

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham

Date: Friday, 4 July 2008

Time: 9.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for Absence.
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Questions from the press and public
6. Matters Referred from the Youth Cabinet
7. Communications
8. 2007 End of Key Stage 3 Statutory Test Results (report attached) (Pages 1 - 21)
(Referred from Cabinet Member, Lifelong Learning meeting held on 10th June, 2008)
9. 16 to 19 NEETs Fund Manager - Commissioning Process (report attached) (Pages 22 - 25)
10. Children and Young People's Services - Business and Support Plan for Integrated Services (report attached) (Pages 26 - 29)
11. Rotherham Adoption Inspection and Action Plan (report attached) (Pages 30 - 31)

12. Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 6th June 2008 (copy attached) (Pages 32 - 38)

13. Minutes of meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held as follows:- (Pages 39 - 55)
 - 23rd May 2008 (copy attached)
 - 13th June 2008 (copy attached)

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
The following items are likely to be considered in the absence of the press and public as being exempt under Paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended (information likely to reveal the identity of an individual)

15. Looked After Children (report attached) (Pages 56 - 61)

16. Children and Young People's Services - Annual Complaints Report 2007/2008 (copy attached) (Pages 62 - 75)

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Friday, 5 September 2008**

Membership:-

Chairman – Councillor The Mayor (Councillor G. A. Russell)
Vice-Chairman – Councillor Burton

Councillors:- Ali, Currie, Dodson, Donaldson, Fenoughty, Hughes, Kaye, License, Sharp and Sims

Co-optees:-

Ms. J. Dearden, Mrs. M. Morton
Ms. T. Guest,
M. Hall (Statutory Co-optee) and J. Blanch-Nicholson,

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	4th July 2008
3.	Title:	2007 End of Key Stage 3 Statutory Test Results
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary:

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the results of the statutory assessment at the end of Key Stage 3 in 2007.

Schools are required to assess the attainment of all pupils in each of the National Curriculum subjects at the end of each key stage at ages 7 (Key Stage 1) 11 (Key Stage 2) and 14 (Key Stage 3). Statutory assessment includes statutory tests in the core subjects (English, mathematics and science) together with teacher assessment in all subjects.

6. Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- **The report be received.**
- **The Members note the improved levels of performance in English and mathematics at the end of Key Stage 3.**
- **Members encourage all schools to continue to improve their results and strive to achieve outcomes at least in line with national average rates of improvement.**
- **Members endorse the drive to:**
 - **Reduce the gap between Rotherham’s performance and the national average performance in the core subjects**
 - **Improve boys’ attainment, especially in English**
 - **Improve the performance of black, minority ethnic (BME) pupils, and**
 - **Improve the attainment of Looked After Children (LAC)**
- **The report be forwarded to the Children and Young people’s Scrutiny Panel for consideration**

7. Proposals and Details:

7.1 Overview and Summary

A: Rotherham schools' performance in 2007

1. Performance across the 16 secondary schools in English, Maths and Science in 2007 saw significant improvement over 2006 and preceding years
2. The Average Points Score (APS), representing the average performance by students across the 3 subjects, rose 0.4 in Rotherham when it fell 0.1 nationally
3. In English, at L5, standards rose 6% on 2006, narrowing the gap to national averages from 10% to 5%. At L6, standards rose 5%, narrowing the gap to 4% from 11%. Fluctuations in English results make year-on-year comparisons particularly difficult
4. Maths remained static against national averages at L5 but improved by 1% at L6.
5. Science was a second area of emphatic success. At L5, standards rose 3%, reducing the gap to national from 5 to 3%; at L6, Rotherham improved by 4%, reducing the gap from 7 to 2%.
6. In both English and Science the LA improved its position in relation to its Statistical Neighbours. There was no change in Maths
7. Rotherham was the highest performing LA in South Yorkshire on all the main SATs measures – Level 5 and 6 in the three subjects and the APS

B: Priority Areas for Continued Improvement

1. The national focus is now on combined performance in both English and Maths. Schools will be accountable for all students achieving at least two levels progress. Both these priorities dominate target setting for schools and the LA from 2009
2. Rotherham schools have set very ambitious targets for KS3 in 2009. This reflects the aspirations of our schools and a greater confidence in provision at KS3 when schools have, until recently, concentrated efforts on GCSE
3. Performance in English at both L5 and L6 requires sustained improvement if these targets are to be met. Despite a strong showing in 2007, we are still adrift of national averages and the higher performing Statistical Neighbours
4. English performance remains compromised by the wide gap between the genders, although this is narrowing. In Maths and Science, Rotherham is much closer to national gender differentials
5. Ethnic minority achievement is much less strong at KS3 than KS4. The gap between BME and white students is still too wide in all three core subjects
6. Schools recognise that too many of the most able pupils at KS3 are not yet fulfilling their potential

C: Actions for 2008/9

1. The LA has been supporting all schools in reviewing their curriculum at KS3 for September 2008. Changes will attempt to address areas of underachievement, especially in Literacy
2. Consultancy support in English and Maths is being increased in scope and range from September 2008, drawing upon our most successful teachers and departments
3. Leadership teams are focussing on how to improve combined performance in English and Maths at KS3 and GCSE with Consultant Headteacher support

4. New programmes to advance the progress of more able students, pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds and Looked After Children are planned for September 2008 – these are included in the second Partnership Plan, agreed by schools with the LA for the period 2008-10

7.2 Background

The expected performance for pupils at the end of Key Stage 3 is Level 5/6. Nationally, comparative figures are given for the percentage of pupils achieving Level 5 or above and Level 6 or above in the statutory test. Comparisons with statistical neighbours are also included. Comparative data is also provided for the average points score (APS) and this includes the attainment of all pupils.

