

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

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

Date: Tuesday, 31 October 2006

Time: 12.00 NOON

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. Apologies for Absence.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th October 2006 (herewith). (Pages 1 - 2)

FOR DECISION

5. Arrangements for Integration of Connexions and Young People's Services (report herewith) (Pages 3 - 18)

Joyce Thacker, report author

FOR INFORMATION / DELIBERATION

6. Revenue Budget Monitoring Report as at 30th September 2006 (herewith) (Pages 19 - 22)

Joanne Robertson, report author

7. School Balances and Planned Use (report herewith) (Pages 23 - 30)

Joanne Robertson, report author

8. Looked After Children - Monitoring Procedure of Post 16 Qualifications (report herewith) (Pages 31 - 34)

Katy Hawkins, report author

9. School Organisation Plan 2003/04 to 2007/08 - 3rd Update (report herewith) (Pages 35 - 41)

Martin Harrop, report author

10. Electronic Social Care Record (report herewith) (Pages 42 - 44)

Phil Morris, report author

11. Information Sharing Index (report herewith) (Pages 45 - 47)

Susan Gray, report author

12. Joint Inspection of Rotherham Youth Offending Services (report herewith) (Pages 48 - 51)

Simon Perry, report author

13. Joint Area Review (report herewith) (Pages 52 - 54)

Julie Westwood, report author

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES
10th October, 2006

Present:- Councillor S. Wright (in the Chair) and Councillor Havenhand.

62. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Burton and Whelbourn.

63. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd September, 2006 be received as a correct record.

64. CODE OF PRACTICE - YOUTH CABINET PROTOCOL

Consideration was given to the content of a report which had been written by Rotherham Youth Cabinet setting out a code of practice establishing the principles of the voice and influence of Rotherham Youth Cabinet and setting out a protocol for officers and others to follow when bringing items to the Youth Cabinet for consideration.

The Code of Practice has been agreed by the Rotherham Youth Cabinet and Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel.

Resolved:- That the Code of Practice be supported and submitted to Cabinet for it to be adopted prior to relevant bodies and officers being made aware of its content.

65. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INTEGRATIONS OF CONNEXIONS AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Consideration of this item was deferred pending the outcome of a briefing meeting between the Chairman and Officers.

66. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT - SIX MONTH REPORT

The Senior Head of Service reported that under the terms of the Local Area Agreement, a report on progress after six months needs to be submitted to Government Office for Yorkshire and the Regions.

The report submitted set out information currently available on the Children and Young People's Block, it being a review of progress against all outcomes and targets within the LAA.

Given the need to satisfy reporting requirements of the Council, partners and Local Strategic Partnership, and to fit in with set meeting dates, it had been decided to submit an early draft for consideration. It has also allowed officers to identify weaknesses in data collection and systems.

Since the LAA began to be implemented from April 2006 good progress has been made against agreed objectives. The report provides an overview and highlights the analysis of progress within the Children and Young People's Block of the LAA Performance Information that is available for the stretch targets featured in the report and the appendix.

However, despite good progress on many of the key outcomes of the LAA, there are examples of targets which are annual measures and have no interim targets, and which need further development to become effective measures of performance. Some measures will need to be changed or deleted as part of the rationalisation process of local targets.

Performance and finance data which is currently missing, is in the process of being gathered and will be incorporated in the final six month review report.

Particular discussion took place on:-

- (a) the funding situation:
- (b) who controls Local Area Agreements and who is accountable;
- (c) the need to clarify outcomes and what will be achieved;
- (d) the Performance Management Framework.

Resolved:- That the content of the report and appendix be noted and the final six month review report be submitted to the meeting scheduled for the 28th November, 2006.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council – Report to Members

1.	Meeting:	Children & Young People’s Services Cabinet Member
2.	Date:	31st October 2006
3.	Title:	Arrangements for the integration of Connexions and Young People’s Services
4.	Programme Area:	Children & Young People’s Services

5. Summary:

This paper summarises the need for organisational change arising from the Government’s Green Paper, Youth Matters, from the implications of the break-up of the Connexions South Yorkshire Partnership

The paper then proposes revisions to the existing Young People’s Services as a response to the need for change.

6. Recommendations:**Members are asked to approve:**

- **Exemption from the tendering process until September 2008 for the Connexions contracts. Exemption is sought under Paragraph 35 Chapter 1 Part IV Contract Standing Orders.**
- **The development of a ‘Youth Offer’ for Rotherham in accordance with Green Paper proposals**
- **That the YPS base budget is committed to the provision of universal services for all young people across RMBC and that external monies are targeted according to greatest need.**

Members are asked to note:

- **A revision to the management of existing services on an interim basis to include the current Young People’s Services and the management of the Connexions contracts. These integrated services will be known as Young People’s Services.**
- **The interim management and organisational structure required for the revised arrangements as set out in Appendix 1.**
- **The current version of the Connexions Transition Plan that has been approved by Government Office set out in Appendix 2**

7. Proposals and Details:

The Green paper Youth Matters was published on 18th July 2005.

The main proposal of the paper is that local authorities will lead on developing youth policy and deliver this through an integrated Youth Support Service providing services ranging from universally available activities to specialist and targeted support. Local authorities will be responsible for planning and commissioning services from a variety of public, voluntary and private providers, against a new statutory duty to secure 'positive activities for all young people'. There will also be a set of national standards for positive activities, which will provide a framework for local youth offers.

Youth Matters does not advocate any single model for achieving an integrated service, stating that local authorities - increasingly influenced by young people - must decide on the structures that meet their needs.

Progress will be evaluated against the Every Child Matters outcomes framework. Youth Matters outlines a framework for services to young people to be provided by integrated services within Children's Trust arrangements.

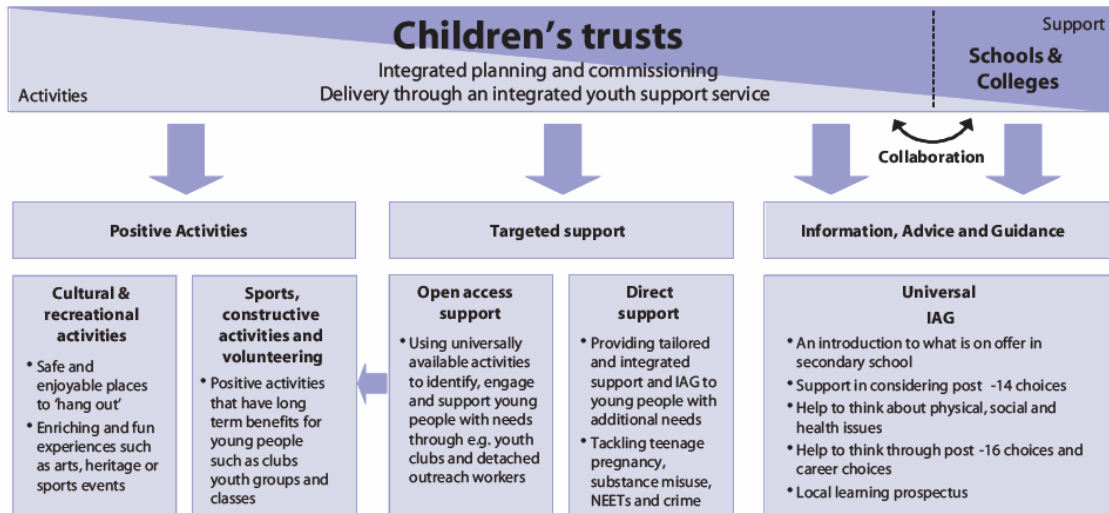
The Children's Trust arrangements are expected to:

- Ensure positive activities.
- Promote and support voluntary action.
- Carry out information, advice and guidance functions.
- Manage integrated targeted support.

And the way in which these expectations are delivered should mirror the core functions of the Children's Trust arrangements:

- Assess need.
- Map services.
- Plan through the C&YPS.
- Monitor, evaluate, redesign and commission services.

Proposals are set out in the diagram below (taken from page 63 of the Green Paper).



Connexions

The proposals of the Green Paper combined with the advent of Local Area Agreements have meant an end to former sub-regional arrangements for the management of the Connexions Service and Strategy.

Current arrangements are that RMBC host a sub-regional Connexions Unit that contracts with Connexions suppliers across Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham. A Connexions Deed agreed by the three Councils governs the work of this Unit. These arrangements come to an end on 31st March 2007 and all Connexions funding will then be channelled into the local authorities via the LAA.

Several Connexions contracts will be inherited from the current Connexions Unit and these will become the subject of re-commissioning or tendering under the C&YPS Commissioning Framework 2006-9. However, as the management arrangements which will be responsible for this re-commissioning process are not yet in place, and indeed are the subject of this paper, we will not have sufficient time to undertake the full commissioning cycle and procurement process before April 2007.

Members are therefore asked to agree exemption from the tendering process until September 2008 for the Connexions contracts. Exemption is sought under Paragraph 35 Chapter 1 Part IV Contract Standing Orders.

The views of the Head of Legal Services and the Executive Director of Finance have been sought on the proposed exemption and the report confirms that an exemption is acceptable subject to Cabinet Member approval.

The tendering process commencing in September 2007 will demonstrate propriety, value for money and compliance with European and Domestic law.

Statutory duties

The Education and Inspection Bill will place a duty on local authorities to provide services for young people including positive activities. A government amendment to the Bill will add the duty to provide "personal and social development" for young people. A debate in the House of Lords in July clarified that the Government means by this youth work.

There is already a statutory duty on the Secretary of State to provide all young people with access to impartial careers advice (Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993 and Section 114 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000). Since 2001 this duty has been exercised through Connexions Partnerships and this will become the responsibility of Rotherham MBC from 1st April 2007.

