

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SCRUTINY SUB-PANEL

Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham.

Date: Wednesday, 11 July 2007

Time: 2.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies.
2. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
3. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered later in the agenda as a matter of urgency.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Questions from Members of the Public and Press
6. Appointment of Vice Chair
7. Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Sub-Panel (herewith) (Page 1)

FOR DISCUSSION

8. Health of Looked After Children (report herewith) (Pages 2 - 6)
9. Response to 'Care Matters-Time for Change' White Paper and Proposed Delivery in Rotherham (report herewith) (Pages 7 - 20)

Katy Hawkins

10. Role of Councillors as Corporate Parents - Update on Scrutiny Review (report herewith) (Pages 21 - 24)

Katy Hawkins

FOR MONITORING

11. Profile of Looked After Children in Rotherham (report herewith) (Pages 25 - 32)

Katy Hawkins

12. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 28th March 2007 (herewith). (Pages 33 - 37)

Appendix A**Terms of reference – Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel
(as amended by LAC Scrutiny Sub Panel on 12.07.06).**

The Looked After Children Scrutiny sub-panel (hereafter LAC Scrutiny), is a sub-panel of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel (CYPSSP). LAC Scrutiny will report to CYPSSP.

The Chair of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel also be the Chair of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel.

To demonstrate the corporate parenting responsibility of all Elected Members, the membership of LAC Scrutiny is drawn from each of the five Scrutiny Panels in Rotherham. Each of the Scrutiny Panels will be asked to nominate representatives at the beginning of the new municipal year.

LAC Scrutiny will meet quarterly, although other meetings may be called on an 'as and when' basis.

Terms of reference:

1. To review reports on Councillor visits to children and young people's residential establishments;
2. In liaison with Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, to visit children and young people's residential establishments on a rotational basis and make arrangement to meet looked after children who are being fostered and their carers.
3. To consider and monitor reports on the extent to which the Council is meeting its statutory responsibilities to looked after children and care leavers as laid out in the Children Act 2004 and with regard to five themes of the 'Every Child Matters' agenda:
 - Be healthy
 - Stay safe
 - Enjoy and achieve
 - Make a positive contribution
 - Achieve economic well-being;
4. To consider progress on meeting targets in Fostering and Adoption;
5. To receive regular progress reports on the preventative measures being taken to reduce the overall number of children in the care of the Council;
6. To keep under review the Council's arrangements for ensuring that it fulfils its role as corporate parent (including the arrangements for designated school governors) and make recommendations to the Council's Cabinet on improvements;
7. To consider an annual report on the Council's performance as a Corporate Parent;
8. To monitor the effectiveness of the Council's Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Scrutiny Panel Brief.

Looking after the Health Needs of Looked after Children and Young People

11th July 07.

Introduction

This brief considers the progress made in developing health systems to meet the health needs of Looked After Children and Young People in Rotherham. It provides information about health services and outcomes for the period from April 2006 to March 2007

Facts and Figures

On the 24th April 2007 there were 340 children looked after by Rotherham Local Authority. 188 of these were male and 152 were female.

Ages	0-5	6-10	11-15	16 +	Total
Foster Care	58	67	93	33	251
Residential inside Rotherham			10	2	12
Residential outside Rotherham		1	2	3	6
Placed with Parents	8	13	7	9	38

White-British	White-Irish	White-other	Asian-Pakistani	Black-African
316	3	2	1	2

Statutory Requirements

The Department of Health Guidance (2002), *Promoting the Health of Looked After Children*, requires that each child or young person should have a holistic health assessment on entering care and routinely thereafter according to the age of the child. The aim is to improve the standard of health care and planning for all looked after children. A written health summary action plan for each child is produced from information collected during the health assessment and forms part of the child or young person's overall care plan.

The Framework in Rotherham

A Looked After Children Health Group provides a strategic direction and is working towards the implementation of the Healthy Care Programme.

Rotherham has a Designated Nurse working fulltime and a Consultant Paediatrician working as the Designated Doctor for Looked After Children and

Young People for two half days a week. They work strategically across agencies in order to develop systems and policies, such as a medicines policy and procedure currently in progress that can be used by foster carers and staff working in residential care. In addition they undertake direct work with children and young people and the Designated Nurse provides services where gaps are identified or children have complex needs.

Initial health assessments for LAC are carried out by the Designated Doctor and health plans are agreed. Catch-up immunisations, vision and hearing checks are promoted on entry into care, as well as registration with a dentist. LAC have a jointly agreed health plan which is regularly reviewed through the statutory review process.

Most looked after children have an allocated health professional, either a health visitor or school nurse, who undertakes follow up health assessment. Training is made available to Health Visitors and School Nurses which covers areas related to LAC such as legislation and consent. If children and young people are unable to access universal services or they have complex needs then they will be seen by the designated nurse.

In 2005/06 the routine childhood immunisation uptake rate for the Looked After children population was 74.79%. In comparison, the uptake rate for all Rotherham children was 94%, although MMR uptake was lower at 84%.

Almost 80% of children and young people had received a dental check within the previous year. The number of children looked after for over a year that had received both health assessments and dental checks was 81.1%

Looked after Children and Young People in foster care have access to an appropriate range of support and information.

The recent inspection of fostering services deemed the health of Looked After Children as good, a quote from the report stated, "The health and development needs of LAC Children and Young people are well met by the fostering services. Foster carers and workers make sure Children & Young People have good access to a range of health care provision and promote a healthy lifestyle that benefits Children and Young People". Further evidence from young people supports the fostering inspection outcome of 'good', "The majority of young people who were consulted about being healthy said that they are helped by their foster carers to have a healthy lifestyle".

This year funding from the Teenage Pregnancy Grant has been used to provide specific training for LAC carers around sexual health and teenage pregnancy.

Children and young people who are looked after and experience mental health problems have access to integrated assessment, treatment and support.

- Staff at STEPS and Chatham House conduct assessments, provide the necessary treatment and level of support at level 2/3 tier on referral.
- Young offenders having acute mental health difficulties are referred to CAMHS within 5 days of assessment. Non acute concerns are referred within 15 days. Establishment of jointly funded posts are key to achieving these targets, and in the last 12 months 24 young people have been screened for acute and non-acute mental health
- Rotherham has a very low incidence of young people placed out of authority for health and social needs, the figure currently stands at 11

Looked after children and young people are advised/supported in identifying and managing health problems on leaving care

A Specialist Health Practitioner works with the Leaving Care Team to ensure the health needs of this client group are identified and contributes to individual care packages offered by the NCH, Leaving Care Team.

