

CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE

Venue: Town Hall,
Moorgate Street,
Rotherham.

Date: Tuesday, 11th April, 2006

Time: 9.00 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Minutes of previous meeting held on 21st March, 2006 (copy herewith). (Pages 1 - 6)
- to receive minutes
4. Minutes of a meeting of the Rotherham Cultural Consortium held on 22nd February, 2006 (copy herewith). (Pages 7 - 11)
- to receive minutes
5. Budget Monitoring Report as at February, 2006 (Children and Young People's Services) (Pete Hudson, Strategic Finance Officer) (report herewith). (Pages 12 - 13)
- to note the forecast outturn for 2005/06 and forecast costs to the end of March, 2006
6. Budget Monitoring Report as at February, 2006 (Culture and Leisure) (Pete Hudson, Strategic Finance Officer) (report herewith). (Pages 14 - 15)
- to note the forecast outturn for 2005/06 and forecast costs to the end of March, 2006
7. Progress Report on Rotherham Children's Centres Programme and Extended Services (Sue Walker/Lynne Bruce-Minotti/Mary Smith) (report herewith). (Pages 16 - 25)
- to note the report
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE
21st March, 2006

Present:- Councillor Boyes (in the Chair).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Austen and Littleboy.

188. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 28TH FEBRUARY AND 7TH MARCH, 2006

The minutes of previous meetings held on 28th February and 7th March, 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

189. ROTHERHAM CULTURAL CONSORTIUM

The minutes of a meeting of the Rotherham Cultural Consortium held on 22nd February, 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

190. MATTERS ARISING

Audit Inspection

It was noted that the Audit Inspection would now take place on the 3rd July, 2006 and not 13th March, 2006 as reported at the last meeting of Rotherham Cultural Consortium.

191. TRANSFER OF HOSTING ARRANGEMENTS - SOUTH YORKSHIRE SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Culture & Leisure regarding a proposal to transfer the South Yorkshire Sports Partnership hosting arrangements from Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Rotherham MBC has acted as host agency for the Partnership since its conception in 2001. Given the length of time that Rotherham has operated in this role it is proposed that Barnsley MBC take on the responsibility at least for the next 3 years.

Rotherham MBC, along with the three other South Yorkshire Local Authorities, has been a member of the South Yorkshire Sport and Physical Activity Partnership (SYSPAP) since it was established in 2001. The Partnership, which includes other sport and physical activity stakeholders (e.g. health, regeneration, and voluntary sector), plays a leading role in the co-ordination and delivery of a wide range of sport and physical activity opportunities across the sub region. Rotherham MBC contributes both financially and in officer time to SYSPAP and in return benefits from external funding directed into the partnership by Sport England and other funders, as well as the work carried out by Partnership Officers centrally and in the Borough itself.

As part of a national review process, initiated by changes in the structure

of Sport England (the major funding body), the Partnership is currently going through a process of restructure in order to meet new Sport England criteria; establish itself as 'Fit for New Purpose' and consequently secure funding for the next 3 years.

As part of this process and due mainly to the length of time Rotherham has acted as host, Barnsley MBC has made an offer to take on the host responsibility. This is supported by the SYSPAP Executive Board and the proposal is to commence the new arrangement from May/June, 2006.

Whilst officers in Rotherham MBC, Culture and Leisure and other service areas have made an effective contribution to the hosting arrangements, it is felt that this transfer will allow others to make a similar contribution, whilst at the same time enable RMBC officers to play a more supportive role.

Resolved:- That the proposal to transfer the hosting arrangements for Rotherham MBC to Barnsley MBC be approved.

192. SINGLE PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Planning, Information and Performance, Children and Young People's Service which detailed the final draft version of the Single Plan. The plan has been developed by a multi-agency steering group and has been the subject of broad engagement and consultation. This final draft incorporates feedback received.

Publication must take place by 1st April, 2006 to meet the statutory deadline.

The plan has been drafted by a multi-agency steering group and wide consultation and engagement has been ongoing throughout the development stage, as well as when the plan reached draft format.

Whilst recognising that this is a strategic plan and that operational detail will follow as locality plans are developed, there will be a locality plan for each Area Assembly. This will be based on the strategic plan, but will be designed to meet the specific needs for that area.

The priorities in the plan are based upon sound research, using the Audit of Need, Children and Young People's Visioning, stakeholder meetings and events, and other recent feedback from consultation.

It was noted that the Joint Area Review would feed into the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and a discussion took place on priority areas of work and the importance and direction of self-assessment.