Under Section 140 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000, the Secretary of State has a duty to arrange assessment for young people with a learning difficulty or disability as defined by the Act to assist with their transition to post 16 opportunities. This duty will become the responsibility of Rotherham MBC from 1st. April 2007.

LAA guidance states that Government Offices will want to be assured that 'local areas have in place a robust client management system that meets the Connexions Client Information System (CCIS) to ensure national consistency to collate and track progress on a monthly basis'.

All the above means that from 1st April 2007 new arrangements will be needed for the delivery of Connexions services within Rotherham and that there will be a need to integrate these services more fully with other services to young people in line with the Green Paper proposals.

Consultation

In order to consider the various options on how to achieve this integration an external consultation process has been undertaken using external funds, led by consultants appointed after a competitive tender.

A reference group made up of all key stakeholders and chaired by George Trow, Principal of Rotherham College of Arts and Technology, oversaw the work of the external consultants.

It is proposed that the principles of the revised service are those which emerged from the consultation with key stakeholders:

- Maximising choices for young people.
- Voluntary engagement of young people.
- Centrality of the relationship between the young person with a skilled worker.
- Services accessible to all but differentiated according to need.
- Extending opportunity and equality of opportunity.
- Clarity of offer to young people and to partners and clarity of how to access.
- Consistent quality in delivery.
- Building partnership capacity.

It is proposed that a ‘**Youth Offer**’ to young people is developed using the findings of the consultation as the base and that this includes an extended consultation with young people.

Management Arrangements

The proposed **interim** arrangements will be responsible for the development of youth strategy and the integrated delivery of positive activities, targeted support and careers education, advice, information and guidance across the borough.

The interim management and organisational structure required for the revised arrangements is set out in Appendix 1.

It is proposed that the manager of the revised arrangements leads a partnership team responsible for a strategic overview of needs and services. In addition, the partnership team will oversee the transition process to fully integrated Connexions and Youth Services by September 2007

- Manager from Nord Anglia Lifetime Development. (NALD)
- Manager of Rotherham Youth Service.
- A manager from the health sector.
- A manager responsible for Widening Participation (funded from the Connexions budget).
- Voluntary sector representative.
- Senior School Improvement Adviser (to ensure appropriate involvement of the school improvement function).

Integrated Connexions and Youth Services

The benefits of integration are significant:

- Making services for young people more efficient and effective.
- Bringing together youth strategy development and funding in one place allowing for transparency and a single point of responsibility and accountability.
- Engaging more young people in positive activities and empowering them through voice and influence activity to shape the services they receive.
- The joining together of current advice, information, counselling and guidance services provided by a range of organisations so that young people have a single point of call for these services.
- Providing better and more personalised intensive support for each young person who has serious problems or gets into trouble.
- The involvement of a wide range of organisations from the voluntary, community, independent and private sectors to increase choice and secure the best outcomes.
- Making services more responsive to what young people and their parents/carers need.
- Having a single set of agreed outcomes that drive the whole service across the borough.

It is proposed that the core functions of the new arrangements are:

- To champion young people.
- To enable and ensure that the voice and influence of young people impacts on the planning, delivery and evaluation of all services for young people.
- To co-ordinate and develop youth policy and strategy.
- To co-ordinate a partnership approach to the four functions of:
 - Assess need;
 - Map services;
 - Plan through the C&YPS;
 - Monitor, evaluate, redesign and commission services.
- To ensure that young people have access to holistic information, advice, guidance and support in accessible locations, which takes account of the whole range of needs and aspirations.
- To work with schools, colleges and employers to provide a co-ordinated careers education, information, advice and guidance service, which draws on current labour market analysis and local opportunities for training and employment.
- To co-ordinate and enable a network of developmental opportunities and activities for young people which utilises the resources of all partners and into which other services might refer young people who are the focus of multi-agency support.
- Fully participate in the ECM agenda by:
 - Participating in multi-agency teams as appropriate.
 - Ensuring that there are clear referral routes into the service for young people in need of intensive support.
 - To act as lead professional, as appropriate, for young people referred to service that are in need of intensive support.

Governance arrangements

There will be a need for clear links between the Service and the wider Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. Reporting structures will need to be established through to the Strategic Children and Young People's Board and through to the Local Strategic partnership.

In other aspects the Service should be accountable like any other C&YPS Service Area through the C&YPS JLT, RMBC Corporate Management Team and to RMBC Cabinet Member and full Cabinet.

These arrangements may need modifying as Children's Trust arrangements are developed.

8. Finance:

The integrated Service will be funded through existing RMBC revenue budgets and the existing Connexions funding which will be channelled through RMBC from 1st April 2007. In addition the Service will seek to align or pool other budgets currently committed to work with the teenage years as appropriate.

No new RMBC revenue funding will be needed in order to establish the revised management arrangements.

The total identified budget for the Service is estimated as (at 2006/7 levels):

	£
Young People's Services	2,500,000
Connexions Rotherham allocation	2,812,000
Share of Connexions central costs	222,000
Total	3,284,000

Young People's Services external income (excluding connexions contracts) last financial year was around £1,000,000 so assuming agreement on some additional pooled budgets it is not unreasonable to assume that the Service will have a total budget of in excess of £4m.

There may be savings, especially into the long term, from the successful implementation of the integrated Connexions and Youth service, which could be redirected toward priority areas of work. Integration and a shared commitment to locally delivered services, prevention and early intervention should reduce pressure on other provision and its associated costs.

It is proposed that the YPS base budget is committed to the provision of universal services for all young people across RMBC and that external monies are targeted according to greatest need.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

The proposed model of service integration will reduce the risk of inefficiencies in services not being deployed according to need. It also provides a workable structure within which to harness professional skills and human resource within a coherent framework that promotes multi-disciplinary working whilst ensuring that specialist expertise is not jeopardised.

Not making the changes would risk inconsistency with the clear expectations of service delivery within Every Child Matters: Change for Children and within Youth Matters. In turn, this would jeopardise improvement to the quality of provision for young people.

The formation of the revised service will require the termination of the current Connexions Deed between the South Yorkshire Local Authorities, the winding up of Connexions South Yorkshire Ltd. and possible redundancies or TUPE transfers related to the ending of current delivery patterns.

This will need careful management with continued appropriate involvement from colleagues within Legal and Democratic Services and Human Resources.

The Local Authority must ensure that the Secretary of State's statutory duties are fulfilled with no gap in service when responsibility is transferred at the end of the financial year. Government Office is closely monitoring reorganisation proposals and a transition plan has been written and approved by Government Office. This is presented as Appendix 2. The transition plan will be updated regularly.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

The proposed model, if adopted, will help to ensure that provision for young people within the Single Children and Young People's Plan is related directly to need as well as ensuring that all statutory responsibilities are met.

The proposed Service must be outcome-focussed and able to demonstrate its impact and effectiveness.

Key performance indicators already exist for the work through the DfES/National Youth Agency standards contained with 'Resourcing Excellent Youth Services', through OFSTED inspection criteria, through BVPI 221 and through the LPSA/LAA NEET target.

Youth Matters also promises a complete new set of standards for integrated Youth Support Services and a new statutory obligation on local authorities to secure positive activities for all young people, as measured against these standards.

The local authority will also be required to fulfil the Secretary of State's statutory duties to provide a Careers service to young people, Section 140 assessments and the provision of the CCIS database.

By improving the quality of Services to young people these proposals will play a significant role in delivering the outcomes contained within the Community Strategy Corporate Strategy, Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and the ECM framework.

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

Consultation

The consultants employed to draw up proposals interviewed 41 different stakeholders and organised several consultation events including several Reference Group meetings and a half-day conference. Two different groups of young people were also directly involved in the discussion of proposals.

Background papers

- The Education and Inspection Bill 2006
- Youth Matters. DfES 2005
- Every Child Matters: Change for Children, DfES 2003
- Resourcing Excellent Youth Services. DfES 2002
- Transitions. ODPM 2005.

