.8 Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) primary transition reviews completed by the statutory deadline of 15th February 2026 reached 99.5% for a year running. Secondary transition reviews completed by the deadline of 31st March 2026 reached 90.3%. Both are well above the target of 70%.

2.5.9 **Summary of areas of continued focus against some key measures during 2025/2026**

2.5.10 Whilst overall attendance and persistent absence remain within tolerance levels, severe absence has become a concern following an increase in term 2 to 0.9% in primary. This is in line with the national average but is above our target of 0.8% (lower is better). Severe absence is children missing 50% or more sessions. For secondary schools, we are currently on target and slightly improved on last year. Severe absence is being addressed within service through several measures, including attendance mentors, joint work with ISOS, and analysis of part time timetable data.

2.5.11 The latest attainment data is the summer 2025 outturn.

2.5.12 64.9% of early years foundation stage pupils achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD). This is a 0.5% increase on the previous year but remains 3.4% lower than the National average.

2.5.13 77% of Year 1 passed the phonics screening check, 3% lower than the National average of 80%. This was a reduction of 1.5% in the previous year.

2.5.14 As part of the RISE programme (Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence) universal offer, Rotherham LA has been offered ten places on a fully funded DfE regional phonics project, delivered in partnership with Barnsley, Sheffield, and the English Hub. English Hubs offer a range of support and continuing professional development (CPD) to primary schools to improve the teaching of early reading, with a particular focus on systematic synthetic phonics, early language, and reading for pleasure. Barnsley have seen strong outcomes in Phonics and GLD and significant impact through partnership with Jerry Clay English Hub. The project aims to raise attainment, strengthen early reading through high quality training, targeted support, and collaboration across local authorities and the English Hubs.

2.5.15 Last year we reported that our schools were to focus on the writing curriculum in the same forensic way that they did the reading. RoSIS have provided CPD around early writing. We have seen some improvements this year with 60% of pupils achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing & Maths (RWM) in KS2, this is an increase of 1.4% on the previous year. We have improved on this measure for 3 consecutive years. However, we remain 3% lower than the national average.

2.5.16 6% of KS2 pupils achieved higher standard in reading, writing and maths combined. This is 1.1% higher than last year but 2% lower than the 8% national average.

2.5.17 38.4% of KS4 pupils achieved grade 5 or above in English and Maths. This is similar to last year at 38.5% and remains below the national average of 45.2%. We are following a subtle but downward trend.

2.5.18 The average attainment 8 score also declined this year from 42.10 to 41.80. Again, this is below the national average of 45.9.

2.5.19 Numbers of Elective Home Educated (EHE) children continue to rise with 901 at the end of term 2 compared to 747 at the end of term 2 last year, creating pressure within service and continuing an upward trend. Work with our schools regarding inclusion and belonging should support locally but whilst ever policy enables parents to remove children from school so freely this area of work is envisaged to grow further.

2.5.20 The growing numbers of children with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) continues, with 4122 at the end of March 2026, compared to 3721 at the same time last year. This increases every year. We have a timeliness measure for the number of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks. In January 2026, performance dropped below the target of 58% for the first time in the last 2 years. This was discussed at Performance Board in February and brought back in March as an area of focus. The key findings presented informed that the service is simultaneously managing overdue cases (in part resulting from staff absence in the first 3 months of term), with a high wave of new Requests to Assess in early 2026, alongside reduced timeliness from the Educational Psychology Service (EPS), with some cases being of high complexity. Timeliness from Health, CAMHS, and Social Care all remained good and not contributing factors.

2.5.21 Due to a number of cases entering the early stages simultaneously, they will all reach advice deadlines in April/May and require drafting in June/July. We therefore know that they system will experience rolling pressure for at least the next few months.

2.5.22 In terms of mitigation, we have sought approval for three temporary coordinators to support with the backlog, however, this will take time to fulfil. The EPS have agreed to implement virtual assessments and have confirmed increased capacity from September 2026. Within the service, we have increased tracking and performance monitoring to ensure those that can be completed are done so without delay.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Members to consider and accept the CYPS Performance Scorecard for March 2026 (Out-turn 2025/26) as attached – Appendix 1

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 N/A

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 N/A

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications with this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications with this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no human resource implications with this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Performance and Quality assurance is a key element of the work of Children and Young Peoples services to ensure that outcomes are improved for Rotherham children and their families and that they are resilient, successful, and safe.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no Equalities and Human Rights implications with this report

11. Implications for CO_2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no CO2, Emissions or Climate Change implications with this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Partners and other directorates are engaged in improving the performance and quality of services for children, young people, and their families, including via the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP), the CYPS Performance Board, the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board, the Early Help Steering Group and the SEND Strategic Partnership Board. All boards receive performance reports on a regular basis.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Inability and lack of engagement in performance management arrangements by managers and staff could lead to poor and deteriorating services for children and young people. Strong management oversight by the Directorship Leadership Team and the continued development of the Performance Management Framework mitigates this risk by holding managers and workers to account for any decline in performance both at a team and at an individual child level.

Accountable Officer(s)
Kelly White, Service Director Family Help
Stuart Williams, Service Director, Children's Social Care
Niall Devlin, Service Director, Education & Inclusion
Helen Sweaton, Joint Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	**Date**
The Executive Director with responsibility for this report	Nicola Curley, Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services	28/07/26
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Councillor Cusworth	26/08/26

This report is published on the Council's website.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Children's and Young People Services

Members Performance Report

As at month end : March 2026 (Quarter 4 - 2025/26)

Document details
Status: Issue 1
Date created: 05/05/26 **Created by:** Performance & Quality Team **Contact:** cyps-performance@rotherham.gov.uk

Please note: *Data reports are not dynamic. Although care is taken to ensure data is as accurate as possible every month, delays in data input can result in changes in figures when reports are re-run retrospectively. To combat this at least two individual months data is rerun for each indicator where necessary.*

Our Vision

"Working with Rotherham's children, young people and families to be resilient, successful and safe"

CYPS Benchmark Indicators

*DOT - Direction of travel represents the direction of 'performance' since the previous month showing if the number or percentage has gone up or down. Colours have been added to help distinguish better and worse performance with the exceptions of measures that are for information only. Key Below;-

↑↓ - increase/decrease in number/percentage = improvement in performance

↑↓ - increase/decrease in number/percentage = decline in performance

→ - number/percentage remained same as previous month

*REF NO.	INDICATOR	Year Ahead Delivery Plan	TIMELINE	DATA NOTE	2025/26														TARGET & TOLERANCES			YR ON YR PERFORMANCE			LATEST BENCHMARKING 2024/25				
					Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26 (Q4)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2025/26 YEAR TO DATE		Good perf is	DOT (Month)	RAG (Month)	DOT (Yr on Yr)	RAG (Yr End)	Red	Amber	Green (target)	2023/24	2024/25	Yr on Yr trend	Stat neigh av.	Best stat neigh	Nat av.	Top qtile threshold	Yorkshire and Humber
B.1 (SC)	% of assessments for children's social care completed in 45 working days of referral		monthly	%	92.9%	92.8%	93.6%	91.3%	90.8%	87.8%	93.1%	90.8%		high	↑		↓		<82%	82%+	90%+	88.2%	92.5%		84.6%	89.2%	85.7%	91.5%	83.6%
B.2 (SC)	Rate of S47's per 10,000 population aged 0-17 - rolling 12 month performance		monthly	Rate per 10,000	212.0	213.0	217.2	213.0	214.2	214.0	217.2	217.2		low	↑		↓		227.1+	-	<227.1	194.8	221.2		247.3	121.4	189.3	-	216.8
B.3 (SC)	No. of children in need (CIN) per 10K population. (DfE definition)	SC6	monthly	Rate per 10,000	317.0	311.8	320.1	310.6	306.4	321.4	320.1	320.1		low	↑		↑		375.5+	-	<375.5	316.8	310.7		406.4	298.6	330.3	-	341.3
B.4 (SC)	% of initial child protection conference (ICPCs) completed within 15 days of S47		monthly	%	67.6%	93.9%	84.4%	90.9%	77.6%	86.2%	81.8%	83.4%		high	↓		↑		<78%	78%+	86%+	84.8%	80.0%		78.7%	95.2%	81.4%	89.0%	80.3%
B.5 (SC)	Rate of children with a child protection plan per 10,000 population aged 0-17	SC7	monthly	Rate per 10,000	43.0	42.3	43.3	44.9	40.2	43.9	43.3	43.3		low	↑		↓		55+	-	<55	45.6	54.2		57.3	33.3	40.6		48.5
B.6 (SC)	% of open child protection plans lasting 2 years or more		monthly	%	0.0%	0.4%	1.6%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	1.6%	1.6%		low	↑		↑		3.5%+	2.5%+	<2.5%	4.6%	0.6%		0.6%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	1.9%
B.7 (SC)	% of child protection cases which were reviewed within timescales		monthly	%	88.9%	98.5%	100.0%	96.7%	94.9%	100.0%	95.2%	96.8%		high	↑		↑		<89%	89%+	97%+	95.7%	95.8%		92.1%	100.0%	90.6%	97.0%	92.8%
B.8 (SC)	Rate of children in care per 10,000 population aged 0-17	SC8	monthly	Rate per 10,000	78.6	79.3	80.8	76.1	77.8	78.6	80.8	80.8		low	↑		↓		90.0+	-	<90.0	88.4	83.0		100.7	71.0	67.0	-	77.0
B.9 (SC)	% of long term children in care in placements which have been stable for at least 2 years		monthly	%	57.8%	58.4%	58.5%	60.7%	59.3%	58.8%	58.5%	58.5%		high	↑		↓		<60%	60%+	68%+	65.1%	62.1%		66.6%	73.0%	69.0%	72.1%	69.0%
B.10 (SC)	% of children in care who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 months		monthly	%	13.5%	12.6%	12.2%	14.0%	14.7%	14.1%	12.2%	12.2%		low	↓		↓		18%+	10%+	<10%	7.4%	12.7%		9.5%	6.0%	10.0%	8.0%	11.0%
B.11 (SC)	Av. days between a child becoming looked after and having an adoption placement (A10)		monthly	YTD Average	440.1	508.0	548.7	560.8	501.1	454.0	548.7	548.7		low	↑		↑		365+	-	<365	387.2	345.1						
B.12 (SC)	Av. days between a placement order and being matched with an adoptive family (A2)		monthly	YTD Average	202.7	229.8	260.4	244.8	234.1	211.3	260.4	260.4		low	↑		↑		121+	-	<121	182.6	107.4						
B.13 (SC)	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation		monthly	%	95.6%	95.0%	94.9%	95.9%	97.4%	96.3%	94.9%	94.9%		high	↓		↑		<88%	88%+	96%+	96.3%	94.1%		89.7%	93.0%	89.0%	93.1%	90.0%
B.14 (SC)	% of care leavers in employment, education or training		monthly	%	59.6%	58.9%	57.9%	62.5%	65.3%	60.6%	57.9%	57.9%		high	↓		↓		<58%	58%+	66%+	66.4%	63.3%		50.0%	64.0%	54.0%	60.1%	50.0%
B.15 (SC)	% of agency staff in social care		monthly	%	1.4%	1.4%	1.8%	1.7%	1.9%	0.9%	1.8%	1.8%		low	↑		↓		10%+		<10%	6.6%	3.3%						
B.16 (EH)	Young people aged 16-17 (academic age) whose current activity is 'not known'		annual	%	0.5%		-	-	-	-	-	0.5%		low	n/a		↑		1.5%>		<1.5%	0.6%	0.4%		2.3% (21/22)	0.0% (21/22)	2.2% (21/22)		
			monthly	%	0.5%	0.5%	1.0%	0.3%	-	0.5%	1.0%	1.0%		low	↑		↑					0.7%	0.3%						
B.17 (EH)	Young people aged 16-17 (academic age) who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)		annual	%	4.9%		-	-	-	-	-	4.9%		low	n/a		↑		4.5%>		<4.5%	4.3%	4.4%		3.5% (21/22)	2.0% (21/22)	2.6% (21/22)		
			monthly	%	5.0%	4.6%	5.8%	4.7%	-	5.3%	5.8%	5.8%		low	↑		↑					4.8%	3.9%						
B.18 (EH)	Young people aged 16-17 (academic age) who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or 'not known' combined		annual	%	5.5%		-	-	-	-	-	5.5%		low	n/a		↑		6.0%>		<6.0%	5.0%	4.7%		5.8% (21/22)	4.2% (20/21)	4.7% (21/22)		
			monthly	%	5.4%	5.1%	6.7%	4.9%	-	5.7%	6.7%	6.7%		low	↑		↑					0	4.2%						
B.19 (EH)	No. of young people first time entrants (FTE) into the criminal justice system		quarterly	Rate per 10,000	-	-	184 Jan 25-Dec 25	200 Apr24-Mar25	200 Jul24 -Jun25	180 Oct24-Sep25	184 Jan 25-Dec 25	184 Jan 25-Dec 25		low	↑		↑				Lower than same qtr previous year & comparable with national trends	186 Jan 23-Dec 23	171 Jan24 - Dec24		149 Oct24 -Sep25	68 Oct24 -Sep25	152 Jan25-Dec25		
B.20 (EH)	Use of Custody		quarterly	Rate per 10,000	-	-	0.04 Jan 25-Dec 25	0.00 Apr24-Mar25	0.00 Jul24-Jun25	0.04 Oct24-Sep25	0.04 Jan 25-Dec 25	0.04 Jan 25-Dec 25		low	→		→					0.08 Jan 23-Dec 23	0.04 Jan24-Dec24		0.06 Jan5-Dec25	0.00 Jan25-Dec25	0.09 OJan25-Dec25		
B.21 (EH)	Rate of re-offending by young offenders (re-offending rates after 12 months aggregated qtly cohort)		quarterly	Binary rate	-	-	22.4 Apr23-Mar24	17.6 Jul22-Jun23	17.6 Oct22-Sep23	20.8 Jan23-Dec23	22.4 Apr23-Mar24	22.4 Apr23-Mar24		low	↑		↑					16.1 Apr 21-Mar 22	13.2 Apr22-Mar23		33.5 Apr23-Mar24	21.9 Apr23-Mar24	31.7 Apr23-Mar24		
B.22 (EH)	Re-offences by re-offenders (re-offending rates after 12 months aggregated qtly cohort)		quarterly	Frequency rate	-	-	4.09 Apr23-Mar24	3.44 Jul22-Jun23	3.44 Oct22-Sep23	4.09 Jan23-Dec23	4.09 Apr23-Mar24	4.09 Apr23-Mar 24		low	↓		↓					2.00 Apr 21-Mar 22	2.86 Apr22-Mar23		1.78 Apr23-Mar24	0.78 Apr23-Mar24	4.47 Apr23-Mar24		

* Reference Number - The letters within the brackets identifies which service within the CYPS Directorate the indicator relates to.