The meeting recognised that the delivery of the Plan would always reflect

changing financial pressures of all partners and would continue to be discussed and monitored.

A review of the Single Plan would take place after the Joint Area Review.

Resolved:- That the final version of the Single Plan be approved for publication.

193. GCSE EXAMINATION RESULTS 2005

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Achieving & Economic Wellbeing which contained details of the GCSE examination results for 2005 and how they compared to the previous year's national average and the results of statistical neighbours.

In 2005 the percentage of Rotherham's young people gaining five or more GCSEs at the highest grades of A*-C rose for the third year running. The rate of improvement was, again, higher than the national rate of improvement.

As a result of a new points score system for calculating the average point score of pupil's attainment introduced in 2004, comparisons could only be made for 2004 and 2005 and not against performance in previous years.

The percentage of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at the higher grade A*-C has increased by 3.6% from last year's figure to 49.5% in 2005 against a national average of 57.1%, an improvement of 3.4%.

The gap between the performance of schools in Rotherham and the national average has narrowed slightly from 7.8% in 2004 to 7.6% in 2005. The gap between the performance of schools in Rotherham and statistical neighbours is 1.4%.

86.5% of Rotherham's pupils gained 5+ A*-G (including English and mathematics), a 2% increase on 2004. This has narrowed the gap to 1.5% from the national average, and is just below that of statistical neighbours.

The percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-G grades (not specifically including English and mathematics), has remained the same with a slight improvement in the national average and a decline of 1% by statistical neighbours.

Only 3.7% of pupils in Rotherham left school in 2005 with no GCSE passes, 96.3% gained at least 1+A*-G. This is 1.1% below the national average and in line with statistical neighbours.

Girls are still significantly out-performing the boys with a 13.1% difference in 2005.

The report included information on:-

- LEA Statistics (against number of entries)
- The number of entries per pupil (full courses)
- Percentage of all full course examination grades A*-C (against entries)
- An analysis of Performance by Gender (5+ A*-C grades)
- Contextual Value Added (CVA) Summary (from Key Stage 2 to 4 and Key Stage 3 to 4)
- LEA statistics for individual schools (against the year cohort)

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received.

(2) That a report be submitted to a future meeting later in the year on the impact that gender differences can have on the performance of pupils and its complexities.

194. MORE PEOPLE MORE OFTEN, CULTURE AND LEISURE MARKETING STRATEGY 2006-2008

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Culture & Leisure detailing a Culture and Leisure Marketing Strategy which has been developed to meet recommendations made by the Audit Commission following Culture and Leisure's regular performance assessment undertaken in February, 2005.

The key aims of the marketing strategy are to raise awareness of the range of cultural and leisure services available in the borough, and increase the take up of services by local people, specifically those living in areas associated with social, economic and health inequalities.

In order to achieve the key aims of the strategy, a number of objectives taken from Culture and Leisure's service plan have been identified, upon which the strategy will be based. These were highlighted in the report submitted.

The implementation of the strategy, which will help to deliver the corporate priorities, will enable Culture and Leisure services to increase participation and strengthen its position before the CPA inspection of Culture and Leisure Services.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received.

(2) That the Culture and Leisure Marketing Strategy be approved for implementation.

(3) That the strategy be submitted to the next meeting of Rotherham Cultural Consortium.

195. CULTURE & LEISURE SERVICES EVENTS PLAN 2006-09

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Culture and Leisure which contained the details of the Events Plan which has been developed to provide structure and focus to events in Rotherham.

The Events Plan has the following aims:

- to provide a support network for event organisers
- to maximise the impact of events in promoting and attracting inward investment into Rotherham
- to enhance the lives of people both living in, and visiting, Rotherham
- to promote community cohesion and a celebration of the culture of all Rotherham's diverse communities.

The Plan, which is based upon priorities within the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan, involves the co-operation of community groups and organisations, the effectiveness of the Plan being dependent upon the relationship built with such groups.

The Plan also links to "Future Perfect" Rotherham's Cultural Strategy, corporate Communications and Marketing Strategy, Culture and Leisure Marketing Strategy and Rotherham Tourism Plan.

The objectives of the Plan are to:

- develop an infrastructure that supports the events sector in Rotherham
- maximise the contribution events make to residents' and visitors' enjoyment of life in Rotherham
- maximise the contribution events make to the economic development of Rotherham.

Resolved:- (1) That the Events Plan be agreed.

(2) That the Events Plan be forwarded to the next meeting of the Tourism Panel for information.