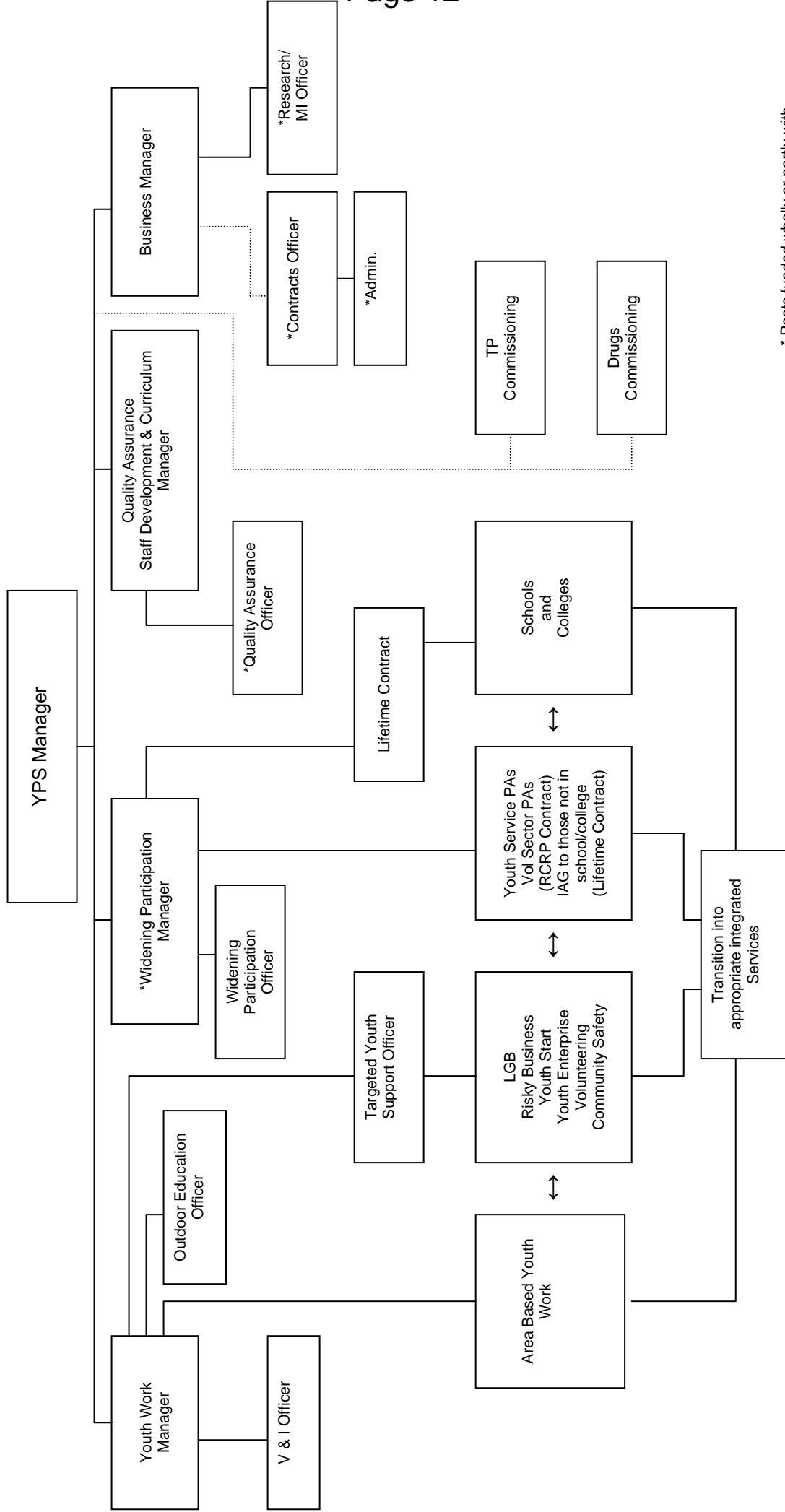
Contact Name:

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E-mail: joyce.thacker@rotherham.gov.uk

Young People's Service Interim Management Structure



* Posts funded wholly or partly with Connexions funding

Managing the Transition Jan 2006- April 2007:

- **Scope out Youth Support and Development Service**
- **Transfer of Connexions Service into Children's and Young Peoples Service**

The task before us is to manage the transition between current arrangements and a new Youth Support and Development Service including the transfer of services currently delivered through Connexions.

A) Integration of Youth Support and Development Service into Children & Young Peoples Services						
Objectives	Actions	Start End Date	Progress	Lead	Outcome	
1. Create new YPS service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree outline at JLT/CMT • Take back to reference group • Establish interim management team • Establishment of new posts and new management structure • Establish conference arrangements • Develop recommendations from Sept JLT paper 	<p>August September September Oct/Mar 07</p> <p>March</p>	A	RN	To have agreed structure of Youth Support Service in Rotherham for future development	
2. Youth Support and Development Service is incorporated within the Rotherham Single Children Plan arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YSDS aims, objectives and targets are aligned with CYPS • To continue to priorities the reduction of NEETS • YSDS is represented and contributes to the ECM Five Outcomes Agenda:- CAF NSF • Partners are involved in joint planning arrangements to align delivery plans: TP, YOS, Mental Health, YPSMG, DAT 	July-March 07	R	Core Group	To position YSDS as a key element to delivering outcomes of CYPS Single Plan	

Rotherham Transition Plan 2006-2007

A) Integration of Youth Support and Development Service into Children & Young Peoples Services						
Objectives	Actions	Start End Date	Progress	Lead	Outcome	
3.	Manage consultation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get written confirmation from CSY for £25K Draft tender specification Agree consultant role Prepare budget for £30K development monies Send out tender document Appoint Consultant Consultant work April – July Final report delivered 	April - Sept	G	Core Group	To inform the development process and achieve best possible outcomes for delivering change
4.	Consultation with young people through Youth People's Democratic Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaison with Youth Service Participation and Inclusion Manager on appropriate consultation process, consultation completed development of youth offer with young people Develop NEET/engagement strategy in new YPS 	<p>June – ongoing</p> <p>Oct-March 07</p> <p>Sept – Dec 06</p>	<p>A</p> <p>R</p> <p>A</p>	<p>GS/Core Group</p> <p>RN</p> <p>SS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young People's views inform strategy Youth Offer published NEET/Participation Strategy launched
5.	YSDS is represented and engaged in the planning and development of Careers Education and Guidance within schools, colleges and work based learning providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with secondary heads Guidance Forum is established (IAG Group and CEG Coordinators Group to feed in or adapt to deliver action) Extend 'Quality Award' to encompass expected IAG Standards and delivery across a range of settings other than school 	<p>Sept</p> <p>Oct</p> <p>Jan 07</p>	<p>R</p> <p>A</p> <p>R</p>	<p>KB/Core Group</p> <p>SS</p> <p>SS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YSDS is established as key driver for IAG/CEG development Schools are actively engaged in IAG development
6.	Engage stakeholders in YSDS Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key stakeholders Demonstrate role in new service Gain commitment Agree individual action plans Report to reference group Involve stakeholders in commissioning process Manage change - culture 	May - ongoing	A	Core Group - Consultants	New service is developed by stakeholders and ownership and commitment is achieved resulting in better delivery
7.	YSDS will meet the emerging Integrated Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to Local Area Needs Assessment working with Local Action Teams to monitor and plan service delivery New structure set up on interim basis Agreed areas to become part of IS 	End March 07	R	RN/MV	Connexions are incorporated in Local Area agreements and delivered through Area Action Teams

Rotherham Transition Plan 2006-2007

A) Integration of Youth Support and Development Service into Children & Young Peoples Services						
Objectives	Actions	Start End Date	Progress	Lead	Outcome	
8. IAG Strategy is integral to YSDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To describe actions needed to meet strategy implications Develop YSDS Stakeholder action plan Ensure development of YSDS delivery arrangements takes into account IAG Strategy IAG Reference Group Chaired by SS 	June 06 – Sept 07	R	Core Group/SS/KB	YSDS is directly contributing to objectives of IAG Strategy	
9. Align activity with NEETs/Participation strategy (link to meeting CYPs single plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree and deliver a NEET strategy and Action Plan for Rotherham with Partners, Key Stakeholders and Strategic Groups Widening Participation/NEET Strategy Manager post created in CYPs 	Sept – March 07	A	JT/SS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEET % for Rotherham is reduced to at least Nov 06 7.7% target and LPSA Nov 07 7.6% target YSDS is directly contributing to NEET's Strategy 	
10. Secure agreement with political and strategic bodies on the transfer of Connexions funding and responsibilities to Rotherham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and engage Elected Members 14-19 group, CYPSP in the planning and implementation of changes required for an effective transfer of Connexions funding and responsibilities to Rotherham Present outline/progress report to JLT/CMT 	Sept 06 July 06		RN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition Strategy agreed and supported at political level Strategic Groups agree procurement, tendering, contracting, governance reporting structures relating to Connexions 	

Rotherham Transition Plan 2006-2007

B) Smooth transition of Connexions into Local Authority control					
Objectives	Actions	Start End Date	Status RAG	Lead	Outcome
11. Manage smooth transition for April 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure Legal, Finance and HR involvement in negotiations and consultations with reference to current CXS staffing and GOYH contract delivery Confirm specification for 2007 Delivery partners to write delivery plans Contracting, Tendering, Commissioning process agreed – including agreed targets (linked to CTPS Single Plan and GOYH requirements) Work closely with CSY to maintain all required systems Minimise disruption to delivery partners Governance arrangements e.g. Borough Group/LAC or other Monitoring, audit and QA processes agreed Secure Cabinet approval for the transitional arrangements Financial procedures agreed Human resources issues resolved Data Hub established and Data sharing protocols agreed Ensure the continuing contract management of PAYP, NSF, MV and U Project programmes Adhere to a developing schedule of transitional management 	June 06	R	Core Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To meet GOYH and statutory responsibilities Ensure young people of Rotherham receive ongoing support as required
12. Review best practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connexions partners evaluate performance against Service Delivery Plan targets Agree areas to move forward Identify development needs 	June to April 2007	R	Core Group/ delivery partners	
13. Ensure GOYH are appraised of transition plans and progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMBC representation at CSY Partnership Group. Appropriate communication with GOYH 	Start May 06		RN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GOYH advice informs strategy

Rotherham Transition Plan 2006-2007

B) Smooth transition of Connexions into Local Authority control

Objectives	Actions	Start End Date	Status RAG	Lead	Outcome
14. Ensure the continuity and development of Connexions services to young people 06-07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connexions Partners deliver services against plans on existing contracts and specification • Contribute to the development of emerging services for specific groups of vulnerable young people linked to YSDS • Interim Connexions Borough Plan produced which details continuing partnership work supporting NEET and vulnerable young people • To determine and secure the necessary staffing capacity to deliver Connexions Services from April 07 	June-April 2007	R	Core Group/CSY	

Rotherham Transition Plan 2006-2007

Timetable for Transition Plan – Key Dates

Sept	Consultation brief completed
	Agree schools delivery process for 2007
	Cabinet briefing re elected member involvement
	Borough Group discussion and realigned
	Connexions South Yorkshire Transition meeting – Arena Link
	Completion of draft Transition Consultation Paper
	Report back to Reference Group on proposed way forward
July	CMT briefed
	Cabinet members briefing
	Presentation – Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership
	GOYH agreement/meeting
March 07	Establish new posts for service

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Services Cabinet Member and Advisors
2	Date:	31st October 2006
3	Title:	Revenue Budget Monitoring Report as at 30th September 2006.
4	Programme Area:	Children and Young People’s Service

5 Summary

This report provides details of expenditure, income and the net budget position for the Children and Young People’s Service compared to the phased budgets for the period ending on 30th September 2006 and the projected year end outturn position.