KEY:

(SC) - Social Care Service

(EH) - Early Help Services

CYPS Activity Indicators

As at month end : March 2026 (Quarter 4 - 2025/26)

*DOT - Direction of travel represents the direction of 'performance' since the previous month showing if the number or percentage has gone up or down. Colours have been added to help distinguish better and worse performance with the exceptions of measures that are for information only.

Key:
- ↑↓ (green) - increase/decrease in number/percentage = improvement in performance
- ↑↓ (red) - increase/decrease in number/percentage = decline in performance
- → (amber) - number/percentage remained same as previous month

*REF NO.	INDICATOR	Year Ahead Delivery Plan	TIMELINE	DATA NOTE	2025/26 Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar 26 (Q4)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2025/26 YEAR TO DATE		Good perf is	DOT (Month)	RAG (Month)	DOT (Yr on Yr)	RAG (Yr End)	TARGET & TOLERANCES Red	Amber	Green (target)	YR ON YR PERFORMANCE 2023/24	2024/25	Yr on Yr trend	LATEST BENCHMARKING 2024/25 Stat neigh av.	Best stat neigh	Nat av.	Top qtile threshold	Yorkshire and Humber
A.1 (SC)	No. of all contacts (children) received		monthly	Count	1629	1365	1590	4191	4303	4126	4584	17204		info	↑		↑					18371	16971						
A.2 (SC)	No. of all contacts (children) identified as social care (inc. harm, not sure, info only & view files)		monthly	Count	953	790	803	2193	2732	2589	2546	10060		info	↑		↓					11962	10518						
	No. of all contacts (families) identified as social care		monthly	Count	543	446	442	1209	1489	1420	1431	5549		info	↓		↓					6329	5573						
	% of all contacts identified as social care		monthly	%	58.5%	57.9%	50.5%	52.3%	63.5%	62.7%	55.5%	58.5%		info	↓		↓					65.1%	62.0%						
A.3 (SC)	No. of all contacts (children) identified as early help (inc. help, step down/co-working, EHA partner)		monthly	Count	636	543	747	1894	1458	1446	1926	6724		info	↑		↑					6216	6128						
	No. of all contacts (families) identified as early help		monthly	Count	313	267	401	956	765	732	981	3434		info	↑		↑					3044	3067						
	% of all contacts identified as early help		monthly	%	39.0%	39.8%	47.0%	45.2%	33.9%	35.0%	42.0%	39.1%		info	↑		↑					33.8%	36.1%						
A.4 (SC)	No. of contacts (children) with decision within 1 working day (social care target)		monthly	Count	504	439	446	1204	1746	1532	1389	5871		high	↑		↓					5264	6498						
	% of contacts with decision within 1 working day (social care target)		monthly	%	77.1%	79.4%	86.3%	78.1%	82.6%	80.0%	80.6%	80.3%		high	↑		↓		<82%	82%+	88%+	69.3%	86.8%						
A.5 (SC)	% of re-referral in 12 months - in current month	SC12	monthly	%	26.0%	18.7%	15.7%	19.0%	19.1%	18.5%	19.6%	19.0%		low	↓		↑		30%+	22%+	<22%	17.3%	17.3%		19.9%	14.9%	22.4%	-	-
A.6 (SC)	No. of children currently supported by the Evolve service at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE)	SC10	monthly	Count	23	24	19	14	16	23	19	19		info	↓		↑					23	15						
A.7 (SC)	No. of children currently supported by the Evolve service at risk of child criminal exploitation (CCE)	SC11	monthly	Count	54	55	51	47	46	57	51	51		info	↓		↑					59	44						
A.8 (SC)	No. of open children in need (CIN) cases		monthly	Count	909	878	913	885	887	938	913	913		info	↑		↑					846	774						
A.9 (SC)	No. of children with a child protection (CP) plan		monthly	Count	256	252	258	267	239	261	258	258		info	↑		↓					261	315						
A.10 (SC)	% of child protection plans (CPP) with visits in the last 2 weeks		monthly	%	95.5%	96.4%	90.6%	98.1%	95.8%	93.1%	90.6%	90.6%		high	↓		↓		<87%	87%+	95%+	91.8%	90.8%						
A.11 (SC)	% of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan (CPP) for a second or subsequent time within 2 years - rolling 12 months		monthly	%	12.5%	13.4%	12.2%	18.8%	14.7%	14.7%	12.2%	12.2%		low	↓		↓		16%+	8%+	<8%	12.5%	17.3%						
A.12 (SC)	No. of children in care		monthly	Count	468	472	481	453	463	468	481	481		info	↑		↓					502	482						
A.13 (SC)	% of children in care visits up to date & completed within timescale of national minimum standard		monthly	%	94.2%	96.8%	97.3%	97.4%	98.5%	97.7%	97.3%	97.3%		high	↑		↑		<90%	90%+	98%+	97.6%	96.5%						
A.14 (SC)	% of children in care care plans reviewed within timescales		monthly	%	96.0%	94.4%	97.0%	96.0%	96.9%	96.6%	95.9%	96.3%		high	↑		↑		<87%	87%+	95%+	89.2%	95.8%						
A.15 (SC)	% of children in care having an initial health assessment within timescale		monthly	%	0.0%	7.7%	41.7%	84.2%	55.2%	17.2%	25.6%	40.6%		high	↑		↓					63.1%	65.5%						
A.16 (SC)	% of children in care with an up to date health assessments		monthly	%	92.0%	89.2%	85.5%	91.1%	92.8%	94.2%	85.5%	85.5%		high	↓		↓		<84%	84%+	92%+	83.7%	91.7%		91.6%	98.0%	90.0%	96.1%	92.0%
A.17 (SC)	% of children in care with an up to date dental assessments		monthly	%	84.6%	80.2%	79.2%	90.9%	86.7%	87.4%	79.2%	79.2%		high	↓		↓		<84%	84%+	92%+	61.8%	90.3%		82.5%	95.0%	81.0%	90.0%	83.0%
A.18 (SC)	% of children in care in a family based setting		monthly	%	75.0%	74.4%	76.3%	78.1%	75.4%	76.5%	76.3%	76.3%		high	↑		↓		<72%	72%+	80%+	75.3%	77.6%						
A.19 (SC)	No. of care leavers		monthly	Count	344	341	324	346	345	349	324	342		info	↓		↓					348	357						
A.20 (SC)	% of eligible children in care & Care Leavers with an up to date pathway plan		monthly	%	88.9%	87.1%	87.1%	93.6%	86.0%	85.3%	87.1%	87.1%		high	→		↑		<82%	82%+	90%+	80.5%	84.6%						
A.21 (SC)	Av. caseload of social workers in key safeguarding teams (exc. Children's Disability Team)		monthly	Average count	18.0	17.6	17.8	18.7	18	20	18	17.8		low	↑		↓		23+	19+	<19	19.4	18.7						

*REF NO.	INDICATOR		Year Ahead Delivery Plan	TIMELINE	DATA NOTE	2025/26 Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar 26 (Q4)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2025/26 YEAR TO DATE	Good perf is	DOT (Month)	RAG (Month)	DOT (Yr on Yr)	RAG (Yr End)	TARGET & TOLERANCES Red	Amber	Green (target)	YR ON YR PERFORMANCE 2023/24	2024/25	Yr on Yr trend	LATEST BENCHMARKING 2024/25 Stat neigh av.	Best stat neigh	Nat av.	Top qtile threshold	Yorkshire and Humber
A.22 (EH)	Early Help families where engagement target of 3 days was met			monthly	Count	99	96	126	315	283	258	321	1177	info	↑		↑					637	817						
					%	93.4%	94.1%	95.5%	91.8%	93.4%	90.8%	94.4%	92.7%	high	↑		↑		<70%	75%+	80%>	91.3%	91.4%						
A.23 (EH)	FANs completed within 45 working days. (FAN complete in 48 days from triage decision date (3 days IC plus 45 days for FAN)) (exc. Step down cases)			monthly	Count	74	50	91	187	274	169	215	845	info	↑		↑					797	605						
					%	94.9%	84.7%	94.8%	95.4%	93.8%	84.5%	92.3%	90.5%	high	↑		↓		<75%	75%+	85%>	90.2%	92.6%						
A.24 (EH)	FANs completed by partners			monthly	Count	36	25	33	114	75	97	94	380	info	↑		↓					402	413						
					%	33.3%	22.7%	25.2%	34.5%	19.0%	25.8%	26.9%	26.2%	high	↑		↓					27.5%	32.8%						
A.25 (EH)	No. of early help step ups to social care	Families		monthly	Count	8	16	25	59	48	66	49	222	info	↑		↓					275	239						
		Children			Count	13	35	49	100	93	145	97	435	info	↑		↓					594	488						
A.26 (EH)	% of children aged 0-5 living in the 30% most deprived SOA's in Rotherham who are registered with a Children's Centre			monthly	Count	8905	9153	9252	7316	7906	8607	9252	9252	info	↑		↑						7974	New measure 2024/25					
					%	91.6%	94.2%	95.2%	88.9%	87.0%	89.8%	95.2%	95.2%	high	↑		↓		<95.0%		95%>	94.5%	98.0%						
A.27 (EH)	% of children aged 0-5 living in the 30% most deprived SOA's in Rotherham who have accessed Children's Centre activities			monthly	Count	7526	7720	7893	4501	5939	7037	7893	7893	info	↑		↑						6743	New measure 2024/25					
					%	77.4%	79.4%	81.2%	54.7%	65.3%	73.4%	81.2%	81.2%	high	↑		↓				44%>	80.6%	82.9%						
A.28 (INC)	No. of children with an Education Health & Care plan			Monthly	Count	4063	4084	4122	3841	3965	4049	4122	4122	info	↑		↑					3360	3721						
A.29 (INC)	No. of Education Health & Care plans issued in 20 weeks (YTD and year on year figure is January 1st to December 31st in line with DfE reporting)			Monthly	Count	20	10	24	116	157	112	54	54	high	↑		↑					380	109						
					%	54.1%	37.0%	42.1%	81.1%	78.5%	69.6%	42.1%	44.6%	high	↑		↑		<47%	47%+	58%+	59.8%	85.8%						
A.30 (INC)	No. of Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) PRIMARY transition reviews completed by the Stat Deadline (15th Feb)	Number due		Annually	Count	-	213	-	-	-	-	213	213	high	n/a		↑						207	New measure 2024/25					
		Number Finalised		Annually	Count	-	212	-	-	-	-	212	212	high	n/a		↑					158	206						
		% on time at Stat Deadline		Annually	%	-	99.5%	-	-	-	-	99.5%	99.5%	high	n/a		→		<50%	50-70%	70%	95.8%	99.5%						
		Number Outstanding Cases after Stat Deadline		Monthly after Stat Deadline	Count	-	1	1	1	0	-	1	1	low	n/a		→					4	1						
A.31 (INC)	No. of Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) SECONDARY transition reviews completed by the Stat Deadline (31st March)	Number due		Annually	Count	-	-	278	-	-	-	278	278	high	n/a		↓					235	314						
		Number Finalised		Annually	Count	-	-	251	-	-	-	251	251	high	n/a		↓					186	294						
		% on time at Stat Deadline		Annually	%	-	-	90.3%	-	-	-	90.3%	90.3%	high	n/a		↓		<50%	50-70%	70%	79.1%	93.6%						
		Number Outstanding Cases after Stat Deadline		Monthly after Stat Deadline	Count	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	low	n/a		↓					49	20						
A.32 (INC)	No. of Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP) tribunal cases open at the end of the month			Monthly	Count	37	37	31	41	41	33	31	31	info	↓		↓					24	34						

* Reference Number - The letters within the brackets identifies which service within the CYPS Directorate the indicator relates to.

KEY:
(SC) - Social Care Service
(EH) - Early Help Services
(INC) - Inclusion Services

CYPS Education Indicators

As at month end : March 2026 (Quarter 4 - 2025/26)

*DOT - Direction of travel represents the direction of 'performance' since the previous month showing if the number or percentage has gone up or down. Colours have been added to help distinguish better and worse performance with the exceptions of measures that are for information only.