In 2007 a new statistical neighbour (SN) model was introduced to replace the models previously used by Ofsted and the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). The old models both had limitations as they were not designed to meet the needs of the new national and local structures for delivering children's services.

The rationale for the development of a new model was that there should be one set of statistical neighbours for children's services which everyone would use. The LAs designated to have similar characteristics to Rotherham has now changed; therefore, comparisons cannot be made to previous years. The current SN group provides a more challenging set of comparators for Rotherham.

To indicate progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3, the system used by most schools, LAs and the DCSF to judge the progress of pupils is based on information provided by the Fischer Family Trust (FFT). This information shows the performance of pupils at the end of their previous Key Stage(s) and allows schools to predict how each pupil should perform at the next Key Stage. The FFT information gives two key pieces of information based on each pupil's prior performance:

- FFT B estimates - predict the future performance of each pupil, and from this each school, if they make as much progress as similar pupils in similar schools
- FFT D estimates - predict the future performance of each pupil, and from this each school, if they make as much progress as the progress made by pupils in the top 25% of schools

The results published in this report represent the performance of Rotherham pupils at the end of Key Stage 3.

7.3 Average Points Score

	APS 2005	APS 2006	APS 2007	Diff 06/07
LA Average	33.4	33.7	34.1	0.4
National Average	34.5	35.0	34.9	-0.1
Aston Comprehensive School	35.5	35.0	35.3	0.3
Brinsworth Comprehensive School	34.0	34.4	33.5	-0.9
Clifton: A Community Arts School	31.8	31.6	30.6	-1.0
Dinnington Comprehensive Specialising in Science and Engineering	33.9	34.2	34.0	-0.2
Maltby Comprehensive School	32.7	32.4	32.7	0.3
Oakwood Technology College	33.6	33.7	33.9	0.2
Rawmarsh Community School - A Sports College	32.5	31.9	32.5	0.6
Saint Pius X Catholic High School	32.9	33.7	34.7	1.0
St Bernard's Catholic High School	36.4	36.1	36.8	0.7
Swinton Community School	32.9	33.3	33.6	0.3
Thrybergh Comprehensive School	29.6	31.3	32.0	0.7
Wales High School	35.0	35.1	35.4	0.3
Wath Comprehensive School : a Language College	34.3	34.9	36.4	1.5
Wickersley School and Sports College	35.9	37.2	36.6	-0.6
Wingfield School	33.0	32.8	33.6	0.8
Winterhill School	33.5	33.7	35.1	1.4

- The LA average APS increased by 0.4 from 2006 to 2007. The gap between LA and national averages was reduced by 0.5.
- Within the LA, twelve schools improved against this measure. Three of these, Saint Pius, Wath and Winterhill, improved significantly.

7.4 English

LA results (all schools)

	LA % Level 5+	National % Level 5+	LA % Level 6+	National % Level 6+
2004	62.0	71.0	23.6	34.0
2005	70.0	74.0	27.0	35.0
2006	63.0	73.0	24.1	35.0
2007	69.0	74.0	29.0	33.0

- The test results for Rotherham pupils in 2007 increased by 6% at Level 5+ and 4.9% at Level 6+.
- The results for Rotherham pupils remain below national results. The 2007 performance is below the average of our group of statistical neighbours by 2% at Level 5+ and is in line at Level 6+.
- At Level 5+ five secondary schools showed progress in line or better than the FFT B estimates; three secondary schools were in line with FFT D.
- At Level 6+ six secondary schools showed progress in line or better than the FFT B estimates; five secondary schools were in line with or above FFT D.
- The LA English results were below FFT B and D at L5+ and L6+.

a) Reading:

	LA % Level 5+	National % Level 5+	LA % Level 6+	National % Level 6+
Reading 2004	60.0	65.0	24.0	32.0
Reading 2005	62.0	68.0	26.4	32.0
Reading 2006	58.0	66.0	24.6	32.0
Reading 2007	67.0	71.0	28.0	32.0

- The difference between LA and national results in reading is 4.0% for Level 5+ and 4.0% for Level 6+

b) Writing

	LA % Level 5+	National % Level 5+	LA % Level 6+	National % Level 6+
Writing 2004	59.8	72.0	25.3	36.0
Writing 2005	73.5	76.0	30.9	37.0
Writing 2006	65.6	76.0	25.0	37.0
Writing 2007	69.0	73.0	30.0	33.0

- The difference between LA and national results in writing is 4.0% for Level 5+ and 3.0% for Level 6+.

7.5 Mathematics**LA results (all schools)**

	LA % Level 5+	National % Level 5+	LA % Level 6+	National % Level 6+
2004	69.0	73.0	48.0	52.0
2005	71.0	74.0	48.0	53.0
2006	73.0	77.0	51.0	57.0
2007	72.0	76.0	51.0	56.0

- In 2007 the gap between LA and national performance was 4.0% at L5+ and 5.0% at L6+ and 2% below the statistical neighbour average at both L5 and L6.
- At L5+ eleven secondary schools showed progress in line with or better than the FFT B estimates; five secondary schools were in line with or above FFT D
- At Level 6+ eleven secondary schools showed progress in line with or better than the FFT B estimates ; seven schools were in line with or above FFT D
- The LA Maths results were in line with FFT B and slightly below FFT D at L5+ and above FFT B and slightly below FFT D at L6+.