Achievements 2006/7

OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME
To develop a Policy and Procedure between the Local Authority and Primary Care Trust (PCT) to ensure that looked after children are offered routine health assessments in line with the Department of Health guidelines	A joint Policy and Procedure was implemented 8 th February 2006 following acceptance by the PCT's Clinical Governance Committee.
Each child or young person receives a comprehensive health assessment and has a healthcare plan when s/he becomes looked after.	A system is now well established whereby children and young people are offered an Initial Health Assessment (IHA) by a Paediatrician when they come into care. The Nationally recognised British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) forms are used as they are evidence based and capture the information required to promote healthcare within a psychosocial model.
An up to date healthcare plan is available for each child or young person's Statutory Review.	The Safeguarding Unit routinely receive a copy of the summary and healthcare plan. There is an expectation that the child's Health Visitor or School Nurse will contribute to the Statutory Review.
To ensure that Looked After children and young people and their carers recognise the value of having a health assessment. Consequently increasing the uptake of	Rotherham's Looked After children and young people, through the Children's Rights Service, have developed their own Health Check Leaflet.

health assessments.	Wherever possible refusal for a health assessment is followed up in order to ensure that the child or young person is making an informed choice. Although some young people remain 'hard to reach'.
Key information is collected and made available to inform service development.	A system is in place for information to be collected and recorded on SWIFT.
To provide a framework for carers on personal relationships and sexual health for children and young people who are looked after.	A Personal and Sexual Health Policy for Children and Young People in Care (SHIC) has been implemented.
The 125 Flower Project is a multi-agency project, which delivers health workshops to vulnerable young people aged 11-16 years.	A complete course has been run in one of the Children's Homes.

Current Issues

Rotherham has managed significant improvements in Looked after Children's health status as a result of dedicated staff, redesign in health visiting, school nursing and CAMHS teams and investment in training staff.

Implementing the Healthy Care Programme will take commitment and support at a senior level and consideration of how the programme fits with the draft proposals to integrate front line service delivery. Full implementation will involve further service redesign to accommodate targeting, IT requirements, data collection and audit, and may require extra resources

AIMS FOR 2007/8

- The Healthy Care Programme* to be adopted as the multi agency mechanism for the delivery of Government guidance on the health of Looked After children
- A Sexual Health Toolkit to be developed in conjunction with Sheffield's Health Team and Centre for HIV and AIDS;
- The Medicines Policy and Procedure for Residential and Foster Care to be completed
- Increase prevention and early intervention in mental health at Tier 1, supported by training, education and consultation opportunities for staff working in universal services.
- CAMHS to offer a single point of access to Tiers 2 and 3, specialist mental health services, from September 2007
- Reduce the number of referral declines to CAMHS at Tiers 2 and 3 and reduce waiting times to first appointment to 10days for non urgent clients.
- BAAF Smoking Policy to be adopted in a way which is appropriate for the local situation
- An audit of completed Initial Health Assessments to be undertaken to establish the quality of the assessments.

*** The Healthy Care Programme provides:**

- a national standard of health care that reflects best practice and contributes to the ECM national outcomes for children
 - a manual on how to set up a local multi-agency Healthy Care Partnership
 - an audit tool to assist the development of a locally responsive Healthy Care Programme
 - an outcomes focussed Healthy Care Action Plan template
 - a means of collecting evidence for monitoring and reviews of information on key health and well-being issues for looked after children and young people Healthy Care Briefings
 - training programme for foster carers and residential social workers
 - a monthly Healthy Care Newsletter and a regular e-bulletin demonstrating how Healthy Care helps deliver the policy agenda
 - access to a regional and national network and events to promote the sharing of learning
-

What difference can Healthy Care make locally?

It helps looked after children and young people to achieve the Every Child Matters five outcomes by:

- promoting their health and well-being
 - ensuring their safety and protection and supporting placement stability
 - supporting educational achievement, personal development and involvement in recreation
 - ensuring their effective participation in service development
 - improving their life chances for enjoying and achieving economic well-being.
-

Margaret Murphy, Children's Planning Lead, Rotherham Primary Care Trust.
Tel : 01709 302049
Email Margaret.Murphy@rotherhampct.nhs.uk

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
--

1.	Meeting:	Looked After Children’s Scrutiny Sub Group
2.	Date:	Wednesday, 11th July, 2007
3.	Title:	Response to ‘Care Matters – Time for Change’ White Paper and Proposed Delivery in Rotherham
4.	Programme Area:	Children’s Social Care

5. Summary

Care Matters Green Paper was published by Government in October 2006, the consultation process was closed on 15th January, 2007. The Department for Education and Skills published a White Paper (Care Matters: Time for Change) on 21st June, some months earlier than originally envisaged. It takes forward the majority of the Green Paper’s proposals and is informed by both the consultation process and the working groups.

The consultation indicated that the Green Paper had been generally welcomed as the start of a long overdue focus on children in care and an opportunity to effect long term change. The main concerns were to do with implementation: resourcing, ensuring the initiative does not become diluted, and how to prioritise policies which will make a real impact.

This paper provides a summary of the key points and recommendations from the White Paper, and a proposal for the realignment of the services provided to Looked After Children in Rotherham as part of a local response to Care Matters to create a borough wide integrated Looked After Children’s Service (Appendix 1 offers the full version of the report).

6. Recommendations

That Members note the contents of the report and consider the changes discussed.

7. Proposals and Details

Chapter 1: Corporate Parenting

This chapter emphasises the importance of building secure attachments with consistent carers, and positive experiences for children in care, to allow them to develop the resilience they need in life. It stresses the challenges of parenting within complex systems and the importance of the voice of the child.