(The Chairman authorised consideration of the following items in order to process the matters referred to without unnecessary delay)

196. NEW NAME FOR GREEN ARBOUR SPECIAL SCHOOL

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Head of Service, Resources & Access which contained details of a request from the governing body of Green Arbour Special School to re-name the school.

A replacement school is being built at Green Arbour. The school has consulted with parents, staff and pupils on a name for the new school. The name chosen is The Willows School.

Resolved:- That approval be given for 'The Willows School' to be the new name for Green Harbour Special School and that this be effective from the 1st September, 2006.

197. ANNUAL DETERMINATION: THE LOCAL AUTHORITY (POST-COMPULSORY EDUCATION AWARDS) REGULATIONS 2000

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Head of Service on the requirement, under the Local Authority (Post-Compulsory Education Awards) Regulations 2000, to make an annual determination on exercising powers to make financial awards to new HE and FE students.

The Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 removed the power for LEAs to make discretionary awards to FE (and HE) students under the 1962 Education Act. Previous to this, the LEA had run a scheme of financial support to FE, sixth form and some HE students who would otherwise have not been eligible for funding. Section 129 of The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 conferred a revised power on LEAs, should they wish to use it, to make awards to new FE (and HE) students, and to 16-19 year olds who are still attending school.

In parallel with the removal of the power to make discretionary awards, funding was withdrawn from the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) from 1999-2000. From that date, the LEA determined not to make any new awards. New funding was available to students from a new Standards Fund in the form of Learner Support Funds. Also, since September 2004, the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) has been available to FE learners.

Authorities are however still required to make an annual determination for each financial year in regard to the revised power conferred in 1998. They have three main choices under the regulations:

- i) to determine not to take up the power in any circumstances and not make any provision for considering applications;
- ii) to decide to exercise the power only in respect of certain groups or categories of student; or
- iii) to decide to exercise the power generally and consider applications from all students – still in accordance with its policies on eligibility.

Resolved:- (1) That the Authority determines not to take up the power in any circumstances and not to make provision for considering application for awards to new FE and HE students, and to 16-19 year olds who are still attending school.

(2) That the situation be reviewed on an annual basis.

**ROTHERHAM CULTURAL CONSORTIUM
WEDNESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 2006**

Present:- Councillor Boyes (in the Chair); Councillor R. S. Russell, Brian Beeley, Noreen Brown, Mr. R. Bye, Mr. T. Clabby, Ms. C. Cox, Ms. E. Hyland, Mr. L. Johnson, Stuart Lister, Mr. R. Newman, Margaret Sides, Mr. D. Rowley, Esme Temple and Mrs. J. Williams.

R.M.B.C. Officer:-

Tony Preston	Project Development Officer, Culture & Leisure
Phil Gill	Green Spaces Manager, Culture & Leisure
Steve Hallsworth	Business Manager, Leisure & Green Spaces
Joanne Edley	Tourism Officer
Sarah Wickham	Principal Officer, Archives & Local Studies Service

63. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Austen, Littleboy and Swift, Marie Hayes, Val Allen, Phil Rogers, Guy Kilminster and Michael Bishop.

64. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2005

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 7th December 2005 were received as a correct record.

65. MATTERS ARISING

a) Reference List of Listed Buildings

Further to Minute No. 57 of the previous meeting, a reference list of listed buildings in the Borough was submitted.

Councillor R. Russell pointed out that some of the information was incorrect regarding the address/parish of a building.

Agreed:- That the list of buildings be received but checked and corrected as appropriate.

b) Rotherham Alive Partnership

Further to Minute No. 61 of the previous meeting, four members of the Cultural Consortium expressed an interest in being nominated to the Rotherham Alive Partnership. A ballot was therefore held.

Agreed:- That David Rowley represent the Cultural Consortium on the Rotherham Alive Partnership.

66. CULTURAL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS

In the absence of Phil Rogers, this item was deferred until the next meeting.

67. TOURISM UPDATE

Joanne Edley, Tourism Officer, reported in respect of the following:-

- the figures for the Visitors Centre which had improved
- the footfall figures for the Town Centre which were on target
- ways of promoting and increasing sales of local products (crisps produced locally were sent round for members of the Cultural Consortium to try)
- a gardening weekly leaflet was distributed
- the present situation on the Regeneration Project
- work with Sheffield University
- work with South Yorkshire Tourism Managers
- packages for business overnight stays in the area
- the Walking Festival which would again be held in July
- work on Economic Impact Study and implications for jobs in the area; RIDO and MAGNA were attracting funding
- work with Fitzwilliam Estates on various issues
- other projects such as involvement with the Dublin College Show, courses and work experience projects, contributions to Access for All

Subsequent comments on the above included reference to:-

- a) the crisps which were handed round which did not have ingredients listed;
- b) maintenance of the gateway to MAGNA;
- c) the authority's policy on monitoring of accommodation;
- d) the Town Trail, notice boards being out of date and in poor condition;
- e) the historic milestones around the Borough and who was responsible for maintaining them

Agreed:- That the report be received and information noted.

68. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

Phil Gill, Green Spaces Manager, and Steve Hallsworth, Business Manager, reported on the following:-

- the future and way forward on green spaces;
- strategy plans being developed by the Sports Advisory Working

- Group; a final document on this would be available shortly;
- the up to date situation of Leisure PFI;
- work being undertaken by the new Football Development Officer;
- proposals for the Community Sports Network

Subsequent comments were in respect of:-

- a) the Football Development Officer and whether the appointment for a two year period was long enough to achieve required objectives.

Funding streams for extending the contract were being explored.

- b) The Urban Park Rangers and their future resourcing.

It was confirmed that there would continue to be a team of Rangers. The present structure was outlined and their future working arrangements.

- c) The situation in respect of Ulley Park.

The allocation of resources was being reviewed and redistributed, with some staff being used differently.

Agreed:- That the report be received.

69. ROLLING OUT THE ARCHIVES

Sarah Wickham, Archives and Local Studies Officer, gave a presentation which included reference to:-

- the background to the Archives Service;
- use of the archives, main subject queries and majority of customer enquiries from outside the Borough;
- cataloguing of archives and grants available for this;
- the use of Heritage Lottery Funding for projects;
- the extent of outreach work;
- the amount of information available on the Internet for which there was a large demand;
- the long term presentation and protection of material

The comments/queries which followed related to:-

- a) research issues and charges involved (basically charges were only for photocopying)
- b) gaps in the service such as local businesses but proactive work was in hand to fill the gaps
- c) information from schools; it was forthcoming but it was a slow

- process
- d) the obtaining of information from Urban District Councils
- e) Access to Information Regulations, which were clarified.

Agreed:- That the presentation and information be received.

70. WALKER MAUSOLEUM

The meeting was informed of the up to date situation in that an access agreement had been reached which the neighbouring landowner was currently being invited to accept.

Reference was made to ownership issues and it was hoped to clarify this in the near future.

71. GREEN SPACES STRATEGY AND REVIEW

Phil Gill and Steve Hallsworth outlined the work being done to ensure that green spaces were cared for and protected/improved.

Information was provided in respect of:-

- Access to green spaces for recreation
- The need to maintain good standards and responsibility for green spaces
- The Asset Management Strategy which included green spaces
- Increased community involvement, such as “Friends of” Groups particular regard being taken of sustainability issues
- Other relevant strategies being undertaken and areas considered to be priorities for improvement
- the availability of green spaces to each community (some communities do not have easy access to any)
- Green Flag Award bids

With regard to the future, work was ongoing in respect of:-

- the grading of the various types of green space
- accessibility and quality, standards and investment issues
- ownership matters
- partnership and stakeholder issues

Subsequent comments from members made reference to:-

- a) the management and use of green spaces and the need for a variety of types of play areas;
- b) development of facilities at Herringthorpe Playing Fields, particularly pitch and pavilion provision. Discussion took place on the lease situation and partnership issues. Strategic support from officers was requested.
- c) Issues surrounding the gift of sites and quality of sites concerned.

The Council's objective was to provide a formula/criteria for developers.

- d) Action required to alleviate problems arising due to the growth of Japanese Knotweed. The Environment Agency was to be made aware of problems in the area.
- e) Concerns arising from off road bikes using Borough owned land. It was confirmed that where this occurred, it was not being done legally.

72. CULTURAL CONFERENCE 2006

Jackie Thornhill, Sports and Physical Activity Manager, outlined the programme for the above conference and the possible impact for Rotherham of the 2012 Olympics. Local venues were being looked at for consideration.

73. CULTURAL STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Tony Preston, Project Development Manager, informed the meeting that the action plan was now complete and would be published shortly.

74. ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK ON THE SITE OF THE OLD MARKET

Councillor Boyes informed the meeting of likely developments on this site.

75. TOWN CENTRE RENAISSANCE

A timescale for this was to be given at the next meeting.

76. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This would be in early September, but the exact date would need to be set in accordance with the cycle of meetings for the new municipal year in due course.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
--

1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Services Cabinet Member and Advisors Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure Cabinet Members and Advisors
2.	Date:	11th April 2006
3.	Title:	Budget Monitoring Report as at Feb 2006 (All Wards)
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary

This is the eighth Budget Monitoring Report for Children and Young People’s Services in 2005/06 and the fifth separate report, reflecting the organisational change that resulted in the formal cessation of the Education, Culture and Leisure Services Programme Area and the creation of the Children and Young People’s Services Programme Area on 1st October 2005.

The current forecast (as in January) is for the former Education element of the service to achieve a balanced budget by the end of the financial year.

6. Recommendations

Members are asked to note the forecast outturn for 2005/06 based on actual costs to 28th February 2006 and forecast costs to the end of March 2006.

7. Proposals and Details

The Education element within Children and Young People's Services is currently forecasting to spend to budget by the end of the financial year following a report to Cabinet on 25th January which approved a £35k increase to the Programme Area cash limit.

There remains a potential pressure in respect of the Special Education Needs budget where there is a probability that 3 high costs placements will have to be met through Out Of Authority provision as the needs of the children cannot be met within the Borough. If these placements are made before the end of the financial year it is unlikely that these costs will be contained within budget.

8. Finance

The current forecast as at 28th February 2006 is for the former Education Services within Children and Young People's Services to spend to budget.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Underlying risks presently identified and under evaluation are:

- Costs relating to the operation of the Strategic Partnership with RBT have not yet been processed. It is assumed that these charges will outturn on budget.
- The potential costs of up to 3 Out of Authority placements should the children be placed before the end of the financial year.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The forecast outturn as at 28th February 2006 shows an that spend will be in line with the Programme Area cash limit for 2005/06.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

This report has been discussed with the Senior Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services and the Executive Director of Finance.

Contact Name: Pete Hudson, Strategic Finance Officer, Ext. 2550,
peter.hudson@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
--

1.	Meeting:	Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure Cabinet Member and Advisors
2.	Date:	11th April 2006
3.	Title:	Budget Monitoring Report as at Feb 2006 (All Wards)
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

This is the eighth Budget Monitoring Report for Culture and Leisure Services in 2005/06 and the fifth separate report for the service, reflecting the organisational change that resulted in the formal cessation of the Education, Culture and Leisure Services Programme Area and the creation of the Children and Young People's Services Programme Area on 1st October 2005.

The current forecast is for the service to achieve a balanced budget by the end of the financial year. This is in line with the forecast outturn reported at the end of January 2006.

6. Recommendations

Members are asked to note the forecast outturn for 2005/06 based on actual costs to 28th February 2006 and forecast costs to the end of March 2006.

7. Proposals and Details

The current forecast is for the service to outturn to budget for the financial year 2005/06.

The balanced position will be achieved through the implementation of a number of management actions and funding decisions agreed at Cabinet on 25th January 2006.

8. Finance

The service has operated and continues to operate a moratorium on procurement spending (except health and safety issues) and stringent controls have been and continue to be applied to vacancy management. These measures together with the Cabinet approved recommendations (25/1/06) of the Head of Culture and Leisure Services are designed to ensure that expenditure is contained within the revised cash limited budget for 2005/06.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Underlying risks presently identified and under evaluation are:

- Costs relating to the operation of the Strategic Partnership with RBT have not yet been processed. It is assumed that these charges will outturn on budget.

Proposals to address recurrent budget pressures have been considered and agreed as part of the 2006/07 budget setting process.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The forecast outturn is in line with the revised cash limit for 2005/06.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Cabinet Report 25/01/06 – Culture and Leisure Services Budget Pressures 2005/06

This report has been discussed with the Head of Culture and Leisure Services and the Executive Director of Finance.

Contact Name: Pete Hudson, Strategic Finance Officer, Ext. 2550,
peter.hudson@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
--

1.	Meeting:	Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure Cabinet Member
2.	Date:	Tuesday 11th April 2006
3.	Title:	Progress Report on Rotherham Children’s Centres Programme and Extended Services
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary:

Sure Start Children’s Centres are at the heart of the Government’s Every Child Matters: Change for Children Programme. They are a key vehicle for providing services that families need. By 2010 there will be 3,500 – one for every community. Children’s centres will play a central role in improving outcomes for all young children, and in reducing the inequalities in outcomes between the most disadvantaged children and the rest. Although they need to reflect different local needs, in all areas they will be a central part of a Local Authority’s provision for young children and their families. We are moving from a range of local initiatives to a mainstream service. While the evaluation of the first Sure Start Local Programmes has shown some benefits for the majority of families, there are important messages about what we need to improve as children’s centres are rolled out across the borough.