7.6 Science

LA results (all schools)

	LA % Level 5+	National % Level 5+	LA % Level 6+	National % Level 6+
2004	62	66	28	34
2005	65	70	30	37
2006	67	72	34	41
2007	70	73	38	40

- 2007 science results reduced the gap with national results to 3% at L5+ and 2% at L6+. The LA average was 1% below the statistical neighbour average at L5+ but 1% above at L6+.
- At L5+ nine secondary schools showed progress in line with or better than the FFT B estimates ; seven secondary schools were in line with or above FFT D
- At Level 6+ twelve secondary schools showed progress in line with or better than the FFT B estimates ; eight schools were in line with or above FFT D
- The LA science results were above FFT B L5+ and L6+ and below FFT D L5+ and L6+.

7.7 Vulnerable Groups

Gender at level 5+

English L5+	2004	2005	2006	2007
LA Boys	52.2	62.2	55.0	61.0
LA Girls	72.5	77.6	71.0	76.0
National Boys	64.0	67.0	65.0	68.0
National Girls	77.0	80.0	80.0	81.0
G-B LA	20.3	15.4	16.0	15.0
G-B National	13.0	13.0	15.0	13.0

Maths L5+	2004	2005	2006	2007
LA Boys	66.4	69.2	73.0	72.0
LA Girls	74.0	72.0	73.0	72.0
National Boys	72.0	73.0	76.0	75.0
National Girls	74.0	74.0	77.0	76.0
G-B LA	7.6	2.8	0.0	0.0
G-B National	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Science L5+	2004	2005	2006	2007
LA Boys	58.3	64.5	67.0	69.0
LA Girls	66.0	64.9	67.0	70.0
National Boys	65.0	69.0	71.0	72.0
National Girls	67.0	70.0	73.0	73.0
G-B LA	7.7	0.4	0.0	1.0
G-B National	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0

b) Gender at level 6+

English L6+	2004	2005	2006	2007
LA Boys	17.0	20.5	18.0	23.0
LA Girls	30.4	34.1	30.0	35.0
National Boys	27.0	28.0	27.0	26.0
National Girls	41.0	41.0	41.0	40.0
G-B LA	13.4	13.6	12.0	12.0
G-B National	14.0	13.0	14.0	14.0

Maths L6+	2004	2005	2006	2007
LA Boys	45.6	47.7	52.0	52.0
LA Girls	50.5	48.4	51.0	50.0
National Boys	52.0	53.0	57.0	57.0
National Girls	52.0	53.0	57.0	55.0
G-B LA	4.9	0.7	-1.0	-2.0
G-B National	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2.0

Science L6+	2004	2005	2006	2007
LA Boys	26.8	31.2	35.0	38.0
LA Girls	30.5	29.3	34.0	38.0
National Boys	34.0	38.0	41.0	41.0
National Girls	35.0	36.0	41.0	41.0
G-B LA	3.7	-1.9	-1.0	0.0
G-B National	1.0	-2.0	0.0	0.0

- There is a significant difference between the percentage of boys and girls achieving level 5+ and Level 6+ in English. This follows a similar pattern to national and statistical neighbours. The difference between the percentage of boys and girls achieving level 5+ in English in Rotherham for 2007 is 15% which is slightly above the difference nationally of 13%.
- Historically there is no significant difference between the attainment of boys and girls in mathematics. There is no difference in the performance of boys and girls in Rotherham in 2007. There is a 1% difference between boys and girls nationally.
- There is a 1% difference in the performance of boys and girls in Science in Rotherham and nationally in 2007.

7.8 Ethnicity

a) English

Boys	2005		2006		2007	
	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+
BME*	56.2	17.7	37.3	15.9	53.8	20.0
White British	62.7	20.7	55.6	18.1	61.6	23.3
Difference	6.5	3	18.3	2.2	7.8	3.3

Girls	2005		2006		2007	
	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+
BME*	71.2	30.3	68.0	25.6	69.5	27.4
White British	78.1	34.4	71.7	31.3	77.2	35.9
Difference	6.9	4.1	3.7	5.7	7.7	8.5

Overall	2005		2006		2007	
	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+
BME*	63.7	24	52.6	20.7	61.6	23.6
White British	70.3	27.5	63.4	24.5	69.2	29.5
Difference	6.6	3.5	10.8	3.8	7.6	5.9

b) Maths

Boys	2005		2006		2007	
	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+
BME*	65.9	47.3	61.6	40.0	62.6	44.1
White British	69.4	47.7	73.5	52.8	72.9	53.6
Difference	3.5	0.4	11.9	12.8	10.3	9.5

Girls	2005		2006		2007	
	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+
BME*	65.4	40.6	67.7	41.9	62.6	38.4
White British	72.6	49	73.6	51.5	73.4	51.5
Difference	7.2	8.4	5.9	9.6	10.8	13.1

Overall	2005		2006		2007	
	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+
BME*	65.6	43.9	64.7	41.4	62.6	41.3
White British	71	48.4	73.5	52.0	73.1	52.6
Difference	5.4	4.5	8.8	10.6	10.5	11.3

c) Science

Boys	2005		2006		2007	
	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+
BME*	56.2	30	50.0	23.0	56.5	30.1
White British	65.1	31.3	67.4	35.4	71.2	39.0
Difference	8.9	1.3	17.4	12.4	14.7	8.9

Girls	2005		2006		2007	
	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+
BME*	56.4	27.8	55.6	27.4	61.5	25.7
White British	65.6	29.5	68.2	34.3	70.8	39.2
Difference	9.2	1.7	12.6	6.9	9.3	13.5

Overall	2005		2006		2007	
	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+	Level 5+	Level 6+
BME*	56.3	28.9	51.3	23.0	58.5	27.7
White British	65.3	30.4	67.4	35.4	71.0	39.1
Difference	9	1.5	16.1	12.4	12.5	11.4