- In 2009 care planning will be brought together in one set of regulations and statutory guidance as part of the revised Children Act, 1989, Guidance.
- The Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services should be responsible for leading improvements in corporate parenting.
- Local Authorities (L.As.) will be expected to develop a 'Pledge' for children in care, covering the services and support they should expect to receive.
- All L.A. are also expected to put in place a Children in Care Council, with direct links to the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member to express their voice and influence.
- There will be an annual stock take of the outcomes for children in Care, with Ministers reviewing progress for children in care.
- There will be revised National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services, Children's Homes and Adoption will be issued in 2009.
- Additional funding will be provided.

Chapter 2: Family and Parenting Support

The White Paper states in principle that, wherever possible, children should be supported within their families. Comparisons will be drawn between comparable L.As. and the numbers of Looked After children they have and L.As. will be asked to work with Government office to analyse the profile of their children in care populations. Looking to establish reasons behind differential rates and focusing on thresholds and decision making and ultimately appropriate service provision for vulnerable children and their families. Other proposals are made to provide support for families and parents:-

- Development of Family Group Conferences.
- Funding the multi-systemic therapy as a specialist intervention for children on the edge of care.
- Providing £280 million to deliver a step change in the provision of short breaks for parents of children with disabilities.

- Legislation to enable carers who are relatives to apply for a residence order if the child has lived with him/her for a continuous period of 12 months.
- Revised guidance on ensuring that children's services continue to work with birth parents while the child is in care and appropriate services are delivered to enable safe returns home.

Chapter 3: Care Placements

All placement decisions should be made with a view to maximising the opportunity for the child to find permanence.

A range of measures is proposed to improve the quality of placements:-

- Duty on L.As. to secure a sufficient and diverse provision of quality placements.
- Regional Commissioning Units will be piloted to ensure a menu of appropriate placements, tailored to meet the needs of the child is available.
- Statutory framework for Out of Authority placements will be strengthened to ensure such a placement is only made in the child's best interest.
- Foster carer recruitment campaigns will be promoted nationally.
- Skills training and support for Foster Carers will be increased and recorded.
- There will be explicit requirements for all children in care to be visited by their Social Worker regardless of placement type.
- Pilot schemes will explore the effectiveness of Social Pedagogy.
- Measures will be put in place to improve provision for, Disabled Children, in residential care and provision relating to children Missing from Care.

Chapter 4: Education

A high quality education provides the foundation for transforming the lives of Children in Care, the main proposals here are:-

- Priority in school admissions for Looked After Children.
- Care planning decisions do not disrupt a child's education.
- They must not move schools in years 10 and 11 except in exceptional circumstances.

- The role of the Designated Teacher will be placed on a statutory footing.
- £500 a year will be provided for each child at risk of not meeting their potential.
- Availability of 1:1 tutoring will be increased.
- The role of the virtual head will be piloted in 11 L.As.
- There is an expectation that high quality early years provision will be available.
- Strategies should be developed by schools to address attendance and exclusions amongst their Looked After populations.
- Strengthened guidance will be issued to carers and those with parental responsibility in supporting children with special educational needs.

Chapter 5: Health and Well Being

This chapter stresses the holistic approach to improving the health needs of children in Care:-

- Current guidance *Promoting the Health of Looked After Children* will become statutory for health care bodies when it is reissued in 2008.
- The needs of children in care will be included in new joint strategic needs assessment which underpins health service commissioning.
- Statutory guidance will ensure the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services provide targeted and dedicated provision for children in care.
- New standards for supporting pregnant young women and mothers in care and leaving care will be set.
- Subject to the Comprehensive Spending Review named Health professionals will be introduced.
- A series of measures to improve sex and relationship education given to children in care will be brought in.
- The Government will consider introducing a new indicator within the L.A. management framework around emotional and behavioural difficulties of children in care.
- A number of proposals relate to the participation of children in care in positive leisure time activities including, planning, participation, financial support, free access, priority status for youth work time.

Chapter 6: Transition to Adulthood

- From September 2007 the Government is piloting the involvement of young people in the decision making process that influences their care under a scheme called Right2B Cared4. Under this scheme a L.A. is prevented from discharging young people prematurely from their care placements until they are properly prepared and ready to move on to the next stages of their lives.
- Extending the entitlement to the support of a personal advisor up to age 25 for all Care Leavers.
- A number of measures to facilitate progression to further and higher education, including bursary schemes and from 2008 the Government will invest 100 per year in the child trust fund account of every child who spends the year in care.
- L.A. is expected to consider when developing their pledge what employment opportunities they and their partners can offer children in and leaving care.

Chapter 7: The Role of the Practitioner

The day to day experience of the corporate parent is embodied for children in care by the work of the practitioners, this chapter covers workforce remodelling and the recruitment, retention and training of Social Workers:-

- A specific focus on the social care workforce with a view to enable social workers to spend more time with the child.
- Additional funding for I.C.T. is promised to allow them to work flexibly and make more efficient use of their time.
- Range of proposals for improving the skills and training of Social Workers.
- Tailored recruitment campaigns.
- The role of the Independent Reviewing Officer will be strengthened.
- All children in care who need them are to have access to independent visitors and when making complaints independent advocates.

Chapter 8: Next Steps

Some of these proposals will require changes to the legislative and regulatory framework including statutory guidance and relevant national minimum standards.

Government will provide support for L.As. in effective implementation of the White Paper's proposals based on a joint vision for change involving statutory and voluntary sector.

The final chapter indicates that a detailed implementation plan will be published later in 2007.

From this White Paper there will be extensive financial support, over £300 m of additional funding over the next three years using the context of the Comprehensive Spending review.

Proposal for The Looked After Children's Strategy in Rotherham

Locally Officers have attended conferences at the beginning of the process and in response to the consultation period. This has led us to evaluate the way services have been offered to Looked After children and to develop our provision as a borough wide integrated Looked After Children's Service.

Essentially this entails developing one service which directly manages:-

- The Get Real Team
- The Fostering Team
- The Adoption Team
- The Residential Service
- The N.C.H. Bridges Leaving Care Team
- A newly formed Therapeutic Team for Looked After Children
- The Volunteers Service
- The Family Assessment Team

This equates to approximately 140 staff, 5 residential children's units, 138 foster carers and a number of volunteers.