Key:
- ↑↓ (green) - increase/decrease in number/percentage = improvement in performance
- ↑↓ (red) - increase/decrease in number/percentage = decline in performance
- → (amber) - number/percentage remained same as previous month

*REF NO.	INDICATOR		Council Plan Measures	TIMELINE	DATA NOTE	2024/25	2025/26						TARGET & TOLERANCES			YR ON YR PERFORMANCE		LATEST BENCHMARKING				
						Term 3	Term 1	Term 2	2025/26 YEAR TO DATE	Good perf is	DOT* (term)	RAG	Red	Amber	Green (target)	2024/25	Yr on Yr trend	Stat neigh av.	Best stat neigh	Nat av.	Top qtile threshold	Yorkshire & Humber
ED.1 (B)	% of all eligible 2 year olds (FRAS) taking up an early education place in Rotherham		CH08	Termly	%	86.2%	93.3%	91.2%	91.2%	high	↓		<75%	75%+	80%+	86.2%		77.9%	87.5%	74.8%	83.3%	75.8%
ED.2 (B)	% of primary children who were allocated a place at one of their 3 preferences on National Offer Day			Annual	%	99.1%	-	-	-	high	↓		<98%		98%+	99.1%		98.5%	99.6%	98.3%		98.6%
ED.3 (B)	% of secondary children who were allocated a place at one of their 3 preferences on National Offer Day			Annual	%	-	-	97.7%	97.7%	high	↑		<94%		94%+	97.1%		96.0%	98.8%	95.6%		94.1%
ED.4 (B)	% of overall attendance (Statutory school aged children)	Primary		Termly	%	93.7%	93.9%	94.4%	94.1%	high	↑		<94.3%		94.3%+	94.3%		94.3%	94.9%	94.5%		94.3%
		Secondary		Termly	%	89.3%	91.0%	90.5%	90.8%	high	↓		<90.3%		90.3%+	90.5%		90.3%	91.6%	91.1%		90.3%
ED.5 (B)	% of persistent absence - 10% or more sessions missed (Statutory school aged children)	Primary		Termly (cumulative)	%	17.9%	17.8%	15.2%	15.4%	low	↓		15.4%+		<15.4%	14.7%		15.4%	13.0%	14.6%		15.7%
		Secondary		Termly (cumulative)	%	24.9%	23.1%	23.4%	23.8%	low	↑		28.3%+		<28.3%	23.8%		28.3%	25.0%	25.6%		28.0%
ED.6 (B)	% of severe absence - 50% or more sessions missed (Statutory school aged children)	Primary		Termly (cumulative)	%	0.8%	0.7%	0.9%	0.8%	low	↑		0.8%+		<0.8%	0.7%	New measure 2024/25	0.8%	0.5%	0.9%		0.9%
		Secondary		Termly (cumulative)	%	3.4%	3.1%	3.6%	3.6%	low	↑		4.8%+		<4.8%	3.7%	New measure 2024/25	4.8%	4.0%	3.8%		4.7%
ED.7 (B)	% of early years foundation stage (EYFS) pupils achieving a good level of development (GLD)			Annual	%	64.9%	-	-	-	high	↑				68.0%	64.9%		66.4%	69.6%	68.3%	70.7%	66.2%
ED.8 (B)	% of pupils passing the phonics screening check in year 1			Annual	%	77% (provisional)	-	-	-	high	↓				79.2%	77.0%		79.2%	85.0%	80.0%	82.1%	80.0%
ED.9 (B)	% of key stage 2 (KS2) pupils achieving expected standard (EXS+) in reading, writing and maths combined		OLD	Annual	%	60.0%	-	-	-	high	↑				61.7%	60.0%		63.2%	66.0%	63.0%	66.1%	61.0%
ED.10 (B)	% of key stage 2 (KS2) pupils achieving higher standard (HS) in reading, writing and maths (R,W&M) combined			Annual	%	6.0%	-	-	-	high	↑				7.7%	6.0%		7.8%	11.0%	8.0%	11.1%	7.0%
ED.11 (B)	% of key stage 4 (KS4) pupils achieving grade 5 or above in English and maths			Annual	%	38.7%	-	-	-	high	↑				43.0%	38.4%		43.0%	49.6%	45.2%	48.8%	43.3%
ED.12 (B)	Average attainment 8 score (attainment at Y11)		OLD	Annual	Av.	41.80	-	-	-	high	↓				44.20	41.80		44.2	46.9	45.9	48.0	44.3
ED.13 (A)	No. of suspensions during the term	Primary		Termly	Count	193	243	205	448	low	↓					602						
		Secondary		Termly	Count	1976	2248	1883	4131	low	↓					6373						
ED.14 (A)	No. of permanent exclusions during the term (excluding rescinded and withdrawn)	Primary	OLD	Termly	Count	2	5	3	8	low	↓					6	Change in reporting 2024/25					
		Secondary	OLD	Termly	Count	23	24	25	49	low	↑					78	Change in reporting 2024/25					
ED.15 (A)	No. of elective home educated (EHE) children at period end			Termly	Count	695	794	901	901	low	↑					695						
	% of children in care (CiC) with an up-to-date Personal Education Plan (PEP) in term	Reception > Y11		Termly	%	98.7%	99.3%	96.1%	96.1%	high	↓		<90%	90%+	95%+	98.7%						

* Reference Number - The letters within the brackets identifies which type of indicator it is.

KEY:
(B) - Benchmark indicator
(A) - Activity indicator

A-Z Glossary

Term	Definition
Academic year	The academic year runs from September to July over 3 terms (Autumn, Spring & Summer).
Adoptions	Following a child becoming looked after, it may be deemed suitable for a child to become adopted which is a legal process of becoming a non-biological parent. The date this is agreed to be in the best interests of the child is known as their 'SHOBPA'. Following this a family finding process is undertaken to find a suitable match based on the child's needs, followed by placement with their adopter(s). Placement are monitored and assessed before the final adoption order is granted
Assessment	If a child meets the Children's Act definition of 'Child in Need' or is likely to be at risk of significant harm, authorisation will be given for an assessment of needs to be started to determine which services to provide and what action to take. National Working Together guidelines state that the maximum timeframe for the assessment to be completed is 45 working days from the point of referral.
Benchmarking	Comparing ourselves to others to help evaluate performance, efficiency of processes and value for money. It is always important in any comparison work that we consider whether the context of that authority or group (see statistical neighbours/comparators).
Care Leavers	A care leaver is, a person 25yrs or under; has been looked after by a LA for 13wks+ since 14yrs; and has been looked after by a LA at school-leaving age or after.
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation
Child Protection (CP) Visits	Local standards state that any child subject to a child protection plan should be visited at least every two weeks (exc. children on a CPP for less than a week).
Child Protection Conferences (initial & review conferences)	Following a S47 investigation a child protection conference may be convened to consider all the information obtained under the Section 47 enquiry and to determine the best course of action.
Child Protection Plan (CPP)	Following a child protection conference where information is considered the best course of action is agreed leading to a child protection plan. The aim of a child protection plan is to ensure the child is safe from harm and remains that way. As long as it is in the best interests of the child, this will involve offering support and services to the family. Child protection plans remain in force until the child is no longer considered at risk, moves out of the local authority area (in which case the receiving authority should convene its own child protection conference) or reaches the age of 18.
Children in Need (CiN)	If a child is found to be disabled or the assessment finds that their health and development is likely to suffer without local authority intervention, the child will be classed as 'in need', as defined by Section 17 of the Children Act 1989. This means that the local authority is now legally obliged to provide the necessary services and support
Children missing from education (CME)	A child missing from education is a child of compulsory school age who is not on a school roll, and is not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school.
Contact	A contact is where an LA receives a contact about a child, and where there is a request for general advice, information or a social care service.
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
Custody	In the law, custody is used in criminal and family law. In criminal law, a person is in custody when–after being arrested or convicted of a crime–they are held in jail or prison. Such persons are under state control until they are acquitted of their alleged crime or the conclusion of their prison sentence
Dental assessment	A dental assessment will be requested by the Social Worker every six months for children under 5 years old and annually for those over 5 and up to 18 years.
DfE	The Department for Education is responsible for education and children's services in England.
Direction of Travel (DOT)	Has performance improved or declined? Remembering that 'high' figures are not always related to better performance. So on occasion direction of travel can be positive when the data has decreased.
Edge of care	The aim of the service is to support children to continue to live at home and prevent family breakdown. It is a resource for families where practitioners have significant concerns that a child or young person is on the edge of care - and may need to become looked after
Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	An EHCP involves parents, carers, young people and children in decisions about what support a child or young person needs, now and in the future. It's prepared in partnership with professionals working across education, health and social care specialist services.
Education, employment or training (EET)	This indicator presents the share of young people who <u>are</u> in employment, education or training (NEET), as a percentage of the total number of young people.
Elective Home Educated (EHE)	Elective home education is a term used to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home or in some other way they desire, instead of sending them to school full-time.
Episode	An episode is the timeframe of a family working with Early Help.
First time entrant (FTE)	First time entrants (FTE) into the Criminal Justice System A FTE is an offender who has. received their first reprimand, warning, caution or conviction for an offence processed by a police force in England or Wales or by the British Transport Police.
Health assessment	Following an initial health assessment when entering care a review health assessments (RHA) will be requested by the Social Worker every six months for children under 5 years old and annually for those over 5 and up to 18 years.
Indicators	A measure which helps quantify the achievement of a desired outcome.
Initial health assessment	Initial Health Assessment identifies existing health problems and deficits in previous healthcare and provides a baseline for managing the child's future health needs. The forms must be raised as soon as the. child becomes Looked After to ensure that Statutory Guidance is met
Local Standards	These are agreed within local policy and outline our expectations of service for our customers. These should, match or preferably be higher than the minimum outlined in National Standards (where applicable).
Children in Care (CiC)	Children in care are children who have become the responsibility of the local authority either voluntarily by parents struggling to cope or through an intervention by children's services because a child is at risk of significant harm. CiC review meetings are convened to consider the plan for the welfare of CiC and how to achieve permanence for them within a timescale that meets their needs. The LA is responsible for visiting CiC wherever they are living to ensure his/her welfare continues to be safeguarded and promoted and the LA should ensure that every CiChas his/her health needs fully assessed and a health plan clearly set out
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	MASH provides triage and multi-agency assessment of safeguarding concerns - in respect of vulnerable children and adults. It brings together professionals from a range of agencies into an integrated multi-agency team.
Measures	Performance measures are how well a particular service or system is working as opposed to the impact on whole populations – 'Management Information'.
National offer day	There are 2 National offer days each year, one for Primary school and one for Secondary School. These are the dates that the Primary/Secondary school allocations are communicated to parents. Parents will find out if they have secured a place at their chosen school for their children, or if they have one of their other preferred choices
National Standards	The minimum level of service we are required to delivery based on government guidelines. Where these are not applicable local standards should be set.
Not in education, employment or training (NEET)	This indicator presents the share of young people who <u>are not</u> in employment, education or training (NEET), as a percentage of the total number of young people.

Term	Definition
Ofsted	Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. They inspect and regulate services that care for children and young people, and services providing education and skills for learners of all ages.
Outcomes	A statement of well-being for our local people. Whether it be children, adults, families or communities.
Permanent Exclusions	Permanent exclusion is the most serious sanction a school can give if a child does something that is against the school's behaviour policy (the school rules). It means that the child is no longer allowed to attend the school and their name will be removed from the school roll
Persistent absence	Persistent absence is when a pupil enrolment's overall absence equates to 10 per cent or more of their possible sessions.
Personal education plan (PEP)	A PEP is a statutory requirement for all looked after children to ensure that a record is maintained regarding the child's educational progress and thus it forms an integral part of the child's overall care plan.
Placements	A CiC placement is where a child has become the responsibility of the local authority (CiC) and is placed with foster carers, in residential homes or with parents or other relatives. A foster care family provide the best form of care for most looked after children. Rotherham would like most of its children to belooked after by its own carers so that they remain part of their families and community.
Quarter/Quarterly	Formal performance reporting follows a three monthly (quarterly) reporting schedule based on the financial year. Shown in the annual reporting wheel. · 1st Quarter – April to June · 2nd Quarter – July to September · 3rd Quarter – October to December · 4th Quarter – January to March
RAG Status	When monitoring progress on either plans or performance indicators a colour coded assessment of risk is undertaken against each item to assess whether we are on track to meet our target. This risk status is known by the acronym 'RAG'. Standard definition for this is as follows; · Red – Off track · Amber – Satisfactory progress but not fully reaching target set · Green – On track
Rate per 10,000	A rate gives an indication of an amount that can be equivalent to the rate for a geographical indicator set, enabling the indicator to be comparable. For example, if a children's & young peoples service is being accessed by 500 per 10,000, it means that 500 children are accessing the service for every 10,000 children in Rotherham. This can then be compared to the rate per 10,000 in other LA's or even national
Referral	Contacts received are screened against an agreed multi-agency threshold criteria and where a manager agrees these thresholds have been met then the contact progresses to a 'referral' for consideration of an assessment and/or other services which may be required for a child
Re-offending	The underlying principle of measuring re-offending is that someone who has received some form of criminal justice sanction (such as a conviction or a caution) goes on to commit another offence within a set time period.
Reporting year	The standard reporting year follows the financial year and runs from April to March. However there are exceptions to this where due to the nature of indicators they follow a calendar or academic year. This should be clearly stated in any plan or performance scorecard
Rolling 12 months	Indicators that are 12 months rolling take into account the current month and the previous 11 months. For example, a measure being reporting in January 2022 will also include February 2021 to December 202
Section 47 (S47)	The Strategy Discussion may then decide to launch a Section 47 enquiry. This means the local authority must investigate the case further.
Severe absence	Severe absence is when a pupil enrolment's overall absence equates to 50 per cent or more of their possible sessions.
SOA's	SOAs (Super Output Areas), are small areas designed to be of a similar population size, with an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households. They were produced by the Office for National Statistics for the reporting of small area statistics.
Statistical neighbours/comparators	Authorities which due to the size and similar needs of their population have been grouped together. There are various groupings available which specialise in specific services for example Ofsted for Children's services and CIPFA for finance related measures. It is important when comparing ourselves to others we use the most appropriate group for that service. **Rotherham Statistical Neighbours** - Barnsley, Doncaster, Dudley, North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, Redcar and Cleveland, Tameside, Telford and Wrekin, Wakefield, Wigan
Statutory	Something which the Council has to do by law.
Step down	Step down is the process where an episode is stepped down from Social Care intervention to Early Help
Step up	Step up is the process where an episode is stepped up to Social Care intervention from Early Help.
Strategy Meeting	If there is reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering or likely to be suffering significant harm; a Strategy Discussion will be convened between child protection staff and other relevant bodies.
Suitable Accommodation	Accommodation is to be regarded as suitable if it provides safe, secure and affordable provision for young people.
Suspensions	Suspension is where a child is temporarily removed from school for a fixed period of time. It is important that a continuation of education occurs during this time.
Targets	Where we want to be and by when. This can be at indicator level or against actions within a delivery plan.
Threshold	The criteria required to meet a specific requirement.
Transition	Transition is where a child is moving from Primary to Secondary school.
Tribunal	A tribunal is responsible for handling appeals against local authority decisions regarding special educational needs, including a refusal to: assess a child or young person's educational, health and care (EHC) needs. reassess their EHC needs. issue an EHC plan. change what's in a child or young person's EHC plan.
Validation	Processes to ensure data quality
Year to date (YTD)	Refers to performance from the beginning of the current financial year up to and inclusive of the reporting period.
Youth Justice Service (YJS)	The primary aim is to prevent offending and re-offending by young people aged 10-17 years as well as supporting young people who are involved in the Criminal Justice system.

Improving Lives Select Commission

CYPS Performance Report 2025/2026 Outturn

Our Children – Resilient Successful Safe

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Introductions

- Helen Sweaton, Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality

- Anne Hawke, Head of Performance and Planning

- Kirsty Woodhead, Head of Service, Family Help

- Stuart Williams, Service Director, Children's Social Care

- Niall Devlin, Service Director, Education & Inclusion

Overview

- Performance is considered against local targets, including associated ‘RAG’ (red, amber, green) rating tolerances. Reviewed annually and set in consideration of available national and statistical neighbour benchmarking data, and recent performance levels. It ensures focus on the effectiveness of services and achieving good outcomes for children and young people.

- Robust governance and accountability in place, including monthly Performance Board and Quarterly Assurance Board in addition to service level performance clinics, Practice Learning Days and Quality Assurance processes.