* Black and Minority Ethnic background

7.9 Statistical Neighbours (SN)

	% Level 5+ in 2007 and (% change from 2006)		
	English	Maths	Science
Barnsley	67 (+5)	70 (+1)	68 (+3)
Doncaster	67 (+1)	71 (-1)	70 (+2)
Dudley	75 (+4)	74 (0)	73 (+2)
Hartlepool	74 (+4)	77 (+1)	69 (-1)
Redcar & Cleveland	73 (+4)	77 (+2)	74 (+2)
Rotherham	69 (+6)	72 (-1)	70 (+3)
St Helens	69 (-5)	76 (0)	73 (+3)
Tameside	73 (+1)	72 (-3)	68 (-1)
Telford & Wrekin	70 (0)	72 (-3)	69 (0)
Wakefield	74 (0)	74 (-4)	70 (-1)
Wigan	68 (-4)	77 (-2)	72 (-1)
S N Average	71 (+2)	74 (-1)	71 (+1)
National Average	74 (+1)	76 (-1)	73 (+1)

- The improvement in English at Level 5+ from 2006 to 2007 is greater than the average of our statistical neighbours and the national average.

- The decline in maths at Level 5+ in 2007 is similar to that of the average of our statistical neighbours and the national average.
- The improvement in Science at Level 5+ is greater than the average of our statistical neighbours and the national average.

7.10 Contextual Value Added (CVA) Summary

In the autumn term of 2005, OFSTED introduced a new Performance and Assessment (PANDA) report, this has recently been replaced by RAISEonline (Reporting and Analysis for Improvement through School Self-Evaluation) a web-based interactive tool. Previously progress was assessed by placing schools into groups according to their similarity in prior attainment. Schools were given benchmark grades according to their performance compared with the other schools in their group. However it was recognised that there are many other possible factors that affect pupils' progress that are not taken into account by these methods.

The RAISE report uses a CVA model that OFSTED and the DCSF have worked together to derive. This involves looking at the progress observed amongst all pupils nationally in each year according to a wide range of contextual characteristics. The main factors in the models include:

- Prior attainment
- SEN status
- Free school meals entitlement
- Whether English is an additional language
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Age
- Mobility
- Economic deprivation

Each pupil's expected progress from an earlier Key Stage is calculated, taking into account the national data for all factors in the model. Then their actual progress is compared to their expected progress. The difference indicates whether a pupil has progressed more or less than expected and by how much. These differences are then combined for all pupils to provide a contextual value added score for each school.

The following tables provide a summary of the performance in Rotherham from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3. This includes the overall CVA measure for each school, and core subject CVA scores relative to the national mean of 100. Where the school value differs significantly from corresponding national value, sig+ (green) or sig- (red) is shown.

KS 2-3 CVA School	Overall				English			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007
Aston	98.5	100.2	99.3	99.4	97.4	100.5	97.6	99.1
Brinsworth	99.4	100.3	99.4	98.9	99.1	99.6	99.0	97.5
Clifton	99.0	100.2	99.9	100.3	98.8	100.0	98.4	99.8
Dinnington	100.0	100.2	99.7	99.6	100.5	100.3	100.1	99.4
Maltby Comprehensive	98.1	98.9	97.7	98.6	97.1	98.7	96.4	99.1
Oakwood Technology College	100.3	99.3	98.8	99.7	100.2	97.9	98.5	101.4
Rawmarsh School A Sports College	97.9	98.7	98.9	98.9	96.9	98.3	98.7	99.0
Saint Pius X Catholic High	100.2	100.0	99.4	100.3	100.9	100.0	100.1	100.8
St. Bernard's Catholic High	100.3	101.4	100.7	101.6	99.6	103.1	100.6	102.3
Swinton Comprehensive	99.1	100.0	99.5	99.3	98.9	100.0	98.5	98.9
Thrybergh	96.2	98.8	100.1	101.3	96.9	97.8	99.5	101.5
Wales	100.1	100.5	99.1	99.9	99.9	101.1	99.2	100.6
Wath Comprehensive A Language College	99.8	100.7	100.7	101.1	100.2	101.6	100.8	102.0
Wickersley	100.0	100.3	100.8	100.4	98.6	99.2	100.7	99.2
Wingfield Comprehensive	100.0	100.5	100.0	98.9	100.5	102.2	100.0	98.8
Winterhill	99.9	99.0	100.0	100.5	100.0	99.3	100.1	100.3

KS 2-3 CVA School	Maths				Science			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007
Aston	99.2	100.0	100.0	99.0	98.9	100.0	100.1	100.0
Brinsworth	99.1	99.9	99.4	98.9	99.8	101.1	99.8	100.2
Clifton	99.0	100.1	100.9	100.6	99.3	100.5	100.5	100.6
Dinnington	100.0	100.0	99.9	99.8	99.7	100.2	99.1	99.6
Maltby Comprehensive	98.4	98.3	97.8	98.2	98.7	99.5	98.8	98.4
Oakwood Technology College	100.4	99.6	98.5	98.2	100.4	100.2	99.3	99.4
Rawmarsh School A Sports College	98.4	99.4	99.3	99.5	98.2	98.2	98.7	98.0
Saint Pius X Catholic High	100.1	100.2	99.4	99.4	99.5	99.3	98.8	100.5
St. Bernard's Catholic High	101.0	100.7	101.0	101.1	100.4	100.2	100.2	101.4
Swinton Comprehensive	99.1	99.7	99.8	99.2	99.3	100.2	100.0	99.9
Thrybergh	95.9	98.5	100.3	100.8	96.2	99.9	100.6	101.6
Wales	100.6	100.7	99.5	99.5	99.8	99.6	98.5	99.7
Wath Comprehensive A Language College	99.9	99.9	100.3	100.7	99.6	100.4	101.0	100.6
Wickersley	100.8	100.9	100.9	100.8	100.6	100.7	100.8	101.0
Wingfield Comprehensive	99.9	99.9	100.4	99.5	99.3	99.1	99.7	98.4
Winterhill	99.8	98.9	100.2	100.4	99.9	98.9	99.9	100.6

7.11 LA Statistics for Individual Schools:

Appendix A shows the performance of individual schools in English, mathematics and science from 2004-2007.