Research and consultation with children in care have shown that the biggest failure for Looked After children is that of a systems failure. When different parts of the service are managed by different parts of the organisation this often leads to a higher level of bureaucracy and a slower response rate to emerging needs of individual children. Integrating the teams means the service can be more responsive and flexible to meet the needs of individual children and young people. There are a number of advantages to realigning the service to provide a holistic response to children and young people's needs:-

- Ensuring the needs of each child and young person who is Looked After, is at the heart of the service.
- A genuine knowledge of individual children and young people allows for a pro-active approach to ensuring the best possible outcome is achieved.
- Planning for individual children can be predicted and the resources in place and ready to support the child as they enter the varying stages of their life and development.

- It gives us a platform in Rotherham to which to begin to shape and develop an excellent service in line with the more intricate details in Care Matters.
- It enables multi professional rapid response teams to be set up quickly to support individual children and young people whose placement at school or at home is in danger of breaking down.
- Children can be supported into through and post the adoption process from within one service.
- Therapeutic intervention can be offered alongside educational support to help children and young people access and succeed in education
- Aspirations and outcomes are improved for this vulnerable group by a shared ethos and approach by all the support professionals working alongside each other with common purpose and goals.

The statutory responsibility for Looked After Children will remain with the Social Worker who will be based within one of the locality teams allowing for an independent advocate outside of the Looked After service to support the planning and input required for the child to ensure individual needs are met.

8. Finance

To integrate service provision through co-location utilising existing capacity within the Council, consideration should be given to change of accommodation to provide space for the newly formed integrated service. All L.A.C. services would be co-located and include provision of meeting/training/education support facilities as well as storage for the fostering team. This could involve considerable cost saving in respect of room booking for meetings and in better management of fostering equipment.

The development of crisis support teams within existing services would skill up individual workers and would prevent the need for outside agencies to be purchased to work with this group of children and young people, therefore in the long term reducing costs.

Most of the development plans may be managed in house. Cost saving measures and efficiency savings has been incorporated into the overall plan, for example, in respect of Leaving Care Services. There are some short term financial implications for the development of an effective Outreach Service. An improved challenge to care should bring savings over a 2 year period and reduce the need for Out of Authority placements.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The White Paper has to go through the Parliamentary processes which could result in a number of changes when the bill is finalised.

Prior to the White Paper we had already begun to plan for service improvements. The White Paper confirmed that our proposals were in line with the Government change agenda for Looked After children (C.I.C.).

Our first steps are bringing together therapeutic services, developing a preventative service and changes of function of two of our children's units.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

There are a number of key performance indicators for Looked After children, e.g. placement stability, children placed within the L.A. and adoptions of Looked After children. Our proposals are intended to strengthen our performance outcomes.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Care Matters Transforming the Lives of Children and Young People in Public Care.
- Care Matters: Time for Change White Paper.
- Cabinet Member for children and Young People's Service report dated 14th November, 2006, Green Paper - 'Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children and Young People in Care'.
- Care Matters Consultation Responses D.F.E.S. Document.
- Proposal for a Borough wide Looked after Children's Service, delivering Care Matters in Rotherham (Appendix 1)

Contact Name: Katy Hawkins Service Manager
(Looked After Children's Resources)
Tel.: Ext 4017
E-mail: katy.hawkins@rotherham.gov.uk

Appendix 1

**Proposal for a Borough wide Looked after Children's Service,
delivering Care Matters in Rotherham**

Messages from Research

This proposal provides a clear response to the "Care Matters" green paper and follows identified examples of best practice. Some of the more interesting best practice examples arising from a recent Care Matters conference can be summarised as follows

It is vital to co-ordinate service provision for this client group, Looked after children will not perform well in education, if they have unresolved emotional issues, and their placement stability is at risk. This level of co-ordination can only be fully implemented through co-located integrated teams. The focus on LAC is best maintained by location within LAC services.

- L.A's should develop clear strategies to meet the identified direct care needs of the current and forecasted Looked after Children population
- In house Fostering services can be developed to meet the needs of children with complex needs providing appropriate remuneration and comprehensive packages of support are provided this must include therapeutic support
- The role of the virtual head teacher is the role currently undertaken by the team leader. Support from Education services may though be enhanced through a virtual head teacher role being undertaken by a person with authority within the Education directorate.
- Preventative services are an integral part of the continuum of LAC services and should be integrated into service provision
- Appropriate and responsive CAMHS service provision is vital to outcomes for LAC. Therapeutic support can and should be given to all Looked after children, whatever their stability with a primary aim of bolstering emotional resilience.

Development Proposal

To develop within Rotherham a co located integrated Looked After Children's Service which offers a holistic approach to children at either end of the Looked After spectrum. To enable a shared vision of excellence for this vulnerable group with shared standards and the creation of totally innovative individualised packages of care which places every child at the heart of the service.

Stable placements and success in education underpinned by the appropriate therapeutic interventions are the cornerstone of any Looked After child succeeding in life. This proposal seeks to develop this borough wide centre of excellence in Rotherham managed within one service area with a 'whatever it takes' approach.

The scope of this proposal is for children who access mainstream care services including children with disability and complex needs but does not include specialist disability services.

Care Provision

To respond to identified need for more long term residential beds by converting the current assessment unit (Creswick Road) to a long term unit.

To enhance the provision of semi independent accommodation by converting the contact house next to Creswick road to a 2 bed emergency unit and a base for the outreach team proposed below

To expedite this process by moving the respite unit to Creswick road and Creswick road unit to Studmore Road. This will enable a "fresh start" for the current units and ensure good quality support for the children living in semi independent accommodation

To work with Neighbourhood services to develop managed tenancies for care leavers

To continue to follow the longer term development plans for Care leavers accommodation, including re-development of Hollowgate and integration of the floating support scheme.

To action the comprehensive foster carers recruitment and retention plan in order to increase the number of foster carers and the breadth of placement provision in house, thereby reducing the numbers of foster carers who have more than 3 children in placement and the need to seek placements from the independent sector.

To develop the Fostering Team to increase the capacity to provide placements for children with complex needs and those in need of permanence.