Extended Services (Extended Schools)

- Where children’s centres focus on services for the 0 to 5 age range and their families, the extended schools programme takes this vision through to support school-age pupils, their families and the wider community. Having piloted schools delivering services and opportunities other than education through Full Service Extended Schools, the DfES are further developing this to enable all schools to contribute to the provision of a core offer covering a range of services to their communities.

Rotherham is making excellent progress with both its children’s centre and extended services initiatives.

6. Recommendations:

To note the report.

7. Proposals and Details:

Background

Government Vision

Sure Start Children's Centres are at the heart of the Government's "Every Child Matters: Change for Children Programme". They will play a central role in improving outcomes for all young children and in reducing the inequalities in outcomes between the most disadvantaged children and the rest. Although different local needs will be reflected in all areas, all centres will be a central part of the local Authority's provision for young children and their families.

Phase 1

At present Rotherham has six designated Sure Start Children's Centres.

- Aughton Early Years Centre - A partnership between Barnardos and Aughton Early Years Centre outreaching to Thurcroft, Treeton and Catcliffe
- Rawmarsh Children's Centre – A partnership between Rawmarsh Nursery School and Rawmarsh Sure Start Programme
- Sure Start Rotherham Central Children's Centre – A partnership between Ferham School and Central Sure Start Programme
- The Arnold Centre
- Maltby Sure Start Children's Centre
- Wath Victoria Primary School

It is anticipated that the following Centres will be designated by May 2006;

- Dinnington Community Primary School
- Dalton Foljambe Primary School
- Thybergh Primary School
- Rockingham Junior and Infant School

September 2006

- Kimberworth Community Primary School
- Coleridge Primary School

Phase 2

For Phase 2 Rotherham has a target to create an additional eight Children's Centres by 31st March 2008. Initial proposals cover the following areas not served by a Children's Centre and within or reaching into the 30% areas of disadvantage:

Catcliffe/Brinsworth
Broom Valley/Stag/Whiston
Thorpe Hesley

Anston Park
Bramley/Wickersley
Brampton
Swinton/Kilnhurst
Wales/Kiveton

Further feasibility will be undertaken to identify suitable sites for the Children's Centre base, however outreach delivery of services in a variety of venues and home visiting will be a key component of Children's Centre developments. Unlike Phase 1 Children's Centres there is no associated target to create additional childcare provision.

Local Area Agreements will be an important focus of the work contributing towards bringing all interested parties together and the integration of services to better meet the needs of children, young people, families and their communities.

Extended Services (Extended Schools)

It is clear to see the alignment and integration of extended schools with the children's centre initiative. Where children's centres focus on services for the 0 to 5 age range and their families, the extended schools programme takes this vision through to support school-age pupils, their families and the wider community.

Having piloted the initiative of schools delivering services and opportunities other than education through Full Service Extended Schools, the DfES are extending this to enable all schools to contribute to providing a core offer to their communities (Appendix 1);

Commencing in January, the Local Authority will take the following schools through the process of change (training and support) to enable them to give a date by which they can deliver the core offer.

The schools selected to go through the first training phase are:

- Clifton Cluster ~ including: Clifton-A Community Arts School, the Arnold Centre, Badsley Moor Infant School, Badsley Moor Junior School, Coleridge Primary School, Herringthorpe Junior School, Herringthorpe Infant School, East Dene Primary School and St. Ann's Primary School.
- Wingfield Cluster ~ including: Wingfield Comprehensive School, Greasbrough Primary School, Rockingham Primary School and Roughwood Primary School, Redscope Primary School. We are also inviting Fenton Wood and Greasbrough Pupil Referral Units to join the training.
- Winterhill Cluster ~ including: Winterhill School, Blackburn Primary School, Ferham Primary School, Meadowhall Junior School, Kimberworth Infant School, St. Bede's Primary School, Thornhill Primary School, Thorpe Hesley Infant School and Thorpe Hesley Junior School. Kelford and Abbey Special Schools.
- Thurcroft Junior School, Thurcroft Infant School and Green Arbour Special School who have already commenced some pilot work.

It is proposed that the second phase training phase commencing in the summer term 2006 will cover schools from the Dinnington and Wales cluster. The training will also involve the Rawmarsh cluster including Rawmarsh Community School - already a Full Service School, who are contributing to the training and development of the other Schools and workers.