Appendix B shows the comparison in the trend of performance by LA, the average of our group of statistical neighbours and national.

7.12 Conclusion:

- The LA's overall trend of improving performance in the statutory Key Stage 3 tests has been consistently inline with the improving national averages.
- There is a continued need for improvement to close the gap.
- There is evidence of the positive impact of the Secondary National Strategy on teaching and learning in Rotherham schools. This is clearly demonstrated by the improvements to APS and the decreasing gap to FFT D predictions.
- It is anticipated that the impact of the Secondary National Strategy, whose capacity has been strengthened through school partnerships, will lead, over time, to significantly improved results in Key Stage 3.
- Boys' performance in maths and science is not significantly different to girls'; in English the differential between boys' and girls' performance is similar to national patterns.
- The performance of BME is below that of White British and is currently being targeted through the Secondary National Strategy.

8 Finance:

Resources, within the Council, to drive the school improvement agenda are a combination of core budget, DfES grant through the Standards Fund and income generation.

Schools also receive additional funding, through Standards Fund to address the national strategies for raising standards.

9 Risks and Uncertainties:

The level of achievement by pupils at the end of Key Stage 3 has been shown to have a considerable impact on their attainment at the end of Key Stage 4 when they leave statutory education. Therefore, improvements in pupil attainment at this stage of their education will have a major impact on the re-generation of the area. Schools, working with the LA, are setting aspirational targets based on FFT D data and are striving to drive up the standards of the attainment for all pupils.

The coherent implementation by schools and the LA of the nationally funded Secondary National Strategy will be instrumental in achieving this improvement. Failure to achieve DCSF targets could put this additional funding at risk.

10 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

Any plans arising from the analysis of this report will be consistent with the Community Strategy, Corporate Plan and the Children and Young People's Plan. The improvement actions will, specifically, address the Corporate Priorities for: Regeneration, Learning, Equalities and Sustainability

11 Background Papers and Consultation:

End of Key Stage 3 Statutory Test Results 2004 – report to Cabinet 2005

End of Key Stage 3 Statutory Test Results 2005 – report to Cabinet 2006

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Key Stage 3 English, Mathematics & Science Results 2004 – 2007 Level 5+ and 6+

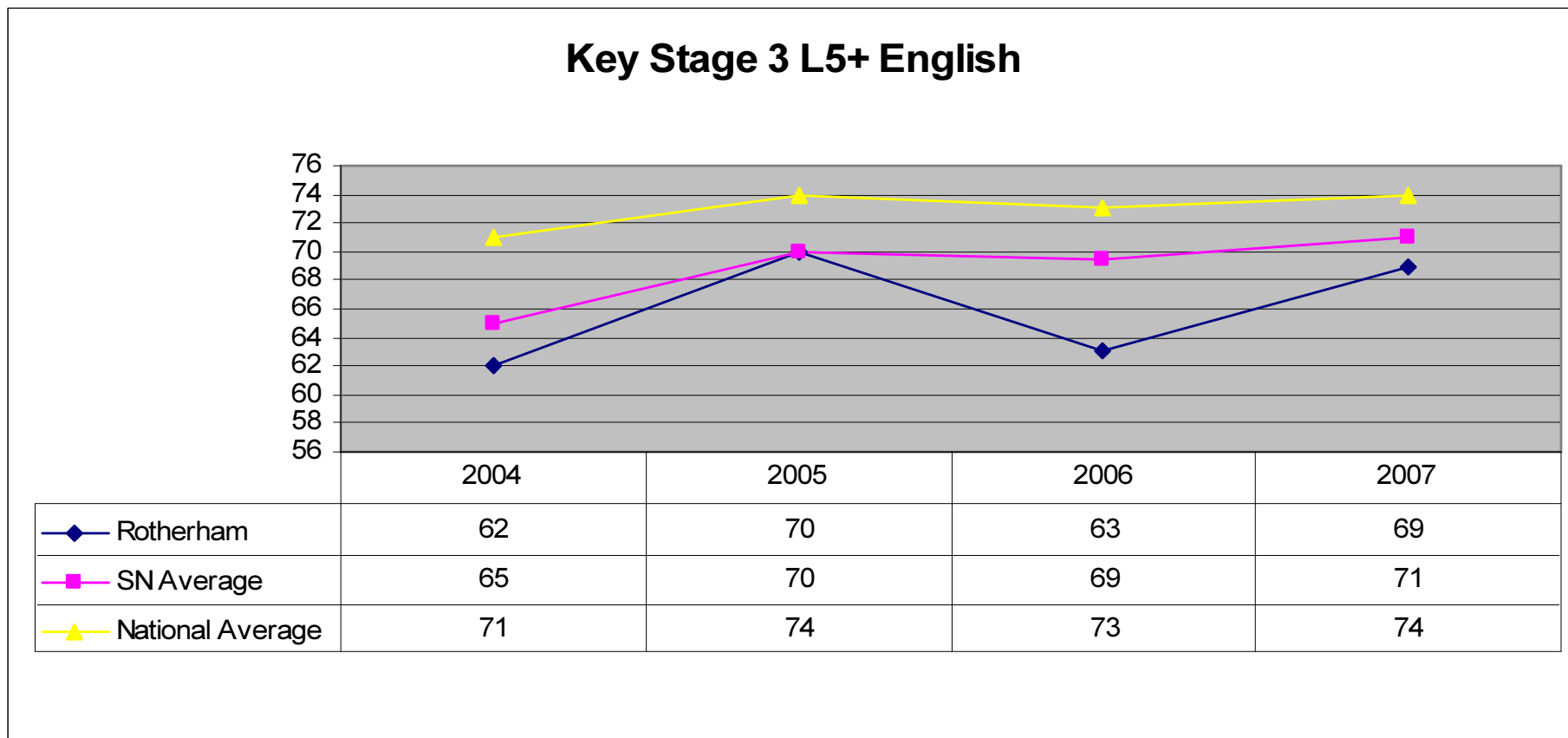
English	Level 5+				Level 6+			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007
Aston	64.1%	85.0%	64.9%	75%	26.7%	41.4%	17.1%	33%
Brinsworth	60.7%	75.5%	68.5%	60%	15.9%	18.4%	25.3%	12%
Clifton	46.4%	60.7%	47.0%	49%	11.8%	20.9%	8.1%	9%
Dinnington	66.3%	81.5%	68.8%	65%	30.8%	27.2%	31.2%	32%
Maltby	54.2%	62.3%	45.0%	68%	17.3%	18.2%	13.8%	21%
Oakwood	74.0%	62.5%	58.7%	71%	26.5%	21.2%	24.2%	43%
Rawmarsh	48.9%	63.6%	54.2%	61%	11.5%	13.8%	14.0%	18%
Saint Pius	79.0%	69.1%	78.0%	86%	41.3%	21.6%	29.1%	27%
St. Bernard's	76.5%	87.1%	80.5%	85%	29.5%	62.1%	40.6%	54%
Swinton	54.1%	70.6%	56.2%	63%	24.5%	18.1%	18.6%	23%
Thrybergh	35.3%	32.8%	47.7%	56%	12.0%	7.0%	14.6%	16%
Wales	72.9%	74.6%	73.3%	78%	32.0%	39.3%	30.6%	43%
Wath	70.4%	73.2%	70.9%	82%	29.3%	36.9%	35.3%	46%
Wickersley	72.1%	78.7%	82.2%	77%	27.9%	32.3%	42.3%	31%
Wingfield	65.5%	80.3%	61.5%	68%	22.1%	36.4%	21.2%	20%
Winterhill	N/A	69.8%	63.4%	75%	N/A	28.0%	29.9%	38%
LA Results	62.1%	70.0%	63.0%	69.0%	23.6%	27.2%	24.3%	29.0%
Statistical Neighbours	65%	70.0%	69.0%	71%	28.0%	29.0%	29.0%	29.0%
National Results	71%	74.0%	73.0%	74%	34.0%	35.0%	35.0%	33.0%