The current report shows a forecast underspend of £180k for 2006/07. The forecast underspend will be used to mitigate the overall forecast overspend for the Council.

6 Recommendations

Members are asked to note:

The current forecast underspend of £180,000 for the Programme Area based on actual costs and income to 30th September 2006 and forecast costs and income to 31st March 2007.

7 Proposals and Details

7.1 The Current Position

7.1.1 The service is currently forecasting to underspend its budget by £180,000 for the financial year 2006/07, with forecast overspends in some areas of the service being offset by forecast underspends elsewhere in the service.

7.1.2 Details of the revenue budget position for the Children and Young People's Service for the monitoring period ending on 30th September is shown in Appendix A attached.

7.1.3 The overall forecast £180k net underspend within the service is as a result of savings as follows:

- £100k Strategic Management – increase in recovery of external management fees, reduction in printing usage and reduction in RBT charges due to increased recoupment from schools.
- £80k *School Improvement* – Staff slippage.

7.1.4 Every attempt will be made to balance the budget during the year by strict budget management and monitoring.

8. Finance

The financial issues are discussed in section 7 above and included in Appendix A.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The current projected outturn assumes savings agreed as part of the 2006/07 budget setting process will be achieved in full and any funding pressures which may arise during the course of the year will be addressed through management action.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget within the limits determined in March 2006 is vital in achieving the objectives of the Council's Policy agenda. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the council's overall performance.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Report to Cabinet on 22 February 2006 –Proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2006/07.
- Report to CMT 27 March –the 2006/07 Revenue Budget and External Funding.
- The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2006 /2009.

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

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES															
EXPENDITURE/INCOME TO DATE (As at 30 September 2006)					NET PROJECTED OUT-TURN										
Last Reported Projected Net Variance as at 31/08/06 £000	Expenditure			Income		Net		Annual Budget £000	Projected Out-turn £000	Current projected year end Variance Over (+)/Under (-) spend £000	Current Financial RAG Status	Financial Impact of Management Action £000	Revised Projected Year end Variance Over(+)/Under(-) spend £000	Revised Financial RAG Status	* Note
	Profiled Budget £000	Actual Spending £000	Variance (Over +)/Under (-) Spend £000	Profiled Budget £000	Actual Income £000	Variance (Over +)/Under (-) Recovered £000	Profiled Budget £000								
0	80,055	80,055	0	(23,722)	(23,722)	0	56,333	56,333	134,547	0	Green		0	Green	
(100)	2,590	2,584	(6)	(140)	(154)	(14)	2,430	2,430	(138,095)	(256)	Amber	156	(100)	Green	1
(80)	854	832	(22)	(35)	(33)	2	799	799	1,351	(80)	Amber		(80)	Green	2
0	1,020	990	(30)	(90)	(81)	9	909	909	2,853	77	Amber	(77)	0	Green	3
0	4,890	4,933	43	(865)	(838)	27	4,095	4,095	7,668	(24)	Green	24	0	Green	4
0	22,220	22,225	5	(1,395)	(1,368)	27	20,857	20,857	769	(18)	Green	18	0	Green	5
0	2,623	2,596	(27)	(945)	(935)	10	1,661	1,661	2,765	0	Green		0	Green	
0	4,510	4,438	(72)	(1,010)	(968)	42	3,470	3,470	3,097	(99)	Amber	99	0	Green	6
0	3,631	3,641	10	(4,326)	(4,358)	(32)	(717)	(717)	(100)	0	Green		0	Green	
0	2,925	2,899	(26)	(169)	(159)	10	2,740	2,740	5,779	(102)	Amber	102	0	Green	7
0	4,100	4,029	(71)	(160)	(166)	(6)	3,863	3,863	7,712	303	Red	(303)	0	Amber	8
0	15	15	0	0	0	0	15	15	28	0	Green		0	Green	
0	403	372	(31)	(13)	0	13	372	372	502	0	Green		0	Green	
0	1,075	1,050	(25)	(91)	(44)	47	1,006	1,006	2,565	(15)	Amber	15	0	Green	9
0	620	593	(27)	(4)	(34)	(30)	559	559	1,478	20	Amber	(20)	0	Green	10
0	11	11	0	(14)	(14)	0	(3)	(3)	0	0	Green		0	Green	
0	876	851	(25)	(998)	(1,014)	(16)	(163)	(163)	0	0	Green		0	Green	
(180)	132,418	132,114	(304)	(33,977)	(33,888)	89	98,441	98,226	32,919	(194)		14	(180)		

Reason for Variance(s), Actions Proposed and Intended Impact on Performance

NOTES

Reasons for Variance	Proposed Actions to Address Variance
1 Staff Slippage, increase to external Management Fees, reductions to printing usage & reduction in RBT charge due to increased recruitment from Schools.	Recoupment of income to mitigate the potential forecast overspend across the council
2 Recoupment of income	Forecast overspend to be covered by underspend elsewhere
3 Overspend on home to school transport expenditure due to statutory duty partly offset by reduced expenditure on Extra District Placements.	Forecast overspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
4 Staff Slippage	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
5 Staff Slippage	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
6 Underspend on post 16 travel and reallocation of grant funding	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
7 Staff slippage	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
8 Increases in staffing cover & repair expenditure in residential units & additional costs from extensions to appropriate out of authority residential & fostering placements & cost of new Residence Order allowances.	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
9 Underspend on jointly funded projects partly offset by an overspend on adoption allowances	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
10 Pressures in areas of insurance premiums & communications budgets	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
1 Proposed Actions to Address Variance	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
2 £156K of forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere - £100K to mitigate the potential forecast overspend across the council	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
3 Recoupment of income to mitigate the potential forecast overspend across the council	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
4 Forecast overspend to be covered by underspend elsewhere	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
5 Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
6 Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
7 Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere & use of recruitment & retention initiatives to reduce further staff slippage & maximisation of training grants to cover backfill arrangements	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
8 Forecast overspend to be covered by underspend elsewhere & continue to regularly review the appropriateness of out of authority placements & continue to manage appropriate use of agency workers, casual workers and overtime in residential units.	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
9 Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere
10 Forecast overspend to be covered by underspend elsewhere	Forecast underspend to be used to reduce overspend elsewhere

Performance

Performance
Note 8
The related Performance Indicators are: BV 49 - Stability of Placements of looked after children BV 163 - Adoptions of looked after children LP-SA 6 (i) - Adoptions of looked after children The funding will continue to stabilise placements for looked after children

MEMORANDUM ITEM - BIPS AND SIPS

BUDGET DEVELOPMENTS AND SAVINGS - PROJECTED OUTTURN FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLES PROGRAMME AREA

BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS AT 30.09.06

BIPS	Annual Target £'000	Spend To Date £'000	Forecast Out-Turn £'000	Forecast Variance £'000	RAG Status	Comments
Specialist Placements for Children with Complex needs	650	393	805	155	Red	Projected overspend based on current client group.
Increase in NSPCC Contract	15	0	15	0	Green	
Direct Payments	140	40	140	0	Green	
Foster care Allowances	317	158	317	0	Green	
Adoption - Interagency Fees	80	45	86	6	Amber	Projected overspend based on number of adoptive placements purchased
Adoption - Staffing	60	26	60	0	Green	
Development Budget	350	175	350	0	Green	
Strengthening of School Improvement Service	75	38	75	0	Green	
Risky Business	30	15	30	0	Green	
Total BIPS	1,717	890	1,878	161		
SIPS	Annual Saving £'000	Saving To Date £'000	Forecast Annual Saving £'000	Forecast Variance £'000		
Client Transport	-16	-5	-16	0	Green	
Leaving Care Services	-30	-15	-30	0	Green	
Disestablishment of F.C.R.T	-70	-35	-70	0	Green	Shop closed end of May 2006 to meet lease conditions. Full saving will not be achieved due to lease costs.
Closure of Adoption & Fostering Recruitment Centre	-18	0	-15	5	Amber	
Rockingham Professional Development Service	-35	-35	-35	0	Green	
Governor Development Service	-25	-25	-25	0	Green	
RBT Secondments	-65	-65	-65	0	Green	
Training Budget	-10	-10	-10	0	Green	
SEN & Transport	-13	-13	-13	0	Green	
Education Welfare Services	-10	-10	-10	0	Green	
Norfolk House Refreshments	-6	-6	-6	0	Green	
School Music Service	-45	-45	-45	0	Green	
Community Learning	-12	-12	-12	0	Green	
Multi Cultural Centre	-8	-8	-8	0	Green	
Total SIPS	-363	-284	-360	5		
TOTAL	1,354	606	1,518	166		

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Services Cabinet Member and Advisors
2	Date:	31st October 2006
3	Title:	School Balances and Planned Use
4	Programme Area:	Children and Young People’s Service

5 Summary

This report advises of the level of School Balances as at the end of March 2006 and how the level of balances compares with previous years. The report also advises how the 21 schools with balances in excess of 8% (or 5% for Secondary Schools) at the end of 2005/2006 intend to use these balances.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That the levels and planned use of balances be noted;**
- 6.2 That the Schools Finance Team continue to work closely with those schools needing support to develop their financial management skills.**

7. Proposals and Details

Appendix 1 shows the movement in School Balances by phase as a percentage of delegated budget.