8. Finance:

Children's Centres

Funding 2004 – 06 (for the 20% most disadvantaged areas)	
Capital	£2,724,334
Revenue	£1,156,231
Targets	
New Childcare Places for children under 5 years	404
Reach for services for children and their families	6044
Funding 2006 – 08	
Capital	£1,836,645
Revenue	£4,173,631 (to support new and existing Children's Centres)
Targets	
8 Centres	
Reach for services for children and their families	6094 (additional)

Extended Services (Schools)

Funding 2005 - 06	
Sure Start Grant to support Childcare	£53,000
Standard's Fund Grant	£401,983
Funding 2006 - 07	
Standards Fund	£410,183
Funding 2007 - 08	
Standards Fund	£420,559
Targets: by 2008 a third of Secondary Schools and half of all Primary Schools will make the Core offer available, by 2010 all schools will make the core offer available.	

Rawmarsh Community School as Rotherhams first identified Full Service School will receive £93,000 - 05 – 06, this funding will continue for a further two years

All schools will receive an element of funding to all schools from 2006, however at present the amount has not been identified.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

The success of both initiatives is central to meeting the Every Child Matters agenda, and both the Corporate and Community plans. Working in partnership is a crucial element of both the children's centre and extended services initiatives, without the commitment of essential partners particularly health and social services important services will not be delivered, this commitment needs to be both at a financial and a service delivery level. Levels of DFES funding are not sufficient to ensure this provision, the reshaping of present provision must be addressed if services are to be sustainable.

Sure Start designation of Children's Centres will be dependent upon completion of the capital build programme for each centre, Ofsted registration of childcare provision, the involvement of a qualified early year's teacher and links with Job Centre Plus. Timescales for designation may require amendment in the light of changing circumstances, specifically around building issues and registration. Revenue funding of £350 per childcare place will be reclaimed should the timescales slip beyond 31st March 2006. This has been accounted for in the budget profiling for the programme.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

Both initiatives have a significant role to play in supporting the delivery of the Corporate Plan priorities

Rotherham Learning: integrated services and family support will lead to higher standards of achievement in areas of high social and economic deprivation.

Rotherham Achieving: the programmes focus on building the capacity of families to support themselves and to re enter the employment market.

Rotherham Safe: a crucial priority for the integrated services will be the safety of vulnerable children. Early identification preventing vulnerability.

Rotherham Alive: the partnerships with the PCT promote healthy lifestyles through early intervention.

Rotherham Proud: the communities are certainly proud of the excellent and accessible buildings at Central and Rawmarsh and the Maltby community is expected to feel the same about its nearly completed building. This is already showing an impact on self esteem, raising the personal aspirations of families.

Fairness: the services within accessible buildings give equality of opportunity to the communities.

Sustainable development: Partnership working and the reshaping of present services will enable sustainable development.

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

Consultation with;

Schools

Partners in health and social services

Private and voluntary sector

Community Strategy

Children's Centre Strategy 2004 - 2006

Sure Start Children's Centre Guidance 2004 – 2006

Every Child Matters – Case for Change

Contact Name :

Sue Walker Principal School Improvement Adviser - Extended Learning

Telephone 01709 822549

email sue.walker@rotherham.gov.uk

Lynne Bruce-Minotti

Extended Services Remodelling Adviser,

Tel.01709 822463

e-mail lynne.bruce-minotti@rotherham.gov.uk

Mary Smith

Early Years & Childcare Strategy Manager

Tel: 01709 822549

e-mail mary.smith@rotherham.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Background Information

S

ure Start National expects to see changes to practice in a range of areas, including:

- Children's Centres reaching the most disadvantaged families and children;
- increasing consistency in the level of support services offered;
- grounding children's centre practice in evidence;
- improving multi-agency working;
- raising the quality of early years provision; and
- employing more highly trained and qualified staff.

Rotherham Children's Centre programme is making very good progress, services are already in place in the designated centres and clear plans are in place to ensure services are developed to meet the needs of our communities.

Present position

Developments

A pilot project is being delivered until August 2006 to support access to Job Centre Plus services via a Children's Centre. A worker has been appointed to raise awareness of Job Centre Plus services, provide training to Children's Centres staff and work with Children's Centres and other partners to support and prepare individuals to access training or employment opportunities.

An Outreach Information Officer has been recruited through Neighbourhood Renewal Funding to deliver Children's Information Services (CIS) within local communities. Equipped with a laptop with remote internet access, a portable, rechargeable printer and a range of information leaflets, information can be delivered anywhere within the borough. The Officer has made strong links with the "Action Team for Jobs", Health Visitors, Family Support Workers, Women's Groups and Parent and Toddler groups to raise awareness of the service and availability of information for parents/carers. This has produced positive results leading to a doubling in the number of enquiries received by CIS from Health Visitors. Working with Rotherham Play and Learn Bus, the Officer is also able to provide information directly to parents accessing other services from the bus.