Mathematics	Level 5+				Level 6+			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007
Aston	81.9%	82.5%	82.8%	82%	55.9%	59.8%	59.2%	59%
Brinsworth	71.4%	73.6%	74.3%	70%	44.4%	51.7%	55.9%	49%
Clifton	57.8%	63.5%	70.5%	54%	35.7%	36.9%	46.0%	32%
Dinnington	70.4%	71.3%	73.8%	71%	45.8%	50.4%	51.3%	47%
Maltby	65.6%	69.4%	71.0%	68%	44.8%	43.0%	44.8%	45%
Oakwood	74.4%	75.2%	67.6%	65%	57.1%	54.3%	48.6%	46%
Rawmarsh	66.0%	69.2%	62.7%	70%	39.1%	42.5%	43.6%	51%
Saint Pius	73.3%	73.4%	74.5%	73%	48.7%	48.2%	44.7%	52%
St. Bernard's	83.3%	83.3%	85.2%	83%	61.4%	63.6%	60.2%	64%
Swinton	70.4%	68.1%	67.5%	69%	40.8%	41.7%	46.7%	46%
Thrybergh	42.5%	44.5%	61.5%	60%	26.9%	25.0%	35.4%	36%
Wales	78.1%	77.8%	82.0%	80%	59.5%	54.4%	60.4%	57%
Wath	72.6%	70.7%	75.1%	80%	50.5%	46.3%	52.6%	59%
Wickersley	82.9%	84.0%	85.3%	84%	66.8%	66.3%	68.5%	67%
Wingfield	71.7%	67.1%	73.5%	76%	43.4%	42.8%	51.0%	53%
Winterhill	N/A	69.0%	70.7%	76%	N/A	46.6%	52.3%	57%
LA Results	69.0%	71.0%	72.7%	72.0%	48.0%	48.0%	51.2%	51.0%
Statistical Neighbours	70%	71.0%	74.0%	74.0%	48.0%	49.0%	53.0%	53.0%
National Results	73.0%	74.0%	77.0%	76.0%	52.0%	53.0%	57.0%	56.0%