- Links to the Council Plan, Year Ahead Delivery Plan, Corporate Parenting Partnership Board, Place Board.

- Scorecard circulated quarterly to Members of ILSC, with an option to request Officers to attend with any key areas of interest.

Scorecard Overview

- Benchmarking Indicators – how do we compare?
- Activity Indicators – how much have we done?

Scorecard Overview

- Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Data
- Direction of Travel
- RAG Rating
- Targets and Tolerances
- Year on Year Performance
- Latest Benchmarking

2024/25											TARGET & TOLERANCES			YR ON YR PERFORMANCE		LATEST BENCHMARKING				
Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25 (Q4)	Q4	2024/25 OUTTURN		Good perf is	DOT (Month)	RAG (Month)	DOT (Yr on Yr)	RAG (Yr End)	Red	Amber	Green (target)	2023/24	Yr on Yr trend	Stat neigh av.	Best stat neigh	Nat av.	Top qtile threshold	RIA 2024/25
91.4%	89.1%	94.8%	92.1%	92.5%		high	↑		↑		<82%	82%+	90%+	88.2%		84.7%	99.8%	84.5%	90.5%	84.2%
217.9	220.0	221.2	221.2	221.2		low	↑		↑		227.1+	-	<227.1	194.8		229.0	111.9	187.1	-	-
315.9	316.7	310.7	310.7	310.7		low	↓		↓		375.5+	-	<375.5	316.8		398.8	300.2	332.9	-	329.1
79.4%	100.0%	89.2%	88.5%	80.0%		high	↓		↓		<78%	78%+	86%+	84.8%		85.0%	100.0%	79.7%	88.5%	83.2%

Family Help – What's Working Well

- Increase in the number of families engaged with Family Help, from 894 in the previous year to 1270. This means we are supporting more families at the earliest opportunity.
- Increased our timeliness of engagement with 92.7% meeting the target of 3 days from initial contact.
- Timeliness measure of completion of FAN within 45 working days for 90.5% of assessments.
- 380 of the 845 assessments were undertaken by partners, such as schools and health colleagues, ensuring support is provided at the earliest opportunity by those who know children and their families well.
- 95.2% of 0-5s living in the most deprived SO Areas registered at a Family Hub and 81.2% accessed Family Hub activities.
- Our overall combined figure for both NEET (not in education, employment, training) and Not Known young people, was 5.5% with only 1.5% not known.

Children's Social Care – What's Working Well

- Rates of CiN, CPP, and CiC all within targets and below statistical neighbour averages.
- CiC rates reduced from 83.0 to 80.8 and CPP rates reduced from 54.2 to 43.3.
- 58.5% of contacts coming through the front door were identified as Social Care and 39.1% were Family Help. Accessing Early Help services means. families can access the support earlier without the need to step up to Children's Social Care.
- 19% of referrals were re-referrals, within the target of 22% (lower is better), in line with statistical neighbours at 19.9% and below the national average of 22.4%.
- 90.8% of all assessments complete within 45 working days.

Children's Social Care – What's Working Well

- Low numbers of children on a CP Plan for over 2 years (1.6%).
- High percentage and improvement for plans reviewed in time: CPP 96.8% and CiC 96.3%.
- Higher than national and statistical neighbour averages for Care Leavers in suitable accommodation at 94.9% compared to 89% nationally. However, we aim higher at 96% and strive to improve this.
- 93.3 % of children in care had an up-to-date health assessment, above the target of 92%.
- 88.2% of children had an up-to-date dental assessment, below our high target of 92% but higher than the national average of 81% and statistical neighbours at 82.5%.
- 57.9% of young people were EET, below the target of 66%, but we remain above the national average of 54% and statistical neighbour average of 50%

Education – What's Working Well

- 91.2% of eligible 2-year-olds were taking up an early education place in Rotherham, above the 80% target. This is higher than statistical neighbours at 77.9% and the national average of 74.8%.
- 99.1% of primary children were allocated a place at one of their 3 preferences on National Offer Day, and 97.7% for secondary pupils.
- At the end of term 2, 96.1% of children in care had received an up-to-date Personal Education Plan in the term, consistently remaining above the 95% target throughout the year.
- Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) primary transition reviews completed by the statutory deadline reached 99.5%. Secondary transition reviews completed by the deadline reached 90.3%.

Areas of Challenge and Focus

- 80.3% of contact decisions within 1 working day, below our 88%+ target.
- 83.4% of ICPCs were complete in time, an improvement on 80% last year, but below the target of 86%+.
- 12.2% of children becoming CPP for a 2nd or subsequent time in 2 years above the <8% target but steadily reduced from 17.3% the previous year
- Visits at year end just below target at 97.3% for CiC and 90.6% for CPP
- 58.5% of children in care for at least 2 years had remained in a stable placement, below the target of 68%+ (higher is better). 12.2% of children in care had 3 or more placement moves in 12 months, above the target of 8% (lower is better).
- 87.1% of Care Leavers had an up to date Pathway Plan (target 90%+)
- The rate of first time entrants into the criminal justice system was 184, an increase in 171 the previous period.

Areas of Challenge and Focus

- Whilst overall attendance and persistent absence remain within tolerance levels, severe absence increased in term 2 to 0.9% in primary. This is in line with the national average but is above our target of <0.8% (lower is better).
- Numbers of Elective Home Educated (EHE) children continue to rise with 901 at the end of term 2 compared to 747 at the end of term 2 last year.
- 44.6% of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks, below the 58% target for the first time in 2 years.
- 2025 attainment remained below target, but 4 out of 6 improved on the previous year. Phonics and Attainment 8 declined.

Questions

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Improving Lives Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Improving Lives Select Commission – 15 September 2026

Report Title
Family Hubs Performance Update

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

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

Report Author(s)
Kirsty Woodhead – Head of Service, Family Help
Kirsty.woodhead@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
This report provides an update on the performance of Rotherham's Family Hubs programme during 2025-26 and demonstrates its growing reach and impact across the borough. It highlights significant increases in family registrations and service attendance, with strong engagement from families living in deprived communities and from diverse ethnic backgrounds. The report shows positive outcomes across key areas including infant feeding, early years activities, parenting support, perinatal mental health services, and provision for older children and young people. It also evidences the programme's success in reaching families through both Family Hub sites and community-based outreach services.

Recommendations

The report recommends that Members note this positive performance and outlines plans to further strengthen data collection, performance monitoring and digital intelligence systems to better target support and improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

List of Appendices Included

None

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

Family Hubs Performance Update Error! Reference source not found.

1. Background

1.1 Rotherham has been part of the national Family Hubs programme since 2022, having been selected as one of the first 75 local authorities to receive Family Hubs and Start for Life funding. Over the past four years, this investment has enabled the Council and its partners to strengthen integrated early help, family support and Start for Life services, improving access to support for children, young people and families and developing a more joined-up approach across services.

1.2 The Government has confirmed funding for the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Programme for the period April 2026 to March 2029, providing local authorities with the opportunity to build on existing foundations and further strengthen early intervention, healthy child development and family support services. This sustained investment moves the programme from a focus on transformation to embedding Family Hubs services and delivery within the core business of the Council and its partners.

1.3 The Family Hubs programme recognises that some families face barriers to accessing services and therefore must deliver flexible, community-led support that responds to local needs. As well as being delivered in Family Hubs buildings, many services are provided through outreach activity and from community venues across the borough, taking support directly into local communities.

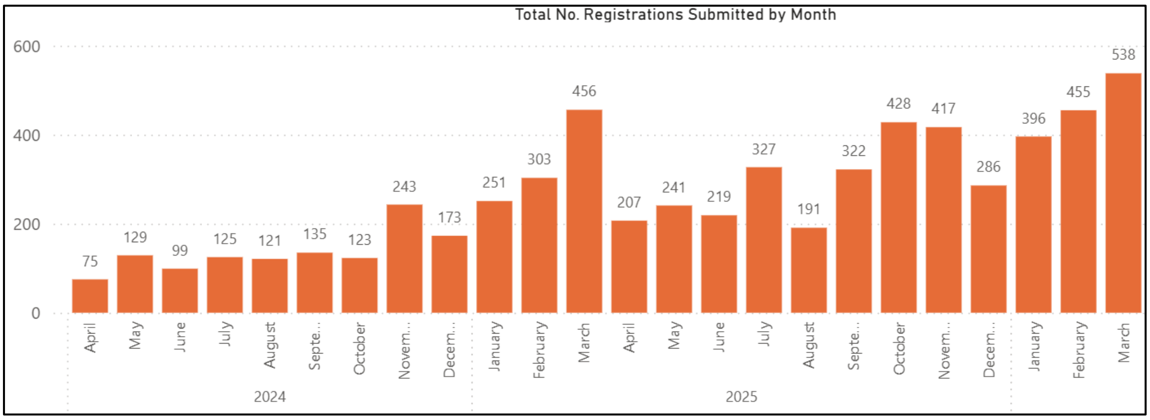
1.4 Family Hubs Programme performance is routinely reviewed through the Family Hubs Operational Group and quarterly performance meetings, both of which are attended by partners from across the wider Family Hubs partnership. These arrangements provide oversight of programme delivery, support collective accountability and help identify areas of success and opportunities for improvement.

1.5 This briefing provides an update on the performance of the Family Hubs programme for 2025-26 and summarises key performance measures that demonstrate the reach and effectiveness of Family Hubs services across Rotherham.

2. Key Issues

2.1 **Family Hubs Registrations**

2.1.1 Registration with Family Hubs provides an important measure to enable the partnership to better understand demand, target resources effectively and identify groups who may be underrepresented.

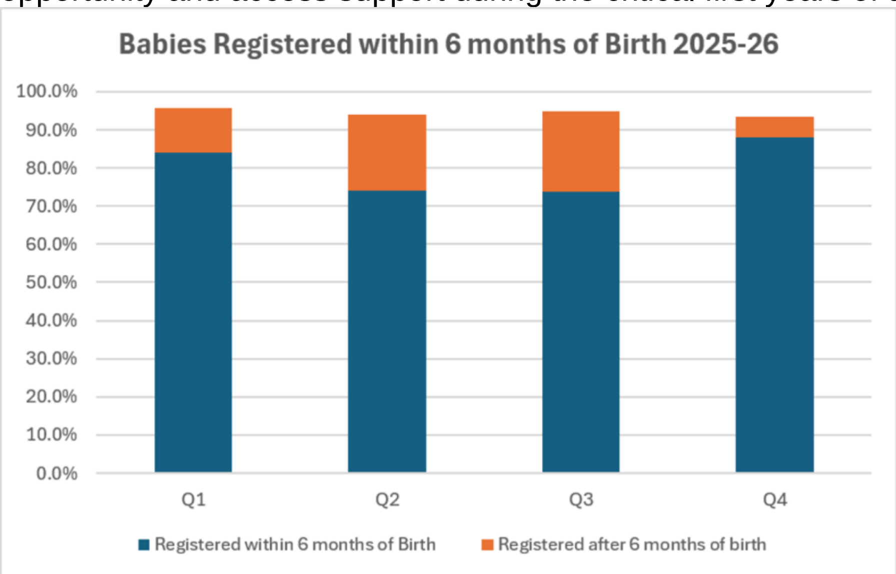


2.1.2 In 2025-26, Best Start Family Hubs registrations increased by over 80%, rising from 2,233 families in 2024-25 to 4,027 families. This significant growth reflects ongoing work to raise awareness of the Family Hubs programme and promote a positive understanding of the support available to children and families across Rotherham.

2.1.3 The increase has also been supported by efforts to simplify the registration process and reduce duplication for families. In particular, registration has been aligned with the distribution of Baby Packs, enabling families to share their information once and gain access to a range of Family Hubs services and support. This more streamlined approach has improved the customer experience while helping to increase registrations.

2.1.4 Furthermore, building on Rotherham's previous Children's Centre model, Family Hubs continue to achieve high levels of engagement with families. In 2025-26, 93.3% of children aged under five were registered with Family Hubs. This figure rises to 95.2% for children living in the 30% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs), demonstrating the programme's strong reach into communities where families are most likely to benefit from early help and support services.

2.1.5 A key objective of the Family Hubs programme is to register babies within six months of birth, enabling families to engage with Family Hub services at the earliest opportunity and access support during the critical first years of a child's life.



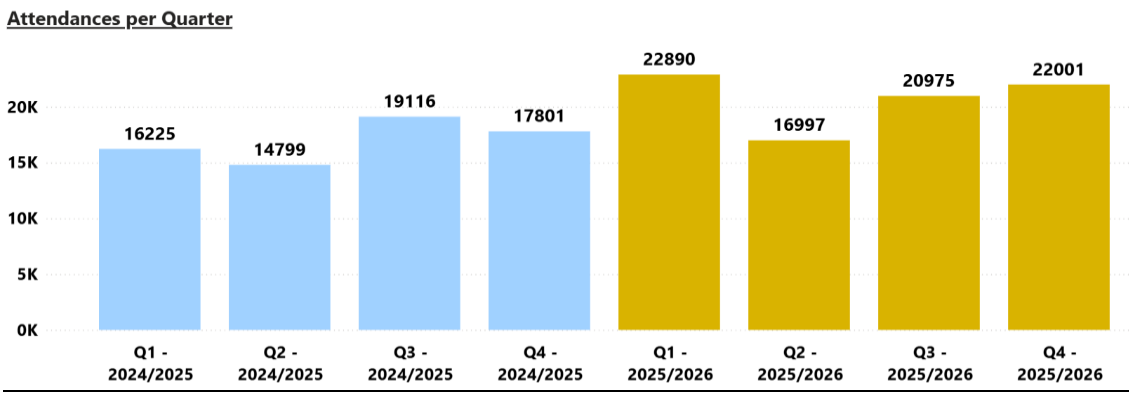
2.1.6 Performance during 2025-26 demonstrates consistently strong early engagement. Across the four quarters, between 74% and 89% of babies were registered with Family Hubs within six months of birth. This reflects the continued commitment of partners to identify and engage families early, ensuring they are aware of and able to access the support available to them.

2.1.7 Alongside early registration activity, ongoing efforts are made to register babies after six months of age to ensure families who may have missed earlier opportunities are not excluded from support. This helps maximise the reach of Family Hubs services and strengthens connections with families who may benefit from additional assistance.

2.1.8 Whilst Family Hubs performance demonstrates significant growth in registrations and attendance, this has been a continued area of focus. Further work is required to strengthen the measurement of outcomes and impact for children, young people and families. As the programme evolves, there will be an increased focus on evidencing how being registered and attending Family Hub services supports improvements in school readiness, child development, parental confidence, family resilience and reductions in the need for statutory intervention. This will help demonstrate not only how many families are accessing support, but also the outcomes they achieve as a result.