To develop an emergency bed and remand provision within foster care

To develop the adoption teams capacity to provide good quality adoptive placements

To raise the profile of residential care as a positive choice within Rotherham

LAC Support Services

In securing educational achievement for Looked After children the needs of the individual child must be considered as a whole, underpinning re-engagement and achievement work with opportunities to develop self esteem and confidence, to understand the barriers that prevent Looked After children in meeting their full potential and teaching them the necessary social skills in order to interact with the community at large. This wider remit that the Get Real Team works to will be enhanced through the development of a Virtual Head Teacher, a role held by a senior manager within Education services, possibly from within school improvement, who will have a level of independence from the day to day running of the team in order to champion the needs and rights of Looked After children within the schools in Rotherham. This will be underpinned by the development of a management Team for Get Real chaired by the Virtual Head teacher which will ensure all services concerned with improving educational outcomes for children in Rotherham are united in their efforts to improve overall outcomes for this vulnerable group. This ensures that the Get Real Team maintains its Looked After children focus but enables clear direction from within the education framework

To consider incorporating the Volunteer support service into the Get real team, to ensure focussed support to LAC and effective management of Independent visitors.

To develop "literacy Taxis" a supported transport provision enhancing education outcomes and providing safe and consistent transport to school, initially aimed at primary aged children, preventing the need for children to move schools when they become looked after, based within the Get Real Team.

To enhance the range and scope of activities provided by the Get Real Team for LAC in line with the healthy care programme in line with recommendations from Care Matters

To review the Leaving care contract currently held by NCH to ensure effective use of resources. This may include development of a post 16 LAC service.

To develop an effective LAC Health and Therapeutic support team, to be managed in house. This team will incorporate the LAC nurse, CAMH's team and post adoption support. The team will also maintain close links to the designated LAC Doctor, senior manager – C+YPS (Health) and Leaving Care Health Worker. To develop Healthy Care in line with recent legislation

To develop clear protocols with the Family Assessment Team or consider the incorporation of the team into the LAC services to ensure continuity of service provision, appropriate challenge to care and effective management of a borough wide service.

To develop a LAC council to enable LAC to influence corporate governance.

Preventative and Crisis support services

To co-ordinate all service provision through the Resource panel.

To provide overall management and co-ordinate the work of the Family Assessment Team.

An integrated team would be able to rapidly create individualised crisis support packages for children and young people at risk of breakdown in adoption, fostering or residential care. The make up of the team would be flexible to meet the emerging needs of the child or young person and create a 'wrap around' service to stabilise the placement and reduce the need for further moves either within or outside the service.

To develop cost effective "challenge to care" services

- Out reach support from the respite unit
- A fostering "aunt and Uncle" service
- Time limited "return home" support services to be developed through the F.A.T. alongside the locality social worker
- Expand and maintain the F.G.C. service
- Effective strengthening families strategies

To engage with the voluntary sector to enhance support provision and explore funding opportunities.

Management and integration of service provision

To offer a Management response to the Care Matters paper expected to be enacted early 2008.

To develop co-ordination of team identity through regular LAC management team meetings and development sessions

To plan a co-ordinated response to National Minimum Care Standards revised edition expected summer 2008.

To manage and respond effectively to the new and more rigorous Regulation and Inspection Frameworks under Ofsted.

To develop a clear and effective strategy to prevent the need for care managed through the resource panel.

To develop an integrated accommodation strategy meeting differing levels of need for LAC as they enter and move through the looked after system with co-ordinate approaches from all agencies involved and managed through the resource panel. This strategy will develop care provision based on a tiered approach. Residential and Fostering provision offers a positive variety of approaches to care and will be part of an overall continuum of care based on assessed needs.

Proposed Management Structure

Service Manager - Resources	Service Manager – Provider services
1 Operations Manager - residential services - children missing from home	Fostering team Adoption team Chair fostering panel Sheffield (reciprocal arrangement)
5 Residential units Reg 33 inspections Outreach services	NCH Accommodation Team NCH Leaving Care Team Teenagers to work
Get Real Team Volunteer services/literacy Taxis	Vulnerable young adults/transition/Supporting people
Co-ordination and liaison with LAC Therapeutic services	Co-ordination and liaison with Preventative services
Agency decision maker	Management of resource panel
Management of resource panel	

Infrastructure Implications

To integrate service provision through co-location utilising existing capacity within the Council, consideration should be given to the use of Millside Training centre, All LAC services would be co-located and include provision of meeting/training/education support facilities as well as storage for the fostering team. This could involve considerable cost saving in respect of room booking for meetings and in better management of fostering equipment.

The development of crisis support teams within existing services would skill up individual workers and would prevent the need for outside agencies to be

purchased to work with this group of children and young people, therefore in the long term reducing costs

Most of the development plans may be managed in house. Cost saving measures and efficiency savings have been incorporated into the overall plan, for example in respect of Leaving Care services. There are some short term financial implications for the development of an effective Outreach service, though an improved challenge to care should bring savings over a 2 year period and reduce the need for OOA placements

Sue May - Service Manager Provider Services

Katy Hawkins – Service Manager Looked After Children’s Resources

24th April 2007.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel
2.	Date:	11th July 2007
3.	Title:	Update on Scrutiny Review Councillors as Corporate Parents
4.	Programme Area:	Children's Social Care

5. Summary

Attached update on scrutiny review councillors as corporate parents and corporate parenting strategy.

5. Recommendations

Note the content of the report and receive update in 12 months time.

7. Proposals and Details

Scrutiny Members undertook a review of corporate parenting activities in 2005. The recommendations attached as appendix 1 were approved by Cabinet in September 2005. The attached appendix 1 details progress against the recommendations and updates Members of progress in developing and implementing a corporate parenting strategy which was a key recommendation of the review.

Substantial progress has been made in consolidating corporate parenting activities and this was reflected in comments from the JAR 2006 *"Looked After Children are a key priority for the council which is excellent at carrying out its corporate parenting role"*.

8. Finance

The activities have been accommodated within current budgets

9. Risks and Uncertainties

It is important that Looked After Children and Young People have a high profile in the work of the council to ensure that this vulnerable group remain high priority, failure to do this may negatively impact on outcomes of LAC and Care Leavers

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

- Every Child Matters agenda
- White Paper Care Matters time for change
- Rotherham Learning alive Safe and achieving agenda

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Scrutiny Review Role of Councillors as Corporate parents 2005
- White Paper Care Matters- Time for Change
- Corporate parenting strategy.