Appendix 2 shows an analysis of school balances including details of the highest and lowest levels of balances by school phase.

Appendix 3 shows how schools with surplus balances in excess of 8% have advised how they plan to utilise these balances.

It should be noted that this year, in a change to previous years and in line with DfES benchmarking data, we now propose to ask schools to set out reasons for levels of balances in excess of 5% for Secondary schools and 8% for Special, primary and Nursery schools. However, the combined balance schools are asked to report on will now include the balance of delegated budget allocations plus ring-fenced revenue Standards Fund allocations.

It should also be noted that combined balances (delegated budget plus money invested in 'declared savings') of £3,892,194 as at the end of 2005/06, was lower (£811,911) than the school balances at the end of 2004/05. To provide a like-for-like comparison the Early Excellence Centres should be removed from the comparison as 2005//06 was only their second year of operating as schools with fully delegated budgets. Adjusting for this anomaly would reduce the balances as at 31/03/05 to £3,402,855; a £1,102,791 reduction (24%) reduction on 2004/05 balances.

Rotherham Primary School balances have reduced from 4.6% to 3.6% of delegated budgets from 2004/05 to 2005/06.

Rotherham Secondary School balances have reduced from 1.4% to 0.4% of delegated budgets from 2004/05 to 2005/06.

Rotherham Special School balances have reduced from 7.4% to 7.1% of delegated budgets from 2004/05 to 2005/06.

Overall balances have reduced from 3.3% to 2.4% of delegated budgets from 2004/05 to 2005/06. (Or to 2.1% if adjusted to exclude Early Excellence Centre balances).

8. Finance

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Failure to challenge schools constructively on the planned use of their balances would be to abdicate a key role of the Council. Such challenge also facilitates the identification of schools in greatest need of support to improve their financial management skills.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Appropriate use of funds supports the raising of attainment levels within Rotherham schools.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Children and Young People's Services Outturn Report 2005/06 (Cabinet Member Children and Young People's Services ~ 20/06/05)

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Children and Young People's Services

**MOVEMENTS IN SCHOOLS DELEGATED BUDGETS AND DECLARED SAVINGS
BALANCES 2005/06 TO 2006/07****Delegated Budget**

Sector	Bal B/F to 2005/06 £	In-Year Change £	Bal C/F to 2006/07 £	% Change £
Primary Schools	1,770,324	-86,849	1,683,475	-4.9%
Secondary Schools	706,627	-467,372	239,255	-66.1%
Special Schools	455,599	40,889	496,488	9.0%
Early Excellence Centres	178,030	223,714	401,744	125.7%
Total	3,110,580	-289,618	2,820,962	-9.3%

Declared Savings

Sector	Bal B/F to 2005/06 £	In-Year Change £	Bal C/F to 2006/07 £	% Change £
Primary Schools	1,075,658	-297,399	778,259	-27.6%
Secondary Schools	319,596	-261,399	58,197	-81.8%
Special Schools	177,842	-30,661	147,181	-17.2%
Early Excellence Centres	20,429	67,166	87,595	328.8%
Total	1,593,525	-522,293	1,071,232	-32.8%

Combined Overall Balances

Sector	Bal B/F to 2005/06 £	In-Year Change £	Bal C/F to 2006/07 £	% Change £
Primary Schools	2,845,982	-384,248	2,461,734	-13.5%
Secondary Schools	1,026,223	-728,771	297,452	-71.0%
Special Schools	633,441	10,228	643,669	1.6%
Early Excellence Centres	198,459	290,880	489,339	146.6%
Total	4,704,105	-811,911	3,892,194	-17.3%

OUTTURN BALANCES 2005/06 (including Ring-Fenced Revenue Standards Fund Allocations)Analysis of No.Schools by % balance

% Balance (of delegated budget)	Early Excellence	Primary	Secondary	Special	% of Total Schools
>15.0%	3			1	3%
10.1 - 15.0%		7		1	6%
7.6 - 10%		8		1	7%
5.0 - 7.5%		25	1	1	21%
0 - 4.9%		54	8	2	49%
(0.1%) - (5.0%)		10	7		13%
> (5.0%)				1	1%
	3	104	16	7	100%

Highest and Lowest School Balances by Phase

School Phase	Highest Balance		Lowest (Deficit) Balance	
	£	%	£	%
Early Excellence	192,128	33.7	117,569	19.8
Primary	114,805	9	(11,422)	(1.8)
Secondary	309,106	6.3	(120,625)	(1.7)
Special	317,520	19.2	(68,439)	(11.1)

Combined Balances over 8% **INTENDED USE OF COMBINED BALANCES (INCLUDING RING-FENCED REVENUE STANDARDS FUND ALLOCATIONS)**

Sum of Amount Earmarked		Area						
Schools	CAPITATION	CONTINGENCY	CURRICULUM	EQUIPMENT	FOUNDATION STAGE	ICT	NON-TEACHING STAFF	
Arnold Centre							137,165	
Aughton Early Years Centre							22,265	
Rawmarsh Childrens Centre	11,000						103,763	
Aston Fence J&I							11,254	
Badsley Moor Infant							17,990	
Bramley Grange J&I		25,181				10,000	20,843	
Brampton Ellis. C E Infant	5,000		18,000			1,323	2,000	
Coleridge Primary						30,000		
High Greave Juniors				6,000			4,000	
Laughton J&I	7,000					819	15,000	
Meadowhall Junior					43,065			
Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant	6,000			2,000	5,000	3,644	6,244	
St Mary's (Herringthorpe) RC P					10,000	1,729		
Swinton Queen Primary						19,404	40,000	
Todwick J & I	2,436				3,000	6,654	17,300	
Trinity Croft C E J&I	12,000	6,480	5,000			3,000	2,000	
Wath Central Primary				55,000	30,000	5,582	14,081	
Wentworth C E J&I	7,000						8,356	
Abbey School								
The Willows School (formerly Green Arbour)	47,157					6,527		
Newman Special								
TOTAL	97,593	31,661	23,000	63,000	91,065	88,682	422,261	
PERCENTAGE	4.67	1.52	1.10	3.01	4.36	4.24	20.21	

Combined Balances over 8%

Sum of Amount Earmarked									
Schools	OTHER	PFI	PREMISES RELATED	SAVINGS	DINNINGTON CLUSTER	TEACHING STAFF	TEACHING STAFF WORKFORCE REFORM	PRIMARY LEARNING NETWORK	POSITIVE PLAYGROUND
Arnold Centre				45,982					
Aughton Early Years Centre	15,304		80,000						
Rawmarsh Childrens Centre						77,365			
Aston Fence J&I						26,993			
Badsley Moor Infant				11,846		35,979		17,000	
Bramley Grange J&I						30,113			
Brampton Ellis. C E Infant			50,384						
Coleridge Primary	1,873	5,000	15,000						
High Greave Juniors	2,352			4,244		62,119			
Laughton J&I					8,030	15,000			
Meadowhall Junior						22,000			1,000
Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant			11,450	4,438					
St Mary's (Herringthorpe) RC P	21,570		15,412						
Swinton Queen Primary			40,894						
Todwick J & I			13,500	15,000		6,000			
Trinity Croft C E J&I			5,000			8,000			
Wath Central Primary						10,142			
Wentworth C E J&I	14,630						2,000		
Abbey School			317,520						
The Willows School (formerly Green Arbour)			84,633						
Newman Special	17,807		50,000	43,193		47,482			
TOTAL	73,536	5,000	683,793	124,703	8,030	341,193	2,000	17,000	1,000
PERCENTAGE	3.52	0.24	32.72	5.97	0.38	16.33	0.10	0.81	0.05

Combined Balances over 8%

Sum of Amount Earmarked				
Schools	MEALS GRANTS	BOOKS	GRAND TOTAL	Combined Balance as % of Allocation
Arnold Centre			183,147	31.2
Aughton Early Years Centre			117,569	19.8
Rawmarsh Childrens Centre			192,128	33.8
Aston Fence J&I			38,247	8.8
Badsley Moor Infant			82,815	9.8
Bramley Grange J&I		8,000	94,137	10.8
Brampton Ellis. C E Infant			58,707	12.9
Coleridge Primary			69,873	9.5
High Greave Juniors			72,715	9.6
Laughton J&I			51,849	11.4
Meadowhall Junior			65,065	8.4
Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant	2,273	6,000	48,049	10.3
St Mary's (Herringthorpe) RC P			48,711	8.1
Swinton Queen Primary			100,298	11.7
Todwick J & I			63,890	11.1
Trinity Croft C E J&I			41,480	10.9
Wath Central Primary			114,805	9.1
Wentworth C E J&I			31,986	8.2
Abbey School			317,520	19.2
The Willows School (formerly Green Arbour)			138,317	10.1
Newman Special			158,482	13.7
TOTAL	2,273	14,000	2,089,790	
PERCENTAGE	0.11	0.67	100.00	

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. **Meeting:** Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
2. **Date:** Tuesday, 31st October, 2006
3. **Title** Monitoring Procedure of Post 16 Qualifications
4. **Programme Area:** Children and Young People's Services

5. **Summary**

This report outlines the processes in place to monitor the results and progress of all Looked After Young People and Care Leavers in respect of Post 16 education and provides Members with information on 2005/06 achievements.

6. **Recommendations**

That Members receive the report.