Family Support Workers have been recruited at Rockingham, Wath, Kimberworth, Dalton and Thybergh Children's Centres to work with families before the centres open. They will also support families through outreach, home visits and access to services at the centres.

In November 2005 a series of local information evenings were held for all childcare providers to raise awareness of the following:

- Every Child Matters
- The Ten Year Strategy
- Children's Centres
- Extended Schools
- Changes to 3 and 4 year old nursery education funding
- Childcare Bill

The response has been very positive on aspects such as multi-agency working, support for children and families, outreach services and training, information sharing, and support from Children's Centres for the childcare provider sector. Challenges have been identified as recruitment and retention of staff, sustainability, increased choice for parents, competition, creation of childcare in advance of demand, and current level of vacancies within the childcare sector. When asked about levels of support which they would welcome, the response was, the development of cross sector childcare locality networks, involvement in locality partnerships, increased awareness and information sharing, funding for younger three year olds and support with marketing, staff recruitment and retention.

The Children's Centres Leadership Group

To enable services to be accessible at the heart of communities, a key element of Rotherham's Children's Centre Strategy is (with the exception of Maltby) to site Children's Centres on school sites. Strong, empathetic leadership is vital to the success of these programme leaders. To ensure Children Centre's are well led and meet the needs of their communities, a leadership programme is being undertaken by nominated head teachers and key change agents to:

- explore what they want for their community and how this will be achieved
- facilitate community leadership
- facilitate change in the way services are delivered

This key group has now been in place for a year and has worked with officers to further develop the strategy, vision and working practices for the centres presently identified and to inform the organisation of proposed new centres.

Early Years and Childcare Services are reshaping to support integrated service delivery within local communities/Area Assemblies particularly in relation to Children's Centres and Extended Services (Extended Schools).

Extended Services (Extended Schools)

The core offer;

- By 2010 Secondary schools to be open from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. all year round, providing access to a range of activities for young people such as music, sport and holiday activities. High quality wrap-around childcare, available 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. all year round. This can be provided on the school site or through other local providers, with supervised transfer arrangements where appropriate
- Primary schools should have access to the same range of services – not necessarily on school sites
- A varied menu of activities should be available which could include, homework clubs and study support, sport, music, dance, drama, special interest clubs
- Parenting support, including information sessions for parents at key transition points, parenting programmes and family learning sessions
- Swift and easy referral to a wide range of specialist support services such as speech and language therapy, child and adolescent mental health services, intensive behaviour support and for some young people sexual health services. Some of these may be delivered on the school site
- Providing wide community access to ICT Sports and Arts facilities, including adult learning

To accelerate change the National Remodelling Team (NRT) have become involved in supporting Local Authorities to take schools through a change process to meet targets where all schools contribute to the full core offer by 2010. To fulfil NRT requirements all Local Authorities are expected to nominate an Extended Services Remodelling Adviser, and up to six Extended Services Remodelling Consultants to support schools in their training. Rotherham now has six LA/health colleagues trained to work with nominated schools.

To support the work of the schools a post of Extended Services Senior Officer has been appointed. To further support schools in the development of their services up to seven Extended Services Childcare Officers and seven Extended Services Partnership Officers are also being recruited.

The process of accelerating the Extended Services programme will involve meeting with Headteachers and bringing them together with partner providers to increase their confidence about how the Extended Services agenda might be achieved. We will then support schools in holding community events to enable stakeholders to receive information about Extended Services and feel valued as partners in delivering services to communities. A presentation has been given to all.

Headteachers with very good feedback, although they are aware of the challenges the initiative brings they are positive about the real benefits extended services can bring to children and communities and the particular effect this can have on attainment and achievement.

The Early Years and Childcare Service are developing a legal Partnership Agreement which will enable Schools to take a more pro-active role in negotiating and commissioning services. This will aid the protection of children and young people, school staff, Governors, partner providers and the wider community in safely accessing services and activities. A draft publicity leaflet is also available for schools to adopt if they wish. A key success is the development of an electronic audit tool, for the eighty seven schools which have completed it has provided significant detail of their activities during 04/05. This tool has been purchased by thirty two other Local Authorities.

Proposed developments

The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, Children's Fund Partnership, Children's Centres Steering Group and Extended Schools Steering Group remit and membership is being reviewed to develop a partnership structure which will encompass children, young people and family services across the 0-19 years age range and the wider community. This will formalise the existing close links between each of current groups and report to the Children and Young People's Executive Group and the Children and Young People's Board as required.