2.2 Family Hubs Engagement and Reach

2.2.1 <u>Attendances at Family Hubs services</u>



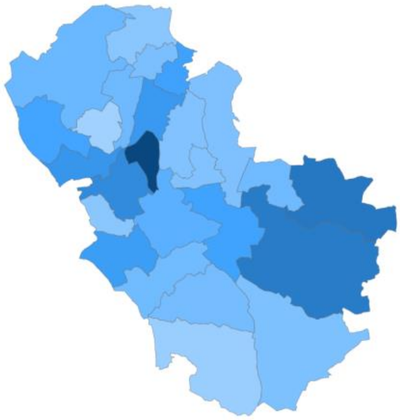
The data demonstrates a strong increase in engagement with Family Hub activities during 2025/26. Total attendances across Family Hubs, partner organisations and commissioned services rose from 67,941 in 2024/25 to 82,863 in 2025/26, representing an increase of 14,922 attendances (21.96%). Attendance levels were higher than the previous year in three out of four quarters, with particularly strong performance in Q1 (22,890 attendances), which was the highest quarterly figure recorded across the two-year period. Sustained growth indicates that more children, young people and families are accessing support and activities through the wider Family Hub system, demonstrating both increased reach and continued demand for services.

2.2.2 Geography

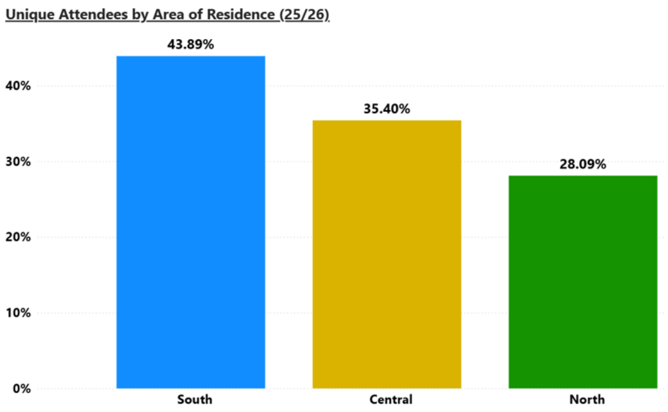
Family Hubs services are delivered across the Borough, utilising Family Hubs buildings and other community venues to ensure Family Hubs services and delivery is taken into the heart of communities.

2.2.3 The heat map below demonstrates that families accessing Family Hub services live across all wards of the borough. This provides positive evidence that the Family Hubs programme is successfully reaching families in a wide range of communities, rather than being limited to those living close to physical Family Hub buildings. The geographic spread of engagement highlights the effectiveness of the wider Family Hub model, including outreach delivery, partnership working and commissioned services, in ensuring that support is accessible to families across the Borough. This broad reach demonstrates the programme's ability to maximise engagement, reduce barriers to access and connect more children, young people and families with the support they need.

Unique Attendees by Ward (2025/26)



2.2.4 The graph below shows that Family Hub services are reaching families across all three locality areas of the borough, demonstrating strong engagement and the ability of the Family Hub network to connect with families across communities. The South locality accounts for the largest proportion of unique attendees (43.89%), followed by the Central locality (35.40%) and the North locality (28.09%). When considered alongside the borough's population profile, this distribution broadly reflects the size of the resident population in each locality, with the South being the largest population area. This suggests that engagement with Family Hub services is proportionate to population distribution, rather than being concentrated in a particular part of the borough. Importantly, families from all localities are accessing support, evidencing the success of the Family Hub model in achieving borough-wide reach.

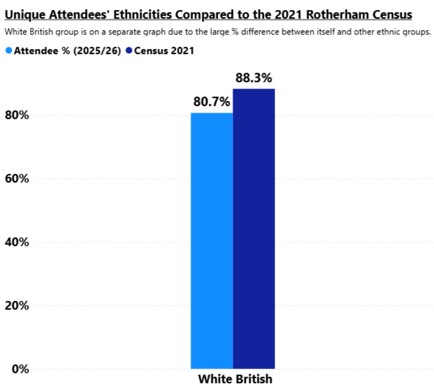


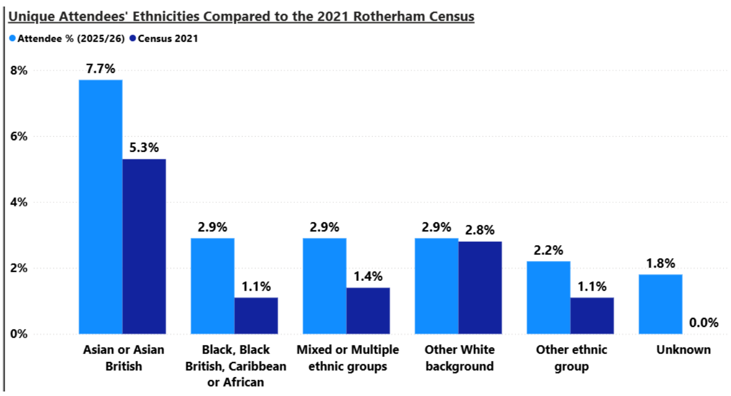
2.2.5 Ethnicity

Ethnicity data demonstrates that the Family Hub programme continues to engage families from a diverse range of communities across Rotherham. While White British families account for the majority of attendees (80.7%), families from several minority ethnic groups are represented at levels above their proportion within the local population.

2.2.6 In particular, engagement from Asian or Asian British families is notably higher than the borough average, accounting for 7.7% of attendees compared with 5.3% of the population. Attendance is also proportionately higher amongst Black, Mixed and Other Ethnic groups. This suggests that Family Hub services are successfully reaching and engaging a broad range of communities.

2.2.7 Encouragingly, attendance by Asian or Asian British families has increased significantly over the last two years, with quarterly attendance rising from just over 400 in Q1 2024/25 to more than 1,000 attendances per quarter throughout 2025/26, demonstrating sustained growth in engagement from this community.

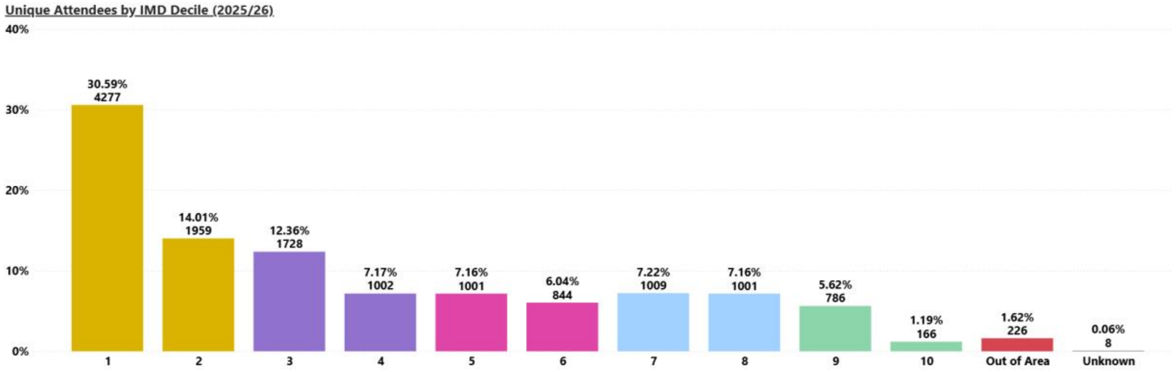




2.2.8 Deprivation

The deprivation profile of Family Hub attendees demonstrates that the programme is successfully reaching families in the borough's most disadvantaged communities. Over 30% of unique attendees (30.59%) live in the 10% most deprived areas, with almost 57% of attendees coming from the three most deprived deprivation deciles.

Engagement steadily reduces across the less deprived deciles, indicating that services are being accessed by those families who are often most in need of support. This provides strong evidence that the Family Hubs programme is effectively targeting and engaging families experiencing higher levels of deprivation while maintaining access for families across all communities.



2.2.9 Although registration and participation levels are high, there remains an opportunity to better understand those families who are not engaging with Family Hub services. To address this, Family Hubs will undertake a programme of targeted engagement activity during 2026-27. This will include analysing registration and attendance data to identify underrepresented groups and localities, working with health partners, schools, early years providers and community organisations to increase referrals, and carrying out targeted outreach within communities where engagement is lower than expected. Family Hubs will also strengthen the use of family feedback and surveys to better understand barriers to participation, review the accessibility of sessions including timing and location, and develop more flexible delivery models to meet the needs of working families, fathers and carers. The introduction of improved digital intelligence and reporting systems will further support the identification of families who are not engaging with services, enabling earlier intervention and more personalised approaches to engagement.

2.3 **Family Hubs Delivery**

2.3.1 Infant Feeding

The infant feeding strand of the programme has made progress during 2025/26, strengthening support for families and contributing to improved breastfeeding outcomes across the borough. Key achievements include achieving UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) Stage 1 accreditation, expanding the breast pump loan scheme and increasing the number of trained breastfeeding peer supporters.

2.3.2 Delivery has been enhanced through a range of accessible community-based support offers, including peer support groups, drop-in clinics, breastfeeding and tongue-tie clinics, and peer supporter training. Services have been delivered both within Family Hub buildings and in community venues such as libraries, Grimm & Co and a local mosque, helping to improve accessibility and engage a wider range of families.

2.3.3 During the year, 331 families engaged with infant feeding support within Family Hub buildings, while many more accessed support through outreach locations. The Infant

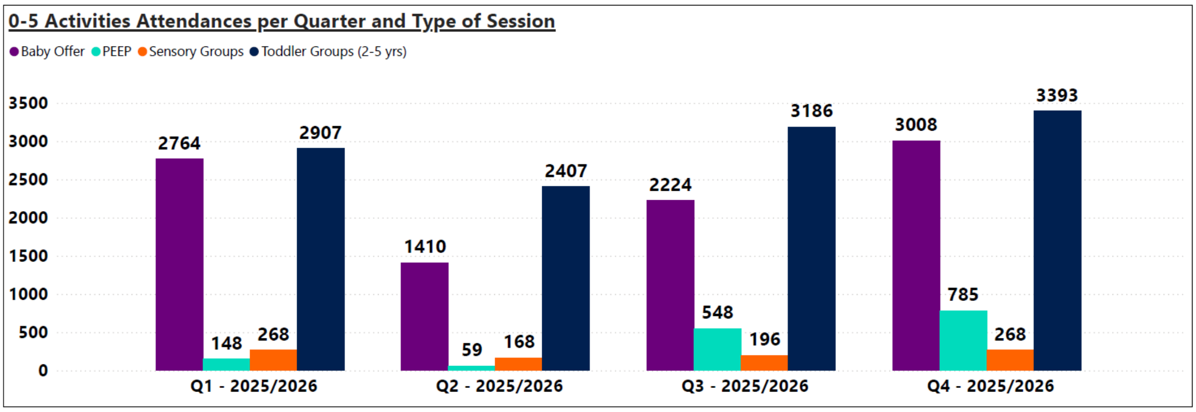
Feeding Team (Health) supported an additional 318 women and delivered 708 more contacts compared with 2024/25, demonstrating increased demand and reach.

2.3.4 In addition, 53 breast pumps were loaned to breastfeeding mothers, providing practical support to help families continue breastfeeding for longer. Overall, these achievements demonstrate the positive impact of the programme in improving access to infant feeding support and reducing barriers for families across Rotherham.

2.3.5 Whilst infant feeding support has expanded significantly during 2025/26 through increased community delivery, enhanced peer support and a wider range of accessible services, opportunities remain to strengthen outcome measurement and better understand the demographics of families accessing support. Future developments will focus on evidencing the impact of interventions on breastfeeding outcomes, increasing awareness and utilisation of available support, monitoring workforce capacity in response to growing demand, and ensuring services effectively reach priority and underserved groups, including younger mothers, fathers and partners, families experiencing deprivation, minority ethnic communities and parents with additional vulnerabilities.

2.3.6 <u>Sessions for under 5's</u>

The 0-5 offer continued to achieve strong engagement throughout 2025/26, with over 26,500 attendances across Baby Offer, Toddler Groups, PEEP and Sensory Groups.



2.3.7 Toddler Groups consistently attracted the highest levels of attendance, increasing from 2,907 in Q1 to 3,393 in Q4, demonstrating sustained demand from families with young children. Baby Offer sessions also maintained strong participation, recovering from lower attendance in Q2 to reach 3,008 attendances in Q4. Encouragingly, PEEP attendance grew significantly during the second half of the year, increasing from 59 attendees in Q2 to 785 in Q4, reflecting successful promotion and expansion of the offer. These figures demonstrate the importance of early years provision within Family Hubs and show that increasing numbers of families are engaging with activities that support child development, learning and school readiness.

2.3.8 Whilst increasing attendance provides strong evidence that the 0-5 offer is valued by families and is successfully engaging children across the borough, we recognise the need to strengthen our ability to demonstrate impact. Over the next year, we will focus on linking participation data to school readiness measures, developmental outcomes and family progress indicators, with a particular emphasis on understanding the difference Family Hubs are making for children and families who are most at risk of poorer Good Level of Development (GLD) outcomes.

2.3.9 Parenting Support and the Home Learning Environment (HLE)

Rotherham's Family Hubs programme provides a flexible offer to support both parenting capacity and the home learning environment, using a combination of face-to-face, online and community-based delivery. During 2025/26, there were 615 attendances at facilitator-led parenting programmes and a further 668 attendances through online parenting programmes, demonstrating strong engagement across a range of delivery methods and ensuring families can access support in a way that meets their needs.