7. Proposals and Details

Monitoring

Pathway Plans are pivotal to the process of enabling every young person, with advice and support from their Personal Adviser, to set out and achieve their ambitions and aspirations for their future. Pathway Planning builds upon the foundation of educational progress already made by the young person and, in all cases, young people receive encouragement to challenge themselves to achieve their potential in any education, training or employment opportunities available.

Pathway Plans and outcomes are recorded on the database at N.C.H. (Bridges) Leaving Care Services and are reviewed/updated at least 6 monthly. This information is used to underpin the data required to calculate the national indicator related to Performance Assessment Framework (P.A.F.) A4 - Employment, Education and Training for Care Leavers.

Transition meetings have been established between the Get Real Team, N.C.H. (Bridges) Team and Lifetime Careers. These meetings take place three times per year and ensure that one or more service is involved or aware of the progress and destination of all 15 - 19 year olds who are Looked After or Care Leavers, ensuring that no young person is left unsupported in their transition to adulthood.

2005/06 Achievements

- 1 student achieved 3 'A' Levels and has deferred a University place until 2007
- 2 students achieved 3 C grades and 2 C Grades 1 E Grade at 'A/S' Level
- 1 student achieved Diploma in Game Keeping and Land Management
- 1 student achieved Health and Beauty NVQ Level 3
- 1 student achieved Travel and Tourism NVQ Level 1
- 1 student achieved Performing Arts NVQ Level 1
- 1 student achieved Diploma in Health and Social Care

Current Position

In the 16 - 18 year old age group there are 65 young people, of these:-

- 41 (63%) are engaged in education, employment and training:-
 - 29 are attending college or further education.
 - 3 are in employment.
 - 9 are on training schemes.

- Of the 24 not currently engaged in education, employment and training:-
 - 6 young people are not available due to custody, pregnancy, disability or illness.
 - 5 are currently engaged with the Connexions Worker within the N.C.H. (Bridges) Team exploring their options.
 - 13 are not engaged. N.C.H. (Bridges) Team are intensively trying to engage with this group of young people in order to improve their outcomes.

In the 18 - 20 year old age group there are 57 young people, of these:-

- 32 are engaged in education, employment or training.
- 12 young people are not engaged in education, employment or training, but are currently engaged with N.C.H. (Bridges) exploring their options.
- 13 are not engaged in education, employment or training, due to custody, pregnancy, disability or illness.

8. Finance

When Looked After children and Care Leavers continue or undertake recognised training they qualify for an Education Maintenance Allowance. This is in line with other young people at a similar stage. Project workers assist young people in completing their applications for this grant.

For those young people not eligible for Education Maintenance Allowance the Local Authority, through the N.C.H. (Bridges) Team, assists with an incentive payment. This tends to be the 'older' group of Care Leavers who did not continue in education at 16 but decided to return to education at a later date.

9. Risk and Uncertainties

Looked After children and Care Leavers traditionally find the transition from statutory education a difficult time. Many begin college placements and training courses but very quickly drop out due to the additional pressures associated with coping with independent living. The staff at the N.C.H. (Bridges) Team offer support and guidance for all young people in this transitional phase and very often many of them enter education at a later stage than their peer group.

Historically there have been very few (less than 1% nationally) Care Leavers who have continued into Higher Education.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

PAF A4 collects the data on the ratio of the percentage of those young people who were Looked After on 1st April in their 17th year (aged 16), who were engaged in education, employment or training at the age of 19.

Current performance for this indicator is as follows:-

- 2003/04 outcome = 43.5%
- 2005/06 outcome = 62.2%

11. Background and Consultation

- Children (Leaving Care) Act, 2000
- Education Maintenance Allowance

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services.
2.	Date:	31 st October, 2006
3.	Title:	3 rd Update to the School Organisation Plan 2003/04 – 2007/08 (The SOP covers the whole of Rotherham)
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People's Services.

5. Summary

The update of actual (rather than estimated) pupil numbers offers the opportunity to consider the effectiveness of pupil number forecasting and to review the position in respect of published performance indicators. A list of the statutory changes which have taken place during the life of the current plan is also included.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

i) The 3rd update to the School Organisation Plan 2003/04 – 2007/08 is received

and

ii) The update is placed on the Council's website and all original consultees informed accordingly.

7. Proposals and Details

This report and the update are for information only and there are no suggested further action points over and above those contained within the original plan.

The update highlights the accuracy of the pupil number predictions and lists the statutory proposals that have come into effect since the publication of the full plan.

Those proposals, together with other measures, have ensured that performance indicator figures (actuals for 2005/06) have remained, as expected, within an acceptable range and that the targets set for 2007/08 (the final year of the plan) remain attainable.

8. Finance

There are no specific financial consequences as a result of receiving this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There are none particularly associated with receiving this report and update. Regulations in respect of the requirement to produce such a plan have now been revoked.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The report is for information only and, therefore, there are no decisions that will affect the Policy and Performance agenda. The update does, however, make reference to former Best Value Performance indicators relating to the supply of school places, comparing the outturn figures with the estimates in the published SOP.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The School Organisation Plan 2003/04 – 2007/08, which sets out how the LEA plans to meet its statutory responsibility to secure sufficient education provision is available on the Council's website, together with two previously published updates.

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UPDATE TO THE SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN (SOP) 2003/04 – 2007/08

This is the third and final update to the current SOP.

Recent legislation has led to changes in the statutory requirements to produce such a plan. Initially changing from an annual to a 3 yearly cycle, there is now no requirement to produce a SOP. There does, however, remain a requirement for the Local Authority to plan effectively in terms of the supply of school places and, therefore, a new more concise document will be produced for 2007/08.

This third update offers the opportunity to:

- consider the effectiveness of the pupil number forecasting,
- update the forecasts for 2007/08 based on current actual numbers,
- review the position in relation to the performance targets,
- list the statutory changes which have taken place so far during the life of the SOP.

As in previous updates, the information given includes reference to sections/pages in the full plan and these will appear in bold type.

i) Pupil numbers forecasts – overall

Table 4 in the plan shows the predictions for numbers on roll. For 2005/06, this included:-

Reception (F2)	Total Primary (R/F2-Y6)	Y7	Total Secondary	Total
2,787	21,702	3,675	20,545	42,247

The actual numbers were:-

Reception (F2)	Total Primary (R/F2-Y6)	Y7	Total Secondary	Total
2,797	21,657	3,632	20,476	42,133

Difference (actual compared to forecast):-

Reception (F2)	Total Primary (R/F2-Y6)	Y7	Total Secondary	Total
+10 (0.36%)	-45 (0.21%)	-43 (1.17%)	-69 (0.34%)	-114 (0.27%)

The Audit Commission has previously indicated that forecasts for total numbers should be within a 1% tolerance level over one year and within 1.5% over two years. Three years into the plan, the total figures for Primary and Secondary are well within these levels and even at -1.17%, the Y7 forecast for that single year group was reasonable.

Population – Year groups through the schools (7.11)

There are gains/losses as year groups move through schools via relocation of children and their parents.

For Primary, there was a forecast annual increase of 20 pupils per year group per year. The actual figures during the plan have been +18, +6 and finally +8.5 over the latest year.

In Secondary, the SOP assumed an average loss of 4 pupils per year group per year. The actual figures have been – 12, -18 and -4.5 in the latest year.

The smaller than anticipated gain in Primary and the larger than anticipated loss in Secondary have both contributed to the overestimate of numbers in the two sectors but, as shown above, these relatively small differences have produced figures well within acceptable tolerance levels.

Section 9

Shows the development of numbers, year on year, over the 12 planning areas for the Primary phase (**Tables 6-17**).

The updated figures are as follows:-

		Predicted No on Roll 05/06	Actual No on Roll 05/06	Difference
Table 6	Aston/Aughton	1501	1502	+1
Table 7	Bramley/Wickersley	1758	1791	+33
Table 8	Brinsworth/Catcliffe	1434	1456	+22
Table 9	Dalton/Thrybergh	1054	1025	-29
Table 10	Dinnington	1754	1747	-7
Table 11	Maltby	1918	1839	-79
Table 12	North & West	3162	3160	-2
Table 13	Rawmarsh	1606	1574	-32
Table 14	South & East	3308	3306	-2
Table 15	Swinton	1194	1168	-26
Table 16	Wales/Thurcroft	1373	1402	+29
Table 17	Wath	1640	1687	+47
Total		21,702	21,657	-45

It is important to note, however, that the predicted numbers are based on births, plus the possible outcome of parental preference. They do not take account of changes in housing. Those changes are highlighted in the commentary and in **Appendix 7 (page 80)** of the SOP.

The specific references in **Appendix 7** in relation to the above figures are:-

<u>Area</u>	<u>No of houses</u>
Cortonwood Colliery, Brampton (Wath)	530
Sunnyside, Bramley (Bramley/Wickersley)	772
East of Stockwell Avenue, Wales (Wales/Thurcroft)	432

So the positive figures in the difference column for the Bramley/Wickersley, Wales/Thurcroft and Wath areas would be expected. Interestingly, 8 out of the 12 predictions were more accurate than in the previous year (2004/05) and three of the forecasts are very near to the actual figure, including the two largest areas (North & West and South & East). The greatest difference (-79) occurs at Maltby.

ii) Updated forecasts for 2007/08

If the current actuals for 2005/06 are rolled forward with the same assessed year on year changes, together with unchanged estimates for 2006/07 and 2007/08 entry to Reception (F2) and Y7, then the total number of pupils in Primary and Secondary would be 21,139 and 20,183 respectively. These compare to 21,107 and 20,184 shown within the plan.

iii) Performance Targets

Best Value Performance Plan: Key Strategic Targets are shown at **Table 1** within the plan.