Contact Name : Katy Hawkins Service Manager, Looked After Children's Resources ext 4017

katy.hawkins@rotherham.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Role of Councillors as Corporate Parents

Update on recommendations

Rec No	Recommendation	Position (as of June 2007)	Risks
1.1.1	Ensure that the new executive arrangements for Children and young people's Services maintain an overview of services to address the needs of LACYP and care leavers. This should include health, education, employment, training, leisure, housing and social care	Completed, regular reports to JLT, Lead Member and LAC Scrutiny	Senior Members of the Local Authority not be aware of the issues and impacts arising from the service provision.
1.1.2	That the Lead Member for Children's Services ensures that the Children and Young people's Board regularly addresses the needs of LACYP and care leavers through its partnership arrangements	Completed	That Looked After Children and Care Leavers needs slip down the agenda.
1.1.3	That work is undertaken to develop a corporate parenting policy and strategy in the Council and work be undertaken to ensure that relevant protocols are developed and adopted by partners	Corporate parenting document signed and up to date A new proposal for LAC strategy is being delivered to LAC scrutiny 11 th July 2007	All parties work to the same protocol and ensure adequate and robust systems are in place for LAC&YP
1.2.1	That appropriate mandatory training be undertaken with new Members to introduce them to the corporate parenting role as part of their induction	Training for Members in 2 nd year, ongoing and scheduled into Member development programme	Without effective and regular training Members can not exercise their role effectively.
1.2.2	That all relevant Members undertake mandatory training on their Corporate Parenting role (at both executive and scrutiny level)	Training delivered on a rolling programme see above	Elected Members not understanding their role and responsibility and the needs of Looked After children are not high on the agenda
1.2.3	That regular bulletins should be issued to all Members updating them of service developments and key messages	Last bulletin was issued in May 07	Members are not aware of current operational practice and unable to champion the needs of Looked After Children appropriately.
1.2.4	That guidance should be developed and issued to all members of their corporate parenting role. This should also include protocols for visits to residential units.	Completed as outlined in the corporate parenting strategy	That Members are unaware of their role and expectations in respect of corporate parenting
1.2.5	The briefing/seminars on the corporate parenting role should	Completed	That the

	be scheduled into the Member development programme		importance of the role of Corporate parents slips down the agenda
1.3.1	That a leaflet is developed and distributed to all LACYP and care leavers explaining the role of councillors as their 'corporate parent'.	Completed	Young People are not aware of the role of the Corporate parent in respect of their role.
1.4.1	That a Looked-After-Children Scrutiny sub panel be set up to monitor outcomes and scrutinise services for LACYP and Care leavers. The panel's membership should be drawn from all scrutiny panels. This should be done initially for a twelve month period to commence in the 2005/06 municipal year.	The LAC scrutiny panel is in its 2 nd year.	That services for LACYP and Care Leavers are not effective and adequate to meet need.
1.4.2	That the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services co-ordinates regular meetings with LACYP and care leavers (at least twice yearly) to ensure that they have the opportunity to meet with relevant Members	Underway a trip to London on the 16 th July has been organised for a group of LACYP.	That LACYP voice is not heard in cabinet.
1.5.1	That Members who are school governors be encouraged to take up the role of designated governor for LACYP	Letter from the Lead Member was sent to all Members outlining this proposal in Sept 06. Letter to be re-issued Sept 07	Not all schools have designated governors for LACYP
1.6.1	That funding is identified and secured for celebration events for LACYP and Foster Carers	Ongoing Post 16 awards were held in the Town Hall Nov 06, planning for Young Champions and bi-annual event to start in Sept 07 once funding has been identified.	Funding for these events is not identified therefore they cannot go ahead.
1.7.1	That the Youth Cabinet is encouraged to explore strengthening the representation of LACYP in their structures	Ongoing there is current representation.	Children in Care Councils have been proposed in the white Paper, Care Matters.
1.7.2	That further work be undertaken through voice and influence to develop links with LACYP and care leavers and existing Children's Rights Group and care leavers organisations	Ongoing work with rights 2 rights and with NCH Bridges	
1.7.3	That consideration be given to developing a 'Buddying' or shadowing arrangement to enable LACYP and/or care leavers to be linked to executive or scrutiny members	Different options are still being explored	Numbers of LACYP and care leavers mean the matching is a challenge.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Children and Young People's Services

Report for Looked After Scrutiny Panel 11th July 2007

Profile of Numbers of Looked After Children, Current Placements and School Attendance.

As of 3rd July 2007 Rotherham currently has 334 children in our Care, of these children and young people [figure to be confirmed by Chris Seekings] are allocated to the Children's Disability Team.

Types of Care

Type of Care	Age 0-6	Age 6-10	Age 11-15	Age 16+	Total
In Foster Care	62	58	95	33	248
Independent Living	0	0	0	1	1
Residential In Rotherham	0	0	11	3	14
Residential Outside Rotherham	0	0	2	2	4
Residential School	0	0	3	1	4
Other Residential	0	0	2	5	7
Placed With Parents	10	9	18	7	44
Other Placement	10	9	18	7	44
TOTALS	80	70	132	52	334

Ethnicity Breakdown

Type Of Care	White British	White Irish	White Other	Asian Pakistani	Other any	Black African	Dual Heritage White & Black Caribbean	Dual Heritage White & Asian	Dual Heritage Other	Other - Yemeni	Total
In Foster Care	229	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	1	1	248
Independent Living	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Residential In Rotherham	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Residential Outside Rotherham	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Residential School	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Other Residential	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Placed With Parents	41	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	44
Other Placement	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	12
TOTALS	310	2	2	2	3	2	4	7	1	1	334

Gender Breakdown

Type Of Care	Female	Male	Total
In Foster Care	118	130	248
Independent Living	1	0	1
Residential In Rotherham	7	7	14
Residential Outside Rotherham	3	1	4
Residential School	1	3	4
Other Residential	2	5	7
Placed With Parents	13	31	44
Other Placement	4	8	12
TOTALS	149	185	334

Absences for Looked After Children as of 2nd July 2007.