Science	Level 5+				Level 6+			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007
Aston	74.3%	79.8%	79.4%	81%	38.4%	41.1%	43.0%	47%
Brinsworth	61.1%	71.3%	73.4%	74%	29.4%	38.7%	41.0%	39%
Clifton	47.5%	53.7%	57.5%	48%	18.6%	20.1%	24.9%	20%
Dinnington	61.9%	67.7%	65.4%	65%	27.1%	34.3%	30.8%	35%
Maltby	62.4%	64.8%	67.0%	64%	28.7%	24.3%	29.1%	25%
Oakwood	67.6%	69.0%	66.8%	68%	32.0%	35.2%	35.0%	32%
Rawmarsh	51.9%	56.9%	52.1%	58%	15.7%	14.6%	22.9%	22%
Saint Pius	64.0%	60.4%	61.0%	79%	28.7%	20.1%	24.1%	38%
St. Bernard's	73.5%	73.5%	79.7%	84%	44.7%	43.9%	46.1%	56%
Swinton	57.1%	63.7%	64.9%	66%	24.0%	26.0%	33.1%	42%
Thrybergh	38.0%	43.0%	58.5%	58%	11.2%	15.6%	23.8%	32%
Wales	71.7%	65.1%	74.1%	73%	31.2%	33.3%	37.6%	41%
Wath	63.8%	70.0%	72.7%	76%	30.6%	33.8%	42.6%	48%
Wickersley	82.3%	79.3%	82.5%	86%	42.8%	46.0%	53.5%	55%
Wingfield	53.0%	52.0%	59.2%	65%	15.2%	17.9%	22.9%	29%
Winterhill	N/A	66.9%	63.8%	76%	N/A	32.5%	33.7%	45%
LA Results	62.1%	65.0%	66.9%	70.0%	28.0%	30.2%	34.3%	38.0%
Statistical Neighbours	62.0%	67.0%	69.0%	71.0%	30.0%	32.0%	37.0%	37.0%
National Results	66.0%	70.0%	72.0%	73.0%	34.0%	37.0%	41.0%	40.0%

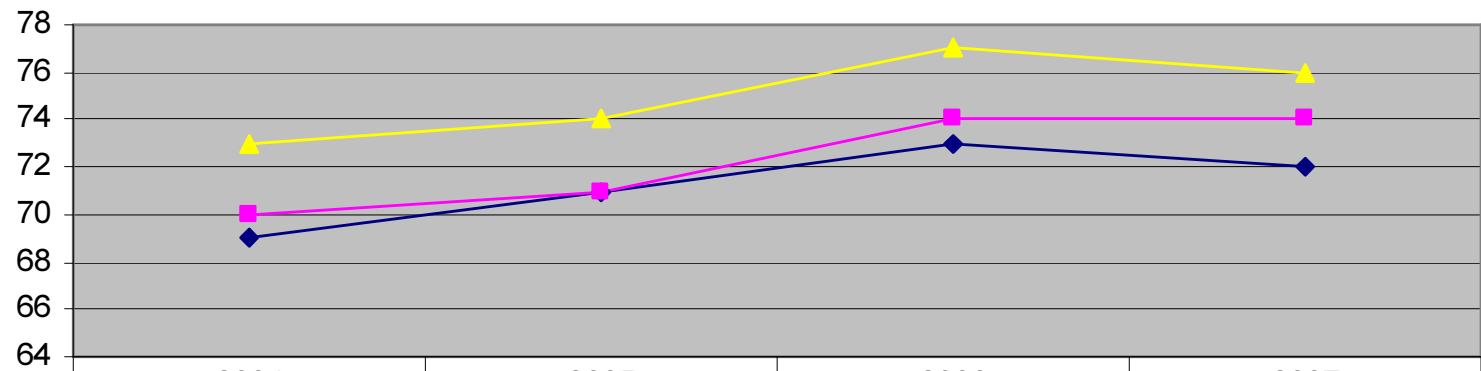
N.B. These results are from secondary schools only. The results in the main part of the report are for all secondary pupils, i.e. including those educated in special schools.

B(i) Rotherham Key Stage 3 English L5+ results compared with Statistical Neighbour and National averages 2004-2007



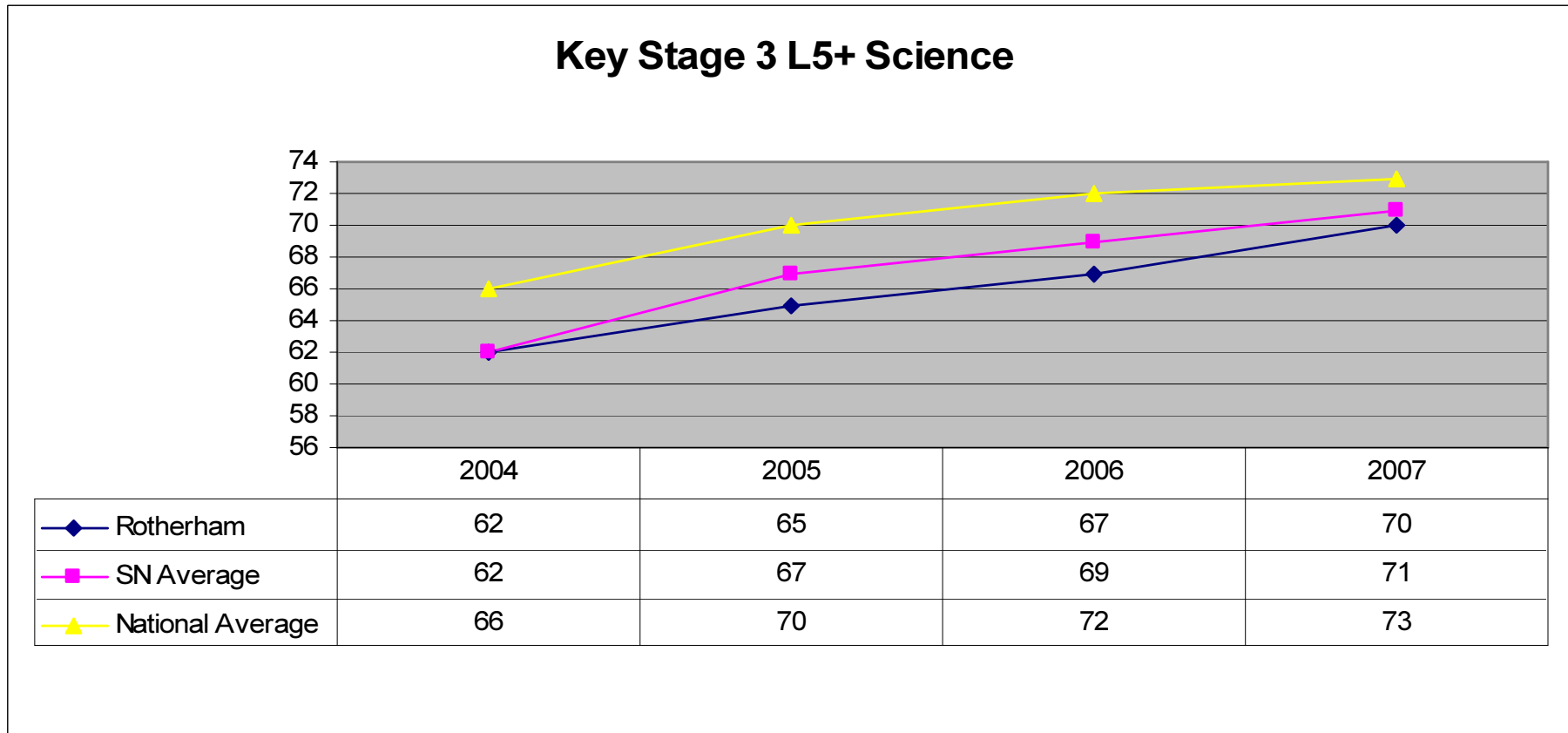
B(ii) Rotherham Key Stage 3 Mathematics L5+ results compared with Statistical Neighbour and National averages 2004-2007