As stated in previous updates, many of the statutory Best Value Indicators relevant to school organisation matters have been deleted/amended over the years. The position has changed even further in that there is now no requirements for such performance indicators to be included within the statutory Performance Plan. There is much less government emphasis on the reduction of surplus places, particularly in terms of continuous improvement of the % figures, although an annual return is still made to the DfES.

This subject will need to be considered further within the next plan.

The updated figures following the latest return to the DfES are as follows:-

	Est 03/04	Act 03/04	Act 04/05	Act 05/06	Est 07/08 *	Target 07/08
% of primary schools with 25% or more unfilled places	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	6.7%	16.2%	4.9%
% of secondary school with 25% or more unfilled places	5.9%	5.9%	0%	0%	0%	0%
% of unfilled places in all primary schools	9.9%	9.6%	9.7%	9.8%	14.8%	9.9%
% of unfilled places in all secondary schools	6.1%	5.3%	5.2%	5.2%	4.2%	4.2%
% of pupils in excess of school capacity in secondary schools	1.3%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%	1.2%	1.2%

Targets were set for 07/08 (the final year of the plan) with the estimates * showing the likely position, if no action was taken within that period.

Clearly, the main expectation was for the number of surplus places to increase within the Primary sector as smaller cohorts entered schools as a result of lower birth rates. This has been the case, with the number on roll falling from 22,567 (03/04) to 21,657 (05/06) – a reduction of 910 pupils (4%). The total of the primary schools' capacity has fallen from 24,695 to 24,216 (1.9% reduction) over the same period through school changes (statutory and non-statutory) such as 'amalgamation', new build through PFI/Capital Programme and change of use/redesignation of some areas within schools.

iv) Statutory Proposals

A number of changes have come into effect since the publication of the full plan. These are listed below:-

Primary Schools

Roughwood Inf/Jnr	'amalgamation'	1 st September 2003
Bramley Grange Primary	nursery unit	1 st September 2003
Wickersley Northfield Inf/Jnr	'amalgamation'	1 st September 2003
Treeton CE Primary	removal of SEN unit	1 st September 2004
Rawmarsh Sandhill Primary	removal of SEN unit	1 st September 2004
Wales Primary	addition of SEN unit	1 st September 2004
Redscope Inf/Jnr	'amalgamation'	1 st September 2005
Dalton Listerdale	nursery unit	1 st September 2005
Ferham Primary	change of site (new build)	1 st September 2005
Kimberworth Primary	change of age range (new build)	1 st September 2005
Meadowhall Primary	change of age range (new build)	1 st September 2005
Thornhill Primary	transfer of site (new build)	1 st September 2005
Wath Park Inf/Wath Central Jnr	'amalgamation'	1 st September 2005
Brinsworth Howarth J&I	nursery unit	1 st September 2006
Swinton Fitzwilliam Inf/Jnr	'amalgamation'	1 st September 2006

Secondary Schools

Swinton Comm/M&C College	add SEN unit	1 st September 2003
Kimberworth/Old Hall	closure/enlargement (Winterhill)	1 st September 2004
Wingfield	enlargement	1 st September 2004
Wath Comp, A Language College	remove SEN unit	1 st September 2004

Special Schools

Abbey	change in age range/ provision/reduction of RAN	1 st September 2005
Green Arbour	change of age range/ provision/reduction of RAN	1 st September 2005
Hilltop	reduction of RAN	
	wef	1 st September 2007
Kelford	reduction of RAN	
	wef	1 st September 2007
Milton	change in age range/ provision/reduction of RAN	1 st September 2005

(There is a reduction of RAN (Recognised Accommodation Number) totalling 136 places in special schools).

The total number of schools included within published statutory proposals during this period was 30.

Conclusions

The two main conclusions to be drawn are that:

- i) the estimates contained within the plan have contained a good degree of accuracy and
- ii) changes brought about, particularly in the Primary sector (where the main feature has been falling rolls), have kept the PI figures within a range accepted by the DfES/Audit Commission as reasonable.

It should be noted that this document is simply an update of the current School Organisation Plan, which covers the period 2003/04 to 2007/08. No further specific conclusions are drawn concerning the need to add or remove school places.

A new Plan is scheduled to be produced in 2007.

If you wish to make any comments or seek further information on this update, then please contact Martin Harrop on telephone number (01709) 822415 or by e-mail via martin.harrop@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1. Meeting:	Children and Young People's Service Cabinet Member
2. Date:	31 st October 2006
3. Title	Electronic Social Care Records (ESCR)
4. Programme Area:	Children & Young People's Service and Adult Social Services

5. Summary:

Electronic Social Care Records is a Department of Health requirement for all existing and future social care case files to be stored and used electronically. This will require an additional IT solution in the form of an Electronic Document and Records Management System that will link with SWIFT.

The Department of Health target dates for implementation are:

October 2004: Implementation of an electronic case management system. Target met with introduction of SWIFT September 2003.

October 2005: All new cases to be electronic by October 2005. Target missed due to lack of funding.

October 2006: All current cases to be electronic. Target missed due to lack of funding.

The delays in implementing ESCR and meeting the DoH target dates is a result of the absence of capital funding to procure and implement the system. Capital funding of 761k has now been secured through a bid to the council's strategic capital investment programme. This has enabled work on ESCR to be reinstated and work has already begun towards a preferred supplier. Full implementation should now be completed by late 2007.

6. Recommendations

- a) **That Members receive this report and note the requirements of Electronic Social Care Records and the progress being made.**
- b) **That a further update be provided to a future meeting**

7. Proposals and Details

A service user's electronic social care record or case file will comprise of information stored on SWIFT and documents that are stored electronically. To achieve this, SWIFT and the new Electronic Document Management System will need to be integrated or joined to form a seamless continuum of information. The system once implemented for ESCR will provide the basis for a corporate wide electronic document and records management system.

From an original field of 12 potential vendors for the system, a shortlist of 2 has been selected by Adult Social Services and Children and Young People's Services in partnership with RBT/BT. The 2 short listed suppliers presented their solutions to a wide range of officers on 2nd October 2006 and a final, comprehensive evaluation is underway with RBT to identify a preferred supplier.

The present Governance arrangements for the ESCR implementation are a joint ESCR and SWIFT Project Board with senior representation from Adult Social Services and Children and Young People's Services with other stakeholders where appropriate. Direct project management responsibility lies within Children and Young People's Service with collaborative arrangements across the two programme areas. In addition the Corporate eGov Board has amended its terms of reference to include overview governance of capital spend of funds allocated through the strategic capital investment programme. The eGov Board will provide an executive summary of ICT initiatives (which includes ESCR) to CMT and cabinet on quarterly basis.

8. Finance

The total cost for implementation to meet Children's and Adults Social Care Services needs is forecast at approximately £1,000k over 3 years with an estimated £650,000 required in the first year 2006/07 for procurement and implementation. Detailed capital and revenue costs for ESCR are to be formulated with RBT once a preferred supplier has been selected. Capital funding of 761k has now been secured through a bid to the council's strategic capital investment programme with the ability to carry forward capital up to 2008/9 where appropriate. A significant financial contribution has already been made from the Improving Information in Social Care Grant on the work undertaken but some of this grant earmarked for ESCR in 2005/06 had to be utilised on Integrated Children's System and E-forms due to time constraints on the grant being utilised.

9. Risk and Uncertainties

The implementation of ESCR will impact significantly on frontline social workers and managers in terms of working procedures, processes and practice for recording and retrieving information on social care cases.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The implementation of ESCR is being monitored through the Adult Services, Delivery and Improvement Statement and an updated position statement was provided in the 2006 spring DIS. The implementation of a Document and Records Management system for ESCR will contribute significantly to the E-Government agenda and will form the foundation for a corporate wide system.

11. Background and Consultation

Electronic Social Care Records is a Department of Health initiative and part of the modernising social services agenda. The consultation, guidance and specification for ESCR were developed by the DoH, Information for Social Care Policy Unit.

References:

Defining the Electronic Social Care Record: DoH 2003

Social Services Cabinet Paper 26th November 2004

Social Services Cabinet Member 18th March 2006

E-Government Board 27th April 2005

C&YP Cabinet Member 12th July 2005

C&YP Cabinet Member 17th October 2005

Adult Health & Social Care Cabinet Member 24th October 2005

Year Ahead Statement 2005 - 2006

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Services Cabinet Member
2.	Date:	31st October 2006
3.	Title:	Information Sharing (IS) Index
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary:

To inform the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People’s Services about the introduction of the national Information Sharing (IS) Index to support the Every Child Matters agenda.

6. Recommendations:

- **Rotherham MBC is responsible for implementing the IS Index within our local authority area and on behalf of our local partners.**
- **Cabinet Member for Children’s and Young People’s services is informed of project progress on a regular basis as part of a broader programme of project updates**
- **The Children’s Strategic Partnership and Children’s Board are informed of the project, progress on implementation and ensure commitment to the project form key partners. as part of a broader programme of project updates**

7. Proposals and Details:

The information sharing index will be a tool that enables practitioners delivering services to children to identify and contact one another easily and quickly, so they can share relevant information about children who need services. It will be a national index, allowing practitioners in Rotherham to access basic information on all children and young people in England.

The index is a key element of the Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme to transform children's services by supporting more effective prevention and early intervention by improving information sharing among practitioners and supporting multi-agency working.

It will enable children and young people to receive the universal services they are entitled to and any additional services they require, at the earliest opportunity.

Authorised practitioners in children's services, including education, health, social care, youth offending and some voluntary services will have access to the index.

Section 12 of the Children Act 2004 provides the legislative basis for establishing the index. The government is committed to introducing the index in all areas of England by the end of 2008. Local Authorities are responsible for implementing the IS Index in their area, ensuring partner commitment, managing the project and establishing a Local Implementation Team, undertaking local projects and activities.