Forename	DOB	Year Group	No. of half-days Excluded	No. of Auth Absences	No. of Unauth Absences	Total Half-Days Missed	Placement	Comments	Date Entered Care
Child A	24-Aug-91	Y11	20	33	4	57	Foster Carer	. Has taken GCSE exams, but this was under supervision. Get Real provided Year 11 support.	25/09/2006
Child B	23-Oct-95	Y6	57	0	0	57	Foster Carer	Excluded from Wath Victoria J & I School, attending St. Ann's Pupil Referral Unit. Excluded 1 day from St. Ann's for being abusive to staff and threatening to leave school premises and take another child with him. Has since settled at St. Ann's and no absences have been recorded since Feb 07. Get Real undertaking Y6 monitoring.	09/03/2005
Child C	02-Jan-96	Y6	48	10	0	58	Placed for adoption	Placed out of authority.	23/03/2001
Child D	19-Mar-02	R	0	38	22	60	With Parents	Placed with Parent. Get Real Team involved	27/03/2002
Child E	24-May-93	Y9	10	17	43	70	With Parents	Part time timetable. School provision is three half-days per week. Get Real Team have been providing teaching support.	06/07/2000
Child F	14-Nov-92	Y9	38	2	38	78	Residential Unit	Teaching support/Learning Mentor Support from Get Real Team. Still on roll at Fenton Wood. Application to be made to Swinton Comprehensive.	23/12/2004

Child G	16-Aug-94	Y8	0	27	53	80	With Parents	Majority of absences are due to truancy. Joint work with EWO.	18/03/1997
Child H	10-May-91	Y11	64	8	9	81	Residential Unit	Get Real Team working with all agencies to improve attendance	30/10/2006
Child I	07-May-93	Y9	26	26	30	82	With Stepfather	Since the start of the academic year, has been on roll at 3 different secondary schools. Excluded from school on two occasions due to behaviour and internal truancy. Get Real providing Learning Mentor Support.	26/01/2004
Child J	20-Oct-91	Y10	18	13	51	82	Residential Unit	Exclusions due to behaviour. Refuses to attend school and refuses input from Get Real Team. Get Real assessment currently being undertaken.	27/09/2004
Child K	20-Dec-90	Y11	9	35	48	92	Out of Authority Residential Unit	Attends an out of authority school which is quite a distance from placement address. Earlier absences due to illness, but is currently refusing to go to school. Get Real have been providing teaching support two evenings per week, this has now finished as exams are over.	03/12/2004
Child L	22-Sep-91	Y10	4	42	48	94	Residential Unit	On part-time school timetable. Get Real Team have offered a lot of teaching support. Plans are in place to continue this support in Year 11. Refusing to attend school.	28/12/1999
Child M	04-Oct-91	Y10	4	29	75	108	With Parents	Attendance has improved over the last two weeks. Get Real are due to provide Learning Mentor Support.	15/11/2001

Child N	30-Oct-92	Y9	46	30	32	108	Foster Carer	Excluded a number of times for criminal damage to school caretaker's house, assaulting a teacher ,internal truancy. Currently on a part-time timetable with school and Greasborough PRU. Get Real monitoring the situation.	18/01/2006
Child O	28-Oct-91	Y10	32	2	76	110	Residential Unit	Get Real Team monitoring	
Child P	21-Apr-94	Y8	80	12	33	125	Residential Unit	Had a trial placement at Wales High School which was unsuccessful. Get Real providing Learning Mentor/Teaching support. On roll at Fenton Wood but is refusing to attend.	28/12/1999
Child Q	01-Jun-94	Y8	56	73	11	140	Residential Unit	Currently on roll at Wickersley, but attends Whiston Grange on a part-time timetable. Get Real are providing teaching support.	28/01/2003
Child R	14-Sep-93	Y8	25	44	72	141	With Parent	Placed with Mum. Currently on a part-time timetable. Get Real providing Learning Mentor Support.	10/04/1999
Child S	05-Feb-93	Y9	0	57	88	145	Out of Authority Residential Unit 01/02/07	Out of authority school.	07/11/2005
Child T	06-Mar-92	Y10	22	76	51	149	With Parents	Get Real providing Social Worker Support. Taster Hairdressing course set up at RCAT every Monday. Get Sorted Tuesday morning and Friday afternoon.	11/10/2005

Child U	28-Sep-90	Y11	0	82	71	153	Foster Carer	Started at Rowan Centre 26/02/07. Get Real have provided teaching support in Maths and English. Finished school as exams have finished.	06/01/2005
Child V	23-May-93	Y9	18	51	88	157	Residential Unit	Alternative package being developed involving the Get Real Team and LAC Nurse and Residential staff.	
Child W	31-Jan-92	Y10	0	9	159	168	With Parents	Get Real providing Social Worker Support and teaching support. Application for transfer from Wath to Wingfield Comp has been turned down.	18/03/1997
Child X	16-Jan-92	Y10	0	171	2	173	With Parents	Left Aycliffe Centre May 07, now placed with Mum. Get Real providing teaching support. Visit to RCAT with a view to course in Year 11.	07/12/1999
Child Y	15-Oct-92	Y10	4	40	150	194	With Parents	Placed at home since 13/11/06. Refusing to attend. EWO involved.	10/05/2002
Child Z	25-Jun-91	Y11	0	196	0	196	Foster Carer	Y11 pupil. Placed out of authority. Bail conditions prevented him from entering any school premises. Get Real offered teaching support until bail conditions were lifted and child admitted to school. Sat GCSE exams.	18/07/2006

Child A1	23-May-94	Y8	50	146	1	197	With relative	Permanently excluded from out of authority school. Get Real offered teaching support in interim to child admitted to another SEN school. Continues to support child's transition. At recent SEN review, decision to review statement. Presently at Willows School, which is currently closed until further notice.	18/12/2002
Child A2	01-Dec-90	Y11	52	59	105	216	With relative	Persistent non attender. EWS involved Get Real provided teaching support until leaving school. Connexions PA planning future activities.	05/04/2006

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SCRUTINY SUB-PANEL
Wednesday, 28th March, 2007

Present:- Councillor McNeely (in the Chair); Councillors Barron, Gosling, J. Hamilton and R. Russell.