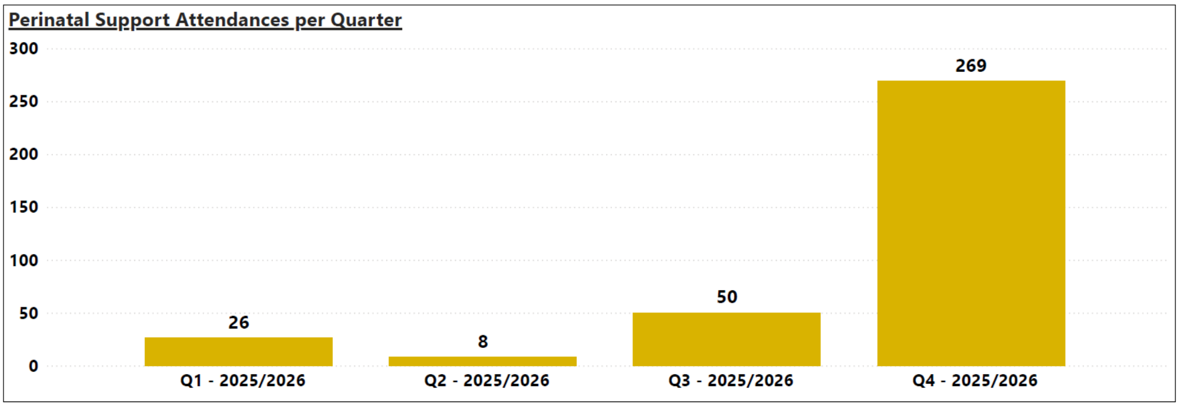
2.3.10 Alongside this, the PEEP Learning Together Programme continued to expand its reach, with over 1,500 attendances recorded across Stay and Play groups, home visits, schools, libraries and structured PEEP programmes. Attendance grew significantly throughout the year, increasing from 148 in Q1 to 764 in Q4, reflecting the success of broadening the offer through workforce training, increased promotion and home-based support. Together, these programmes are helping parents build confidence, strengthen relationships with their children and develop the skills needed to support early learning and development within the home.

2.3.11 While there has been positive engagement with parenting support and home learning programmes, participation remains relatively modest when considered alongside the overall reach of Family Hubs services. To strengthen participation, we will work with health partners, schools, early years settings and Family Help services to increase referrals into parenting programmes; expanding the delivery of programmes through community venues and online platforms to improve accessibility; and reviewing session times and formats to better meet the needs of working families and fathers. Family feedback will be used to understand barriers to participation and inform future service design. In addition, outcome measures will be strengthened to capture changes in parenting confidence, family relationships and children's learning and development, enabling the programme to demonstrate not only participation levels but the difference that parenting support and HLE makes to children's outcomes and family wellbeing.

2.3.12 Perinatal Mental Health

The Family Hubs programme has continued to strengthen support for perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships through a combination of workforce development, evidence-based interventions and targeted commissioned services. During 2025/26, engagement with the commissioned peer support service delivered by Light increased significantly, rising from 26 attendances in Q1 and 8 in Q2 to 50 in Q3 and 269 attendances in Q4. This growth demonstrates increasing awareness of, and access to, perinatal mental health support among families across the borough.

2.3.13 Alongside direct support, the programme has invested in practitioner training, including perinatal mental health and Video Interaction Guidance (VIG), and continues to offer baby massage sessions to strengthen parent-infant relationships. The development of a dedicated perinatal mental health pathway will further improve access to information, advice and support for parents, including fathers and partners, helping ensure families can access help at the earliest opportunity.



2.3.14 The Family Hubs programme has strengthened its perinatal mental health offer and achieved significant growth in engagement during 2025/26. Further work is required to demonstrate the impact of services on parental wellbeing, parent-infant relationships and longer-term child outcomes. Future development will focus on earlier identification of need, strengthening referral pathways, understanding the reach of services amongst priority and underserved groups, increasing engagement with fathers and partners, and improving performance reporting to evidence outcomes, access, demand and service effectiveness.

2.3.15 Services for older children

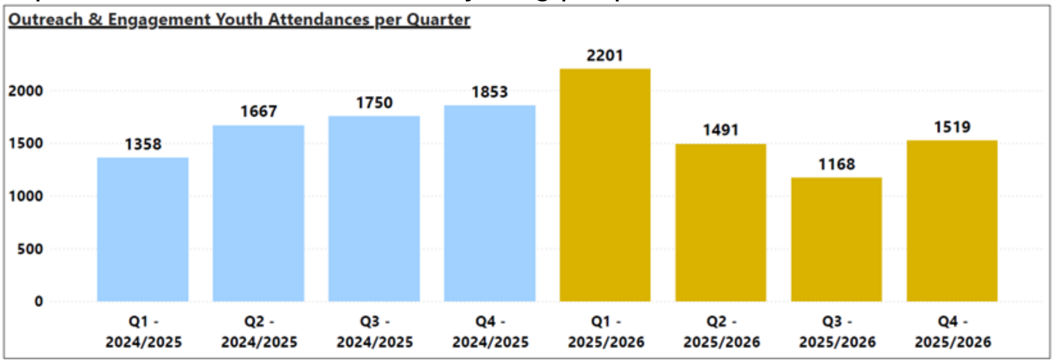
During 2025/26, the programme strengthened its offer for children and young people aged over five through a range of targeted youth services and activities. Sessions delivered through the Early Help Outreach and Engagement Team resulted in 6,379 attendances, while commissioned services recorded a further 27,823 attendances, demonstrating the significant reach of the programme across the borough. Overall, more than 34,000 attendances were recorded across youth provision, highlighting strong engagement from children and young people.

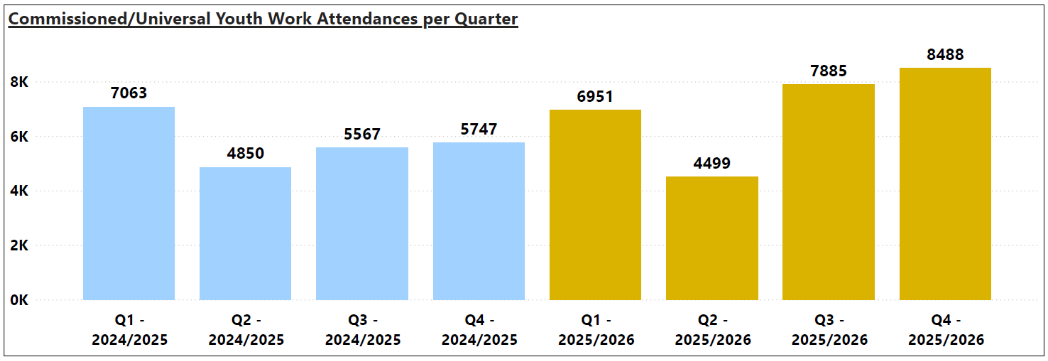
2.3.16 In addition, outreach teams delivered a wide range of family and community activities, generating 11,081 attendances throughout the year. Attendance was highest in Q1 (3,688) and Q2 (3,651), which is likely to reflect the increased opportunities for delivery and participation during the longer school holiday periods and seasonal community events. While attendance reduced in Q3 and Q4, outreach provision continued to maintain a strong community presence, supporting families to access local activities, services and opportunities. Together, these figures demonstrate the value of community-based outreach in engaging children, young people and families and supporting the Family Hubs commitment to a whole-family approach.

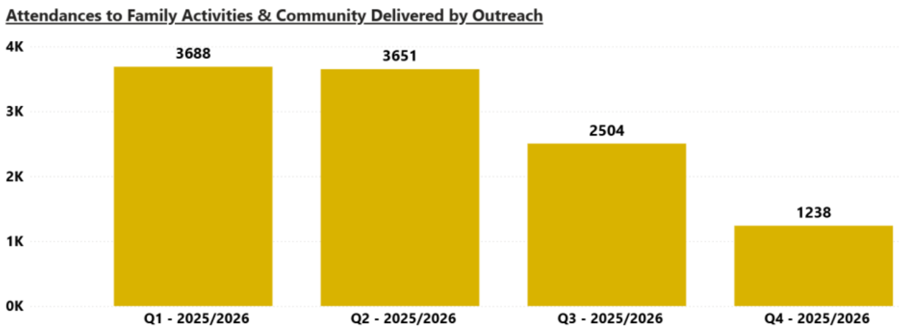
2.3.17 Performance data demonstrates very strong levels of engagement, with more than 34,000 attendances recorded through youth provision and a further 11,081 attendances through outreach and community activities during 2025/26. Whilst this provides positive evidence of the reach of Family Hubs services, there is an opportunity to strengthen our understanding of the impact these services are having on children and young people. Going forward there will be greater emphasis on outcomes, including improvements in wellbeing, confidence, resilience, social connectedness and community participation.

2.3.18 Further work is also required to understand which children and young people are not accessing provision, particularly priority groups such as children with SEND, young carers, care-experienced children and those at risk of poorer outcomes. Strengthening this intelligence will support more targeted planning and help ensure services are reaching those who are likely to benefit most.

2.3.19 Performance reporting will be enhanced to include analysis by age, locality and priority groups, providing a clearer understanding of participation patterns and identifying any gaps in provision. In addition, work will be undertaken with commissioned providers to establish a consistent outcomes framework, ensuring that all services can demonstrate both reach and impact. The development of improved digital intelligence systems will further support the tracking of participation over time, enabling Family Hubs to better understand sustained engagement, evaluate the effectiveness of interventions and demonstrate how youth provision contributes to improved outcomes for children, young people and families.







2.4 **Next Steps**

2.4.1 Building on the strong performance and reporting arrangements already established, the programme will continue to strengthen its use of data and intelligence to inform decision-making, service design and service delivery. Quarterly performance meetings provide scrutiny of delivery, outcomes and impact, while further work will be undertaken to improve performance information and ensure that all family contacts and engagement across the Family Hub network are consistently captured. The workstream will consider digital solutions to provide live performance data across the system, providing a richer understanding of service access, reach and outcomes, enabling resources and support to be targeted more effectively and ensuring that data is used proactively to identify children and families who may require additional support, particularly in relation to school readiness and the achievement of Good Level of Development (GLD) targets.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 To note the performance of the Family Hubs programme in 2025-26.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Not applicable.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 A management information data report and delivery plan progress updates are submitted to the Department for Education (DfE).

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are not direct legal implications.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct HR implications.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no direct implications.

11. Implications for CO_2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no direct implications.

12. Implications for Partners

13. Risks and Mitigation

Accountable Officer
Kirsty Woodhead – Head of Service, Family Help

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	**Date**
The Executive Director with responsibility for this report	Name of Executive Director	02/09/26
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Councillor Cusworth	Click here to enter a date.

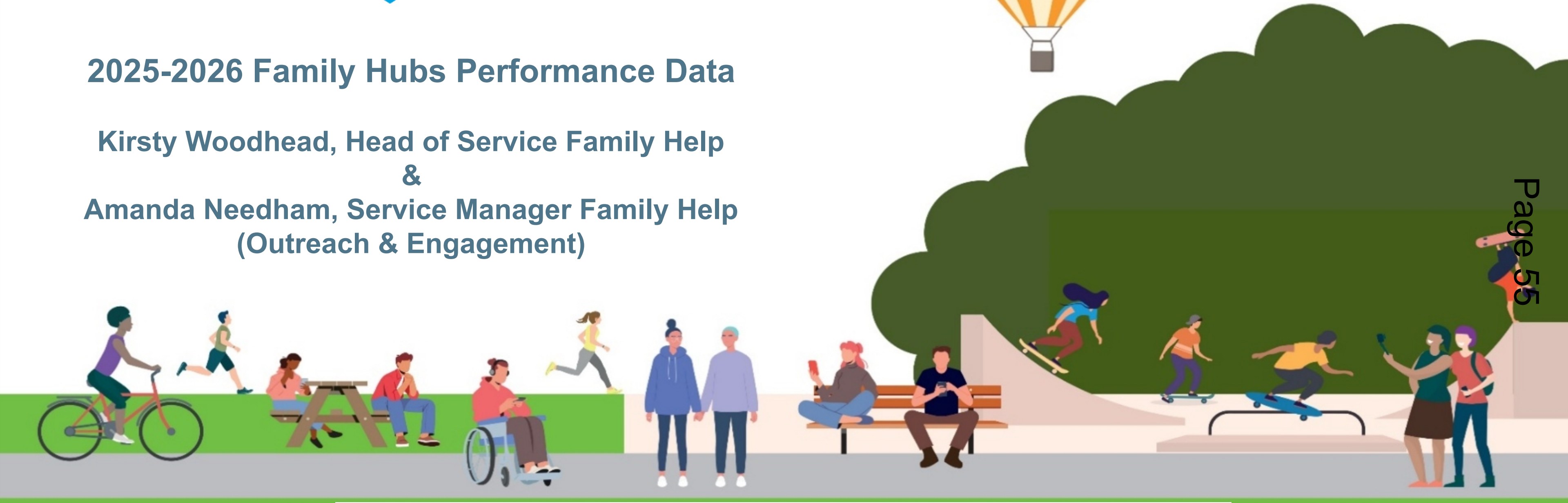
Report Author: Kirsty Woodhead – Head of Service, Family Help
Kirsty.woodhead@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

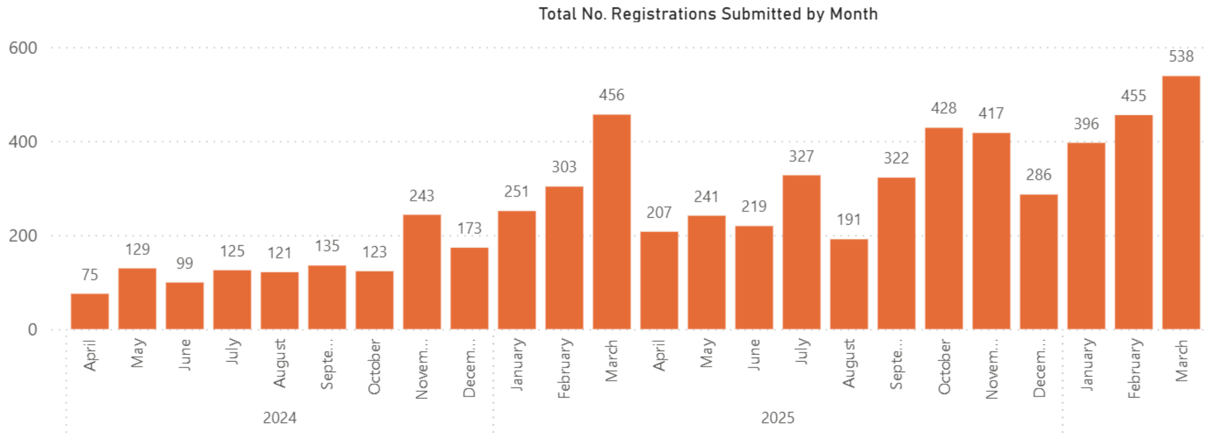
FAMILY HUBS Rotherham

2025-2026 Family Hubs Performance Data

Kirsty Woodhead, Head of Service Family Help
&
Amanda Needham, Service Manager Family Help
(Outreach & Engagement)



Family Hubs Registrations:



- Best Start Family Hub registrations increased by over 80%, from 2,233 families in 2024/25 to 4,027 in 2025/26