Over the next 15 months Rotherham Children and Young People's Services will have to complete and submit 5 Readiness Assessments to the National Implementation team. The first Readiness Assessment was submitted in August 2006, and provided a baseline of our current position. In addition monthly status reports will have to be submitted to the DfES from October 2006 through to the completion of the project.

8. Finance:

Rotherham has been allocated £73,401 grant funding for the financial year 2006-2007. This grant is to specifically support the employment of a project manager, communication and IT infrastructure. Additional funding will be made available up to the end of March 2009 to support implementation, data management, training and systems administration. Early indications are that funding will continue at the same rate if not higher for the next two financial years.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

To date the following risks have been identified:

Risk	Probability	Mitigation
Key local data providers will not allocate resources to provide data to the IS Index to the required format and quality specifications.	Medium	Early prioritisation of priority data providers and allocation of resources from ISII Grant to support data quality
Local partner organisations will not release practitioners in a timely manner for training on the IS Index.	Medium	Training programme developed in consultation with practitioner organisations
Local practitioners will not meet the targets for take-up of the IS Index, because they do not understand the benefits.	Medium	Local Communication plan and engagement with stakeholders
Local CYP&F will resist the IS Index because they do not understand the scope and/or the benefits	Low	Consistent communication between Local and National programme

The impact of the above could result in confidence in the information within the index been low, resulting in low levels of practitioner use, benefits around early intervention and prevention not being achieved and the general public having a negative view of the index. Risks will be reported to the DfES on a monthly basis and managed by the Project manager and Project Board.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

The implementation of the IS Index contributes directly to priorities identified within the Children and Young People's Plan and well being Strategy by identifying children who are not in receipt of universal health care and education and in particular improving multi agency assessments. Implementation is currently being monitored through the Local Authority Readiness Assessment.

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

The DfES are currently undertaking a national consultation with practitioner and the general public on the introduction of the IS Index. This will be used to inform local communication and training plans.

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Services Cabinet Member
2.	Date:	31st October, 2006
3.	Title:	Joint Inspection of Rotherham Youth Offending Services
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary:

Rotherham Youth Offending Services were subject to a Joint Inspection, comprising Her Majesties Inspectorate of Probation, Health Care Commission, OFSTED and CSCI during May 2006. The Inspection Report was published on 27 September, and focussed on 5 core areas of work for Youth Offending Services, noting areas of strength and areas for improvement in each. A score of 1 to 4 is given for each of the five areas and a list of recommendations provided.

6. Recommendations:

That the Inspection Report and its findings be noted.

7. Proposals and Details:

Inspections of Youth Offending Services are required and directed by the Home Office, with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation taking the lead. This is the third phase of YOS inspections and more than half of the 154 Youth Offending Services in England and Wales have now been inspected. All third phase inspections are required to take place immediately prior to Local Area Joint Area Reviews and the outcomes of the YOS Inspection contributes to the JAR. An Inspection Team of 10 spent a week at the Youth Offending Service offices and reviewed a total of 40 case files from across the spectrum of YOS intervention, ranging from preventative / final warning work through to custody cases. In addition to the file review, this very thorough and testing inspection included case managers and staff being interviewed about their practice, Chief Officers and key partners to the Youth Offending Services were interviewed about working relationships and accountability, and both internal and strategic management was reviewed.

The 5 core areas of work inspected and each score were:

	Section score
Management	4
Work in the courts	3
Work with children and young people in the community	3
Work with children and young people subject to Detention Training Orders	3
Victims and restorative justice	3

4: Excellent; 3: Good; 2: Adequate; 1: Inadequate

This is the joint highest total score yet achieved by any YOS, matched only by Doncaster and Newham [the pattern of scoring was exactly the same], and the Inspector's view of the YOS is probably best summarised in the opening sentence of the 'Overall Assessment' section, which states:

"We found the Rotherham YOS to be a positive and well run organisation at both a strategic and operational level".

Some of the main findings for each core area were:

- **Management** – The co-ordinated oversight of crime and disorder by the Safer Rotherham Partnership and the high profile of Youth Offending Services was recognised and seen as a positive, as were the very strong links with the Children's Agenda and the Children's Board. The Inspectors were impressed with the way that the YOS was able to cover both criminal justice and children's services agenda in an integrated way. The key area for improvement was felt to be around the use of performance data to improve service delivery.
- **Work in the Courts** – A positive and good relationship between the YOS and Youth Court was noted and information sharing at both a strategic and operational level was said to be 'excellent'. Improvement is required around the overall quality of pre-sentence reports.

- **Work with children and young people in the community** – The work of Spurgeons Childcare, who deliver Rotherham’s youth crime prevention programmes, was focussed and thorough. Within the YOS a high rate of attendance by children and young people were noted with timely, impressive examples of assessment and very good attention to risk management. The areas for improvement were around enforcement action, evaluation of outcomes and a lack of SMART objectives within supervision plans.
- **Work with children and young people subject to Detention and Training Orders** – A high commitment to working with youngsters in custody was noted with good links existing between the YOS and secure establishments.
- **Victims and restorative justice** – Work carried out in partnership with voluntary sector provider, REMEDI, was noted as being sensitive and thorough. The range of Reparation work undertaken by young people supervised by the YOS was noted and some of the projects were described as ‘exemplary’ in how they extended the skills of children and young people and delivered a meaningful service.

In addition to formally reviewing and testing core areas of work of the YOS, Inspectors look for examples of **Good Practice** which are cited in the report and are promoted with other ‘Youth Offending Services’ to replicated if appropriate. Rotherham Inspection Report has 15 examples of *Good Practice*, which is the highest of any Inspection so far undertaken.

A total of 14 recommendations arise from the Inspection Report, 2 for the joint chairs of the SRP, 11 for the Head of Youth Offending Services and 1 for South Yorkshire Police. An action plan to address these recommendations is required to be forwarded to the Lead Inspector within 3 months of the publication of this report – ie by Christmas. The draft action plan will be prepared for approval by the Safer Rotherham Partnership at its meeting on 12 December and also for support and approval by the Children’s Board on 6 December.

8. Finance:

There are no specific financial implications relating to the Inspection or this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

From the outset Rotherham took the view that work with children and young people who offend had to be devised and delivered in full partnership with Children and Young People’s Services. Whilst this appears to be self evident on face value, the very fact that the Inspection Team were so positive of the way that Rotherham has linked the two strategic agendas makes it clear that this is not necessarily the case in other parts of England and Wales.

Indeed it is felt that such a stance – ie that young offenders are children and young people first and offenders second, is at odds with the Youth Justice Board / Home Office view point which, certainly in the early days, appeared to be intent upon separating young people who offend from all other behaviours. It is encouraging to know that the position taken by Rotherham is proving to be effective and acknowledge as good practice.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

The multi-agency integrated way of working, makes the Youth Offending Service work pertinent to all areas of Community Strategy and Every Child Matters outcomes.

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

Joint Inspection of Rotherham Youth Offending Services - HMIP

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
2.	Date:	31st October 2006
3.	Title:	Joint Area Review
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People's Service

5. Summary:

The Joint Area Review of the Children and Young People's Service took place in May and June of 2006. The draft report was received from the Inspectors in July but the results of the review were strictly embargoed until 9th October. The results are now published and this report covers the highlights of the findings. The full report is available on the Council's website: www.rotherham.gov.uk .

6. Recommendations:

That the Cabinet Member receive the report.

7. Proposals and Details:

Although the results are good and there are very few recommendations, we have made a firm commitment to broader improvements and have used the detail of the grade descriptors to develop a Grade 4 Plan. Work is being undertaken towards achieving this, some of which may be medium to longer term. However, the rule of thumb is that the grade can be achieved if at least 80% of the descriptors can be met and evidenced. It may therefore be possible to achieve improved grades in some of the outcome areas in time for the 2007 Annual Performance Assessment. The Inspection recommendations will be implemented within the required timescales and work is already ongoing as these areas for improvement had been identified in our self assessment.

The grades we have been awarded are as follows:

Grades awarded: 4: outstanding; 3: good; 2: adequate; 1: inadequate

	Local services overall	Council services	Health services
Being healthy	3		
Staying safe	3		
Enjoying and achieving	3		
Making a positive contribution	3		
Achieving economic well-being	3		
Service management	3		
Capacity to improve	3	3	
Children's services		3	
The education service		3	
The social care services for children		3	
The health service for children			3

The recommendations are as follows:

For immediate action

- Improve information and access to services for young carers, so that more young carers can benefit from provision and all relevant agencies understand their needs.

For action over the next six months

- Ensure more timely access for non-urgent paediatric occupational therapy cases.
- Improve the timescales for completing core assessments of children in need.
- Improve participation rates in post-16 education.
- Ensure borough-wide post-16 education and training options meets the needs of all young people, including young people who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and young people who have offended.
- Reduce the number of changes of social workers for children who are looked after by the council.

For action in the longer term

- Ensure voluntary sector provision is part of a wider commissioning strategy.
- Improve the range of carers who offer placements to children who are looked after by the council, so that their varied needs are met.

8. Finance:

There are likely to be financial implications to achieving some of the measures, however, we may also gain some efficiencies through further integration.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

There are risks and uncertainties about the grade descriptors and whether all of these can be achieved within the allocated resources.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

The Joint Area Review fed into the Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment. We are required to complete and return an action plan to Ofsted within 70 working days. This will be presented to Cabinet Member prior to return.

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

Joint Area Review inspection report

Contact Name : Julie Westwood, Head of Planning, Information and Performance, ext