Also in attendance were Alison Wild, Malcolm Gabbitas and Cath Wright, along with Louise Pashley, Maryann Barton (Bridges Project), Simon Cooper, Paul Grimwood and Sue May.

31. APOLOGIES.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. A. Russell, Jackson and Whysall.

32. FOSTERING SERVICES

Following the recent CSCI inspection of the Fostering Services it was reported that the outcome was extremely positive, the service likely to be upgraded from good to excellent.

There was only one area for recommended action.

Corporate parenting aspects were classed as being excellent and the role of the LAC Scrutiny Sub-Panel was commended.

Agreed:- That the report be received with pleasure.

33. OFFENDING BY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The Senior Operations Manager reported that children and young people who are 'looked after' are at greater risk of offending than the general population, with those individuals cared for within residential children's homes representing the higher percentage of children who are involved in offending behaviour.

In 2006 a report was presented to Members on the rates and patterns of offending amongst looked after children who were placed within residential units. This was in response to national and local concerns by Magistrates that this group were being prosecuted for offences that could be dealt with by disciplinary measures within the residential unit. That report which was also the subject of a presentation to local Youth Magistrates found that L.A.C. were over represented in the criminal justice population locally.

Since this presentation a number of steps have been taken by Youth Offending Services and Children and Young People's Services. In addition national guidance has been issued by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) on the prosecution of young people resident in children's

homes.

The report submitted compares figures for April to December 2005 with those for April to December 2006 and reveals an overall decline in frequency of offending by L.A.C., particularly in residential care. However other placements do not benefit from this trend.

The report also takes the opportunity to inform members of the more general work of the YOS to reduce re-offending.

Comments on the content of the report were in respect of:-

- a) the percentage of looked after children who have had no prior offences before coming into care, and then offending;
- b) the liaison work between the police and the Youth Offending Service, further development of this work and involvement of the Police with Residential Unit workers along with improved community policing;
- c) initiatives which focus on offending behaviour;
- d) lessons to be learned and the support available to carers who have young offenders, such as behaviour management;
- e) organisational/management responses to avoid all young people in care having the stigma that they are likely to offend;
- f) intervention work undertaken, between the Bridge Project and YOS, for care leavers which tends to be positive.

Agreed:- 1) That the content of the report be noted and the actions outlined therein to further reduce offending by Looked After Children, be supported.

2) That a report be submitted in six months time on the actions being initiated to ensure continued improvements.

3) That arrangements be made for a police representative to attend a future meeting to discuss how the service can best work with looked after children to deter them from offending.

34. WORK PLACEMENTS FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The H.R. Manager submitted a report which outlined a framework to encourage the provision of work placements for Looked After Children within the Authority.

The report set out in detail:-

- proposals for offering meaningful work placements for looked after children
- a placement model
- scale of activity i.e. estimated number involved
- manager awareness and commitment

- potential work placement areas
- support offered to young people to enter mainstream employment

It was proposed that Strategic Human Resources perform a link role between the Bridges Leaving Care team and managers across the Council who may be able to offer work placements. This will utilise the contacts developed in Strategic Human Resources as part of the Investors in Education project and the Investors in Education Co-ordinator within Strategic Human Resources will be the initial point of contact for the Bridges team. The Bridges team will then be able to deal directly with service managers to make necessary arrangements prior to the commencement of placements and to resolve any issues which subsequently arise.

Particular comments on the report were made in respect of:-

- a) the involvement of HR as a link between young people and departments/employers; the support available regarding vocational/training work and risk assessment, all having regard to the interests of the young person.
- b) In light of the Local Authority's corporate parenting responsibilities that CMT is urged to remind all managers to consider providing work placements for looked after young people or care leavers and to make available such placements;
- c) encouraging looked after children to go into further education; working with Hallam University and local Colleges was in hand;
- d) expenses for young care leavers who engage in work placements.

Agreed:- 1) That the proposed framework for work placements be strongly supported and submitted to CMT for endorsement.

2) That Strategic Leaders report back to this Scrutiny Sub-Panel on action being taken regarding work placements for Looked After Children in six months time.

3) That progress reports on work placements for looked after children be a regular item on future agendas.

35. ACCESS TO BENEFITS FOR CARE LEAVERS - UPDATE

The Senior Scrutiny Adviser gave an update to members of developments regarding access to benefits for care leavers and how the intervention of this Sub-Panel had helped improve links between the local agencies to facilitate better communications and reduce delays in claims being processed.

A report was submitted which gave the background to the issue, along with correspondence to local MPs and a response from the National Office of Job Centre Plus.

It was noted that there had been a great improvement in claims being processed and resolved quicker.

Agreed:- 1) That the progress made to date be welcomed.

2) That the response from the Department of Work and Pensions (Job Centre Plus) be noted.

3) That progress be reviewed at a future meeting of this sub-panel.

36. PROFILE OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN IN ROTHERHAM

The Service Manager reported that as at 15th March 2007, Rotherham had 343 children in care.

The details submitted set out:-

- the number of looked after children in the various types of care available, with comparative figures for 2006
- the gender and ethnicity breakdown of children in care
- the school attendance record of children in care along with commentary on reasons for them missing school.

Agreed:- 1) That the report be received.

2) That the report to the next meeting include information in respect of:-

- 'internal' trancies
- how many looked after children are not on a school roll and the reasons for this.

37. REGULATION 33 INSPECTIONS OF RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOMES

Consideration was given to the content of a report which summarised the main findings arising from Regulation 33 visits to the following children's homes in Rotherham during the period September to November 2006:-

Creswick Road
St. Edmund's Avenue
Goodwin Crescent
Studmoor Road
Hollowgate

It was noted that aspects of the Improvement Plan for Creswick Road were still being worked upon.

Agreed:- 1) That the report be received.

2) That further reports are submitted to this Sub-Panel on key themes emerging from future Regulation 33 visits.

38. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2007 / 08

The Senior Scrutiny Adviser submitted a draft work programme for the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel for the 2007/08 municipal year.

Agreed:- That the draft work programme as submitted be agreed at this stage, Caroline Webb to be informed of any additional items for possible consideration.

39. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed:- That the minutes of this Scrutiny Sub-Panel held on the 13th December, 2006 be received.

40. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel would take place on Wednesday, 27th June, 2007 at 2.00 p.m.