- The continued growth in registrations is supported by the work around increasing the awareness and positive association of the Best Start Family Hub programme and its offer

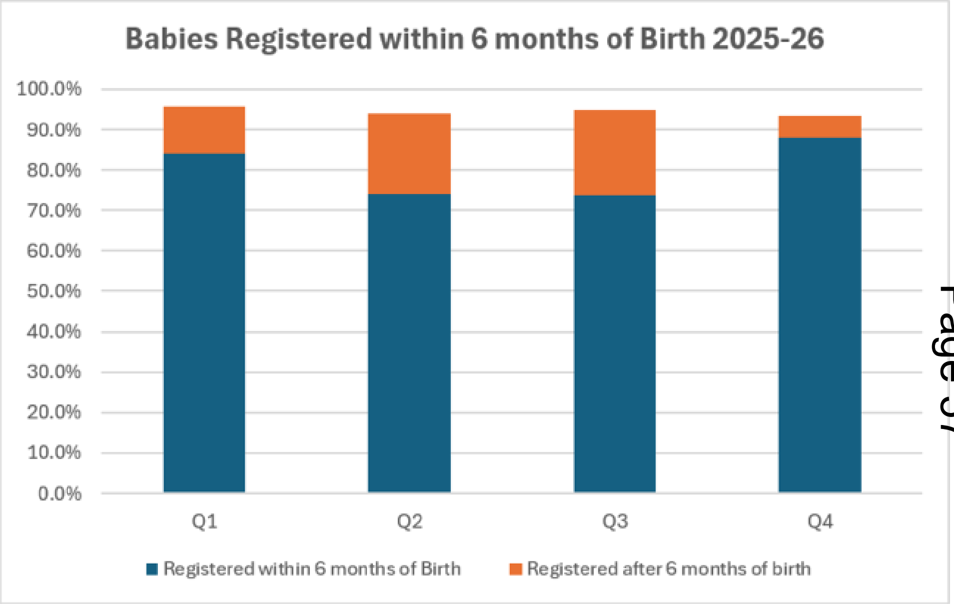
- 93.3% of children under 5 are registered with Family Hubs and for those children living in a 30% SOA this increases to 95.2% of children

Babies registered within 6 months of birth:

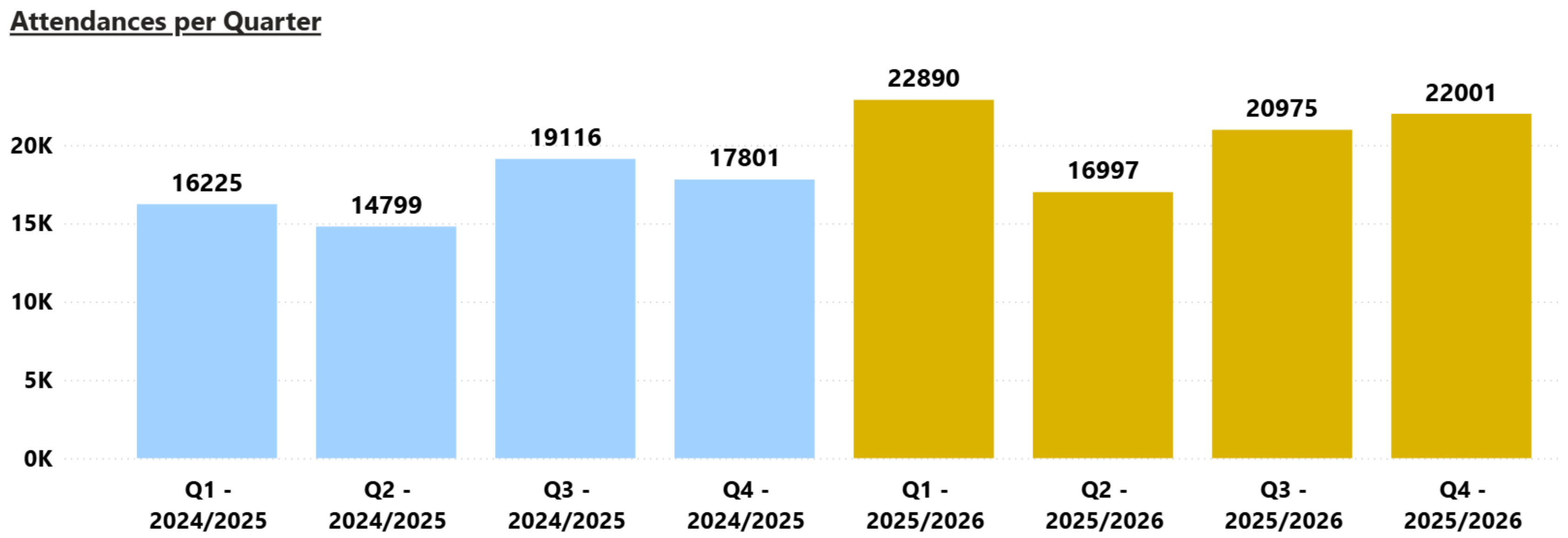
- Across quarters, between 74% and 89% of babies were registered with Family Hubs within six months of birth, demonstrating strong early engagement with families

- Continued effort to register babies after 6 months ensures families who may have missed earlier opportunities are still connected to Family Hub support and services

- In Q1 of 2026/27 89.1% of babies were registered within six months of birth, increasing to 90.1% when including those registered after six months



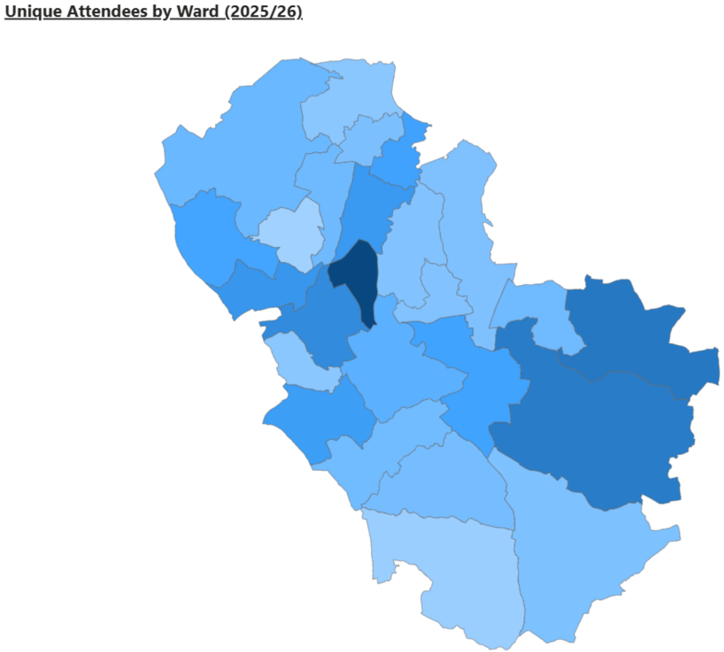
Engagement with Family Hubs Activities:

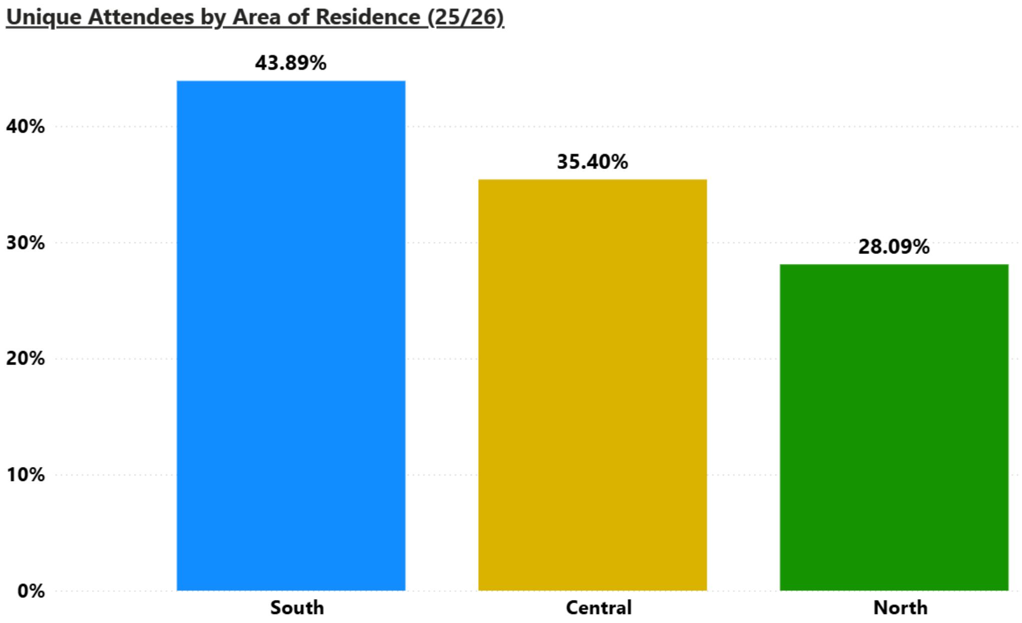


- Total attendances across all Family Hub, partner and commissioned services increased from 67,941 in 2024/25 to 82,863 in 2025/26, an increase of 14,922 attendances (+21.96%)
- More children, young people and families are accessing support through the wider Family Hub system

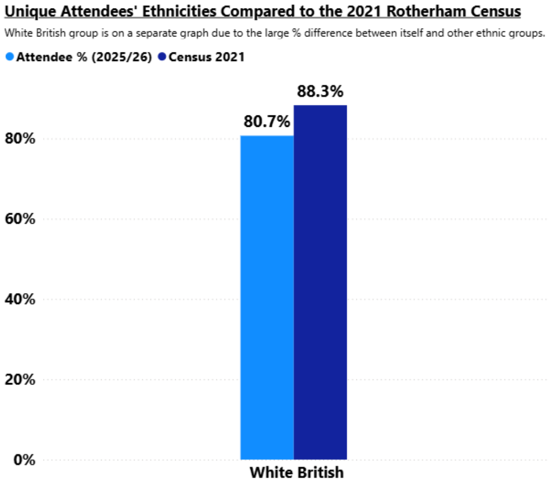
Geography:

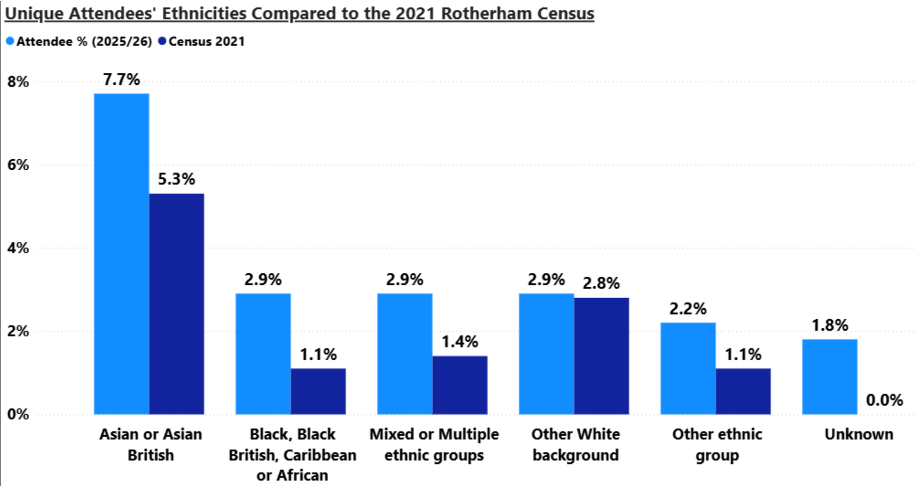
- Services are delivered across all areas of the borough, ensuring families can access support within their local communities.





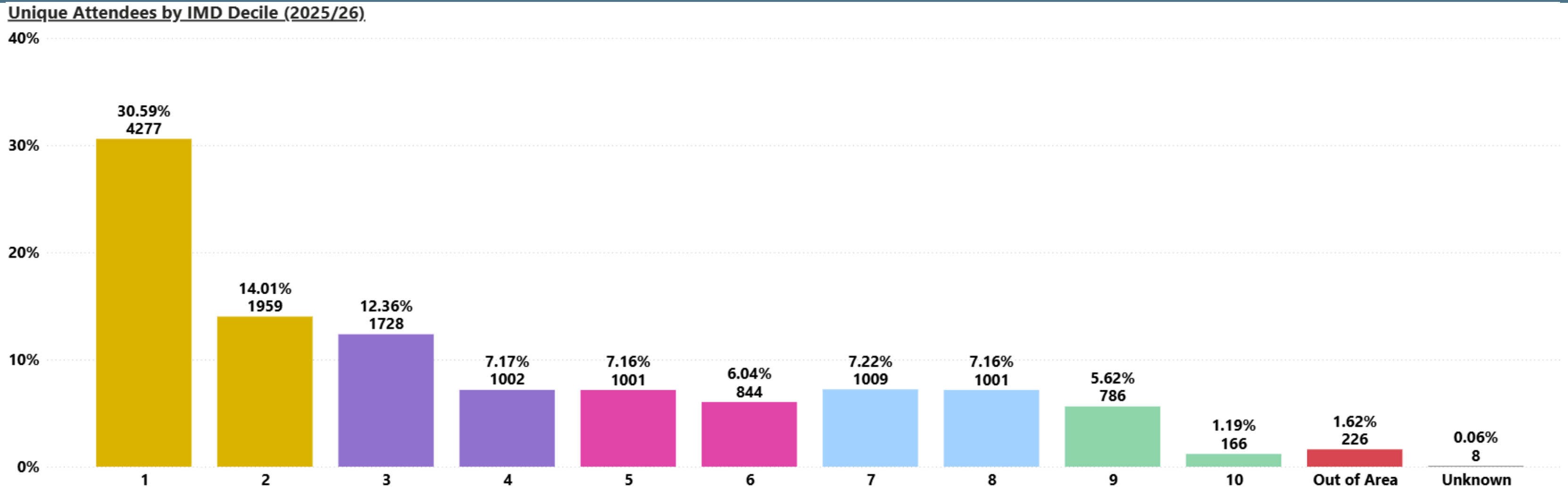
Ethnicity:





- The programme continues to engage families from a diverse range of communities across Rotherham
- Attendance data shows that several minority ethnic groups are represented at levels above their proportion within the borough population
- Attendance by Asian or Asian British families has increased significantly over the last two years, with quarterly attendance growing from just over 400 attendances in Q1 2024/25 to over 1,000 attendances per quarter throughout 2025/26

Deprivation:



- The Best Start Family Hubs programme is successfully reaching families in areas experiencing the highest levels of deprivation
- More than half of all sessions were delivered in the most deprived communities
- Over 30% of all attendances came from families living in the 10% most deprived areas of the borough

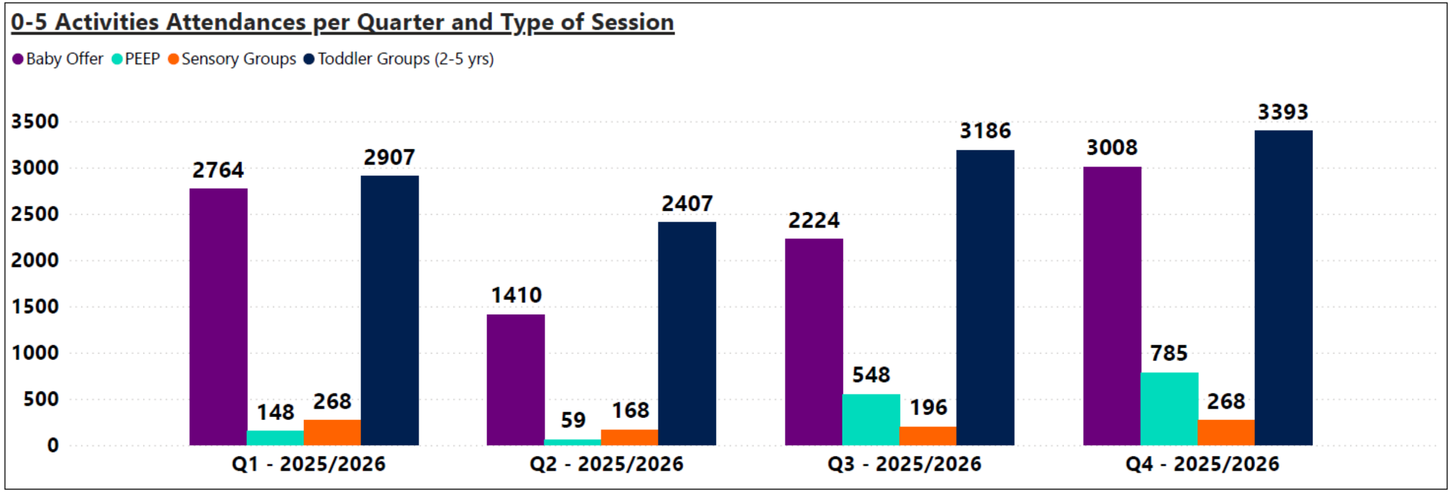
Breastfeeding Support:

Through the Infant Feeding Team, midwifery and VCS partners, the infant feeding strand of the programme is supported by:

- Breastfeeding peer support groups
- Breastfeeding peer support training
- Breastfeeding support drop-in clinics
- Breastfeeding and tongue tie assessments
- Breast pump loans to families

- 331 families engaged with at Family Hub buildings
- More at other sites, such as Grimm & Co, mosque, libraries
- The Infant feeding Team have supported an additional 318 women and carried out an additional 708 contacts in 2025/26 compared to 2024/25
- 53 breast pumps were loaned to breastfeeding mums

Sessions for under 5's:



- The 0-5 offer delivered strong engagement throughout 2025/26, with over 26,500 attendances across Baby Offer, Toddler Groups, PEEP and Sensory Groups

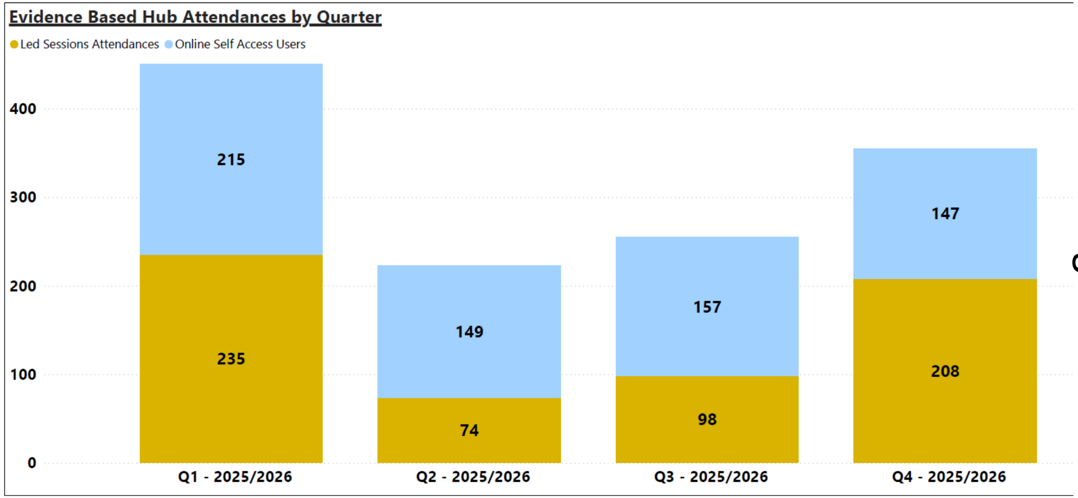
- Work is underway to increase the availability and promotion of these sessions, with growth already evident in PEEP attendance during Q3 and Q4

Parenting:

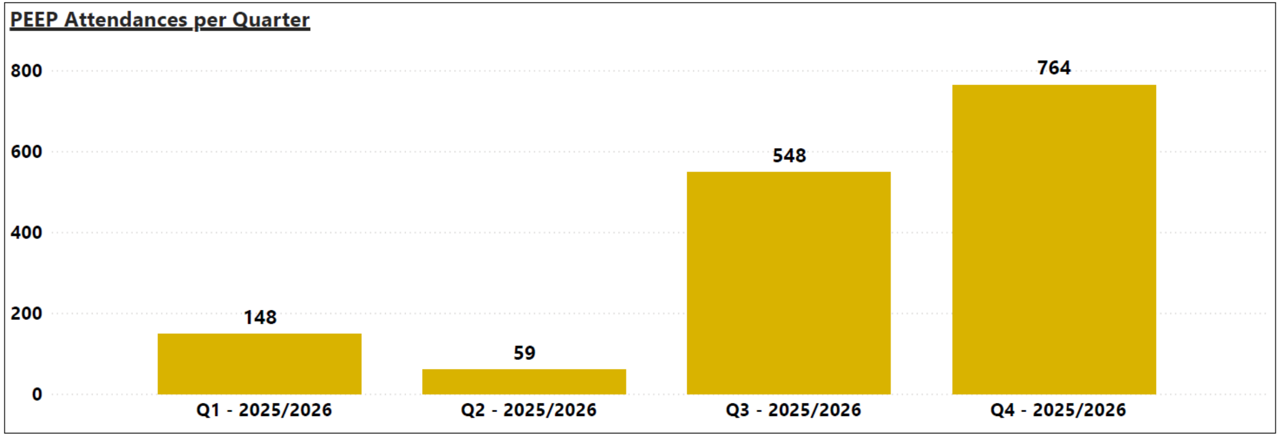
- Rotherham has a flexible parenting offer which includes a range of programmes delivered via MS Teams, in person and online

- There were 615 attendances with sessions led by a facilitator (face to face or via MS Teams)

- 668 attendances with an online programme

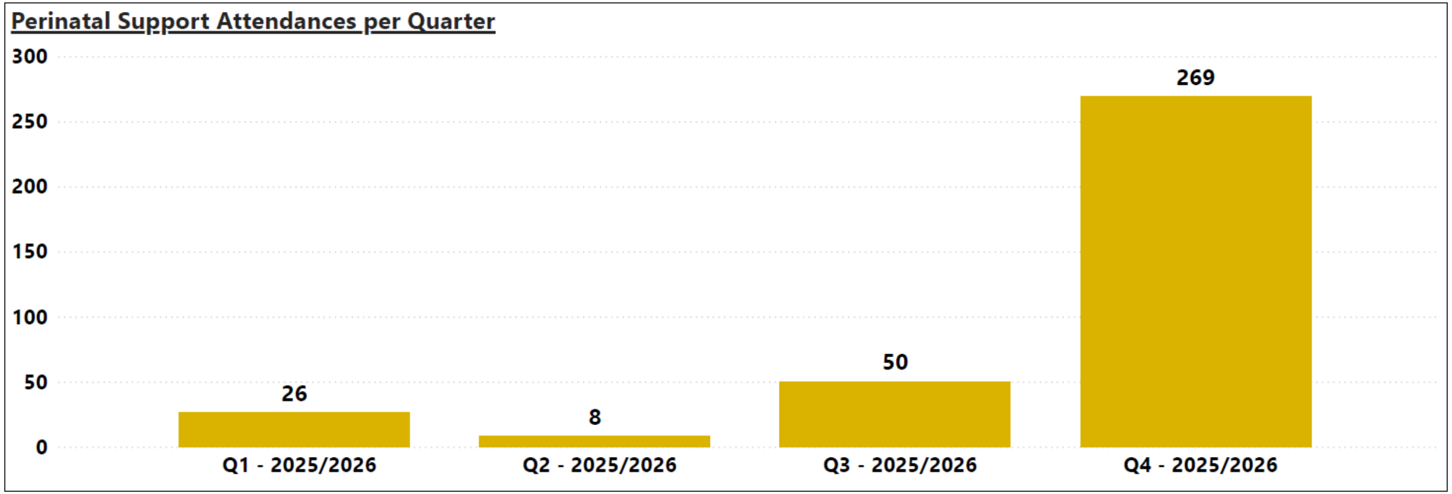


Home Learning Environment:



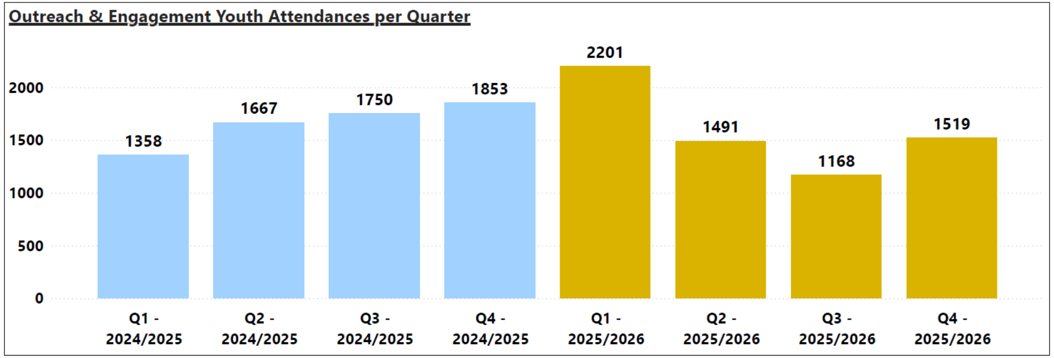
- The PEEP Learning Together Programme is delivered through various methods including:
    - Stay & Play groups delivered by commissioned VCS organisations.
    - 1-2-1s at families' homes
    - PEEP programmes
    - In schools
    - In libraries
- There was over 1,500 attendances at PEEP during 2025/26
- Attendance grew throughout the year, showing the success of broadening the offer through staff training and home visits

Perinatal Mental Health:



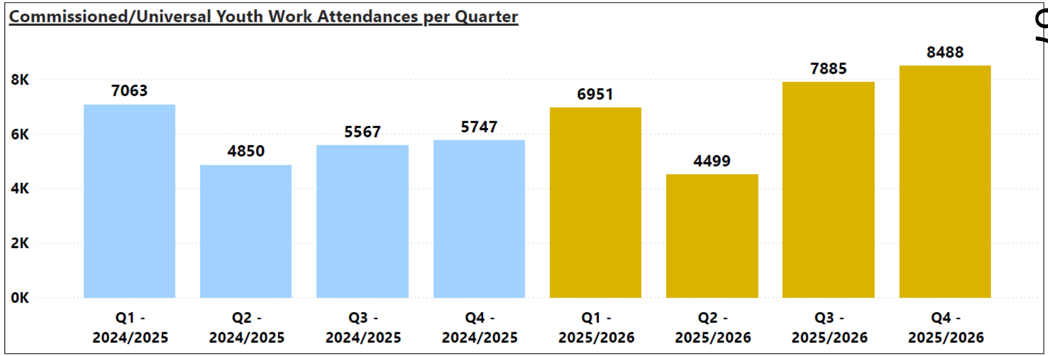
- The Family Hubs programme commissions Light to deliver peer support for women affected by perinatal mental health
- Engagement with peer support sessions increased significantly over the year, rising from 26 attendances in Q1 and 8 in Q2 to 269 attendances in Q4
- This demonstrates growth in service reach

Youth Services:



Outreach and engagement services maintained strong reach, with 6,379 attendances in 2025/26.

Commissioned and universal youth work increased from 23,227 attendances in 2024/25 to 27,823 in 2025/26, an increase of almost 20%.



Agenda Item 9

Improving Lives Select Commission – Summary Work Programme 2026/27

Chair: Councillor Monk
Governance Advisor: Natasha Aucott

Vice-Chair: Councillor Sutton
Link Officer: Kelly White

Meeting Date	Responsible Officer	Agenda Item
9 June 2026	Chris Macdonald Niall Devlin	Kinship Local Offer Annual Update Expert at Hand Model (Linked to the SEND Reform Plan)
21 July 2026	Niall Devlin	Rotherham SEND Reform Plan – Cabinet 14.09.26
15 September 2026	Helen Sweaton Anne Hawke Kelly White Kirsty Woodhead	CYPS Performance Annual Outturn Report Update on Family Hubs Performance
3rd November 2026	Kevin Fisher Chris MacDonald	Maintained Schools Long Term Maintenance Plan (LTMP) Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse Strategy
15th December 2026	Kelly White Paul Stinton Stuart Williams	Families First Partnership Programme Update CiC & CL Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2028 - Annual Update
9th February, 2027	Helen Sweaton Niall Devlin	CAMHS Update (Include HSC) Rotherham SEND Reform Plan (monitoring post implementation)
23rd March, 2027	Fiona Boden TBC	No Family Left Behind Strategy Update (Family Prosperity Strategy) Youth Justice Service Inspection and associated action plan

4th May, 2027		
Potential Items to be scheduled for meetings:-		SACRE Annual Report Neglect Strategy Update CPPB Annual Report Fostering Transformation Action Plan Update Child Exploitation Strategy 2023-2028 Update Children Not In Education Annual Update Domestic Abuse Strategy Progress Annual Update Performance Review of the Care Leavers Charter – six to twelve months