Key Stage 3 L5+ Maths



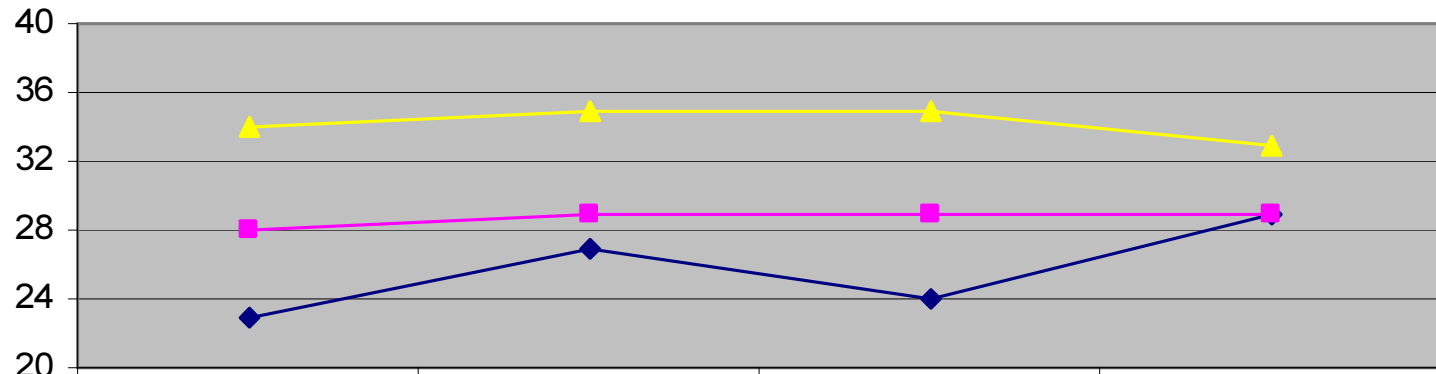
	2004	2005	2006	2007
◆ Rotherham	69	71	73	72
■ SN Average	70	71	74	74
▲ National Average	73	74	77	76

B(iii) Rotherham Key Stage 3 Science L5+ results compared with Statistical Neighbour and National averages 2004-2007



Rotherham Key Stage 3 English L6+ results compared with Statistical Neighbour and National averages 2004-2007

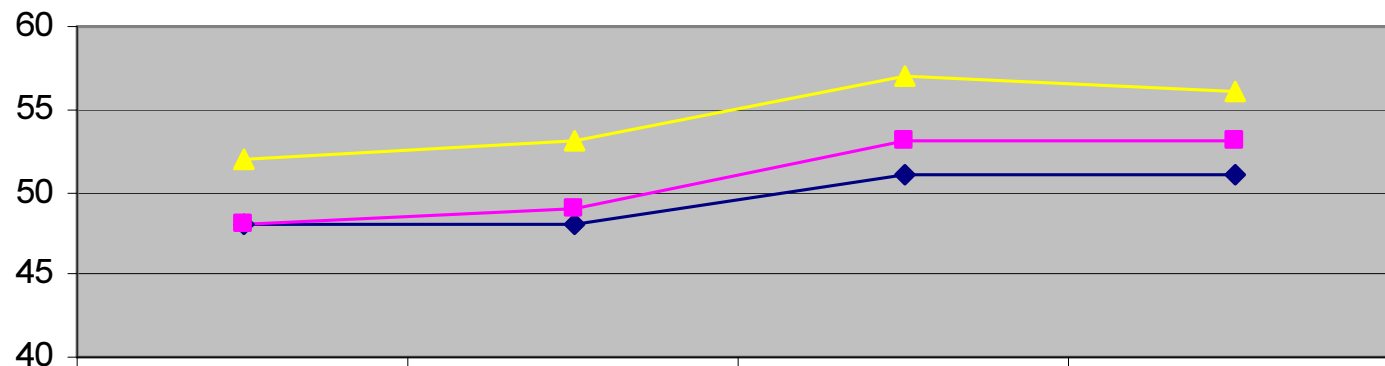
Key Stage 3 L6+ English



	2004	2005	2006	2007
◆ Rotherham	23	27	24	29
■ SN Average	28	29	29	29
▲ National Average	34	35	35	33

Rotherham Key Stage 3 Mathematics L6+ results compared with Statistical Neighbour and National averages 2004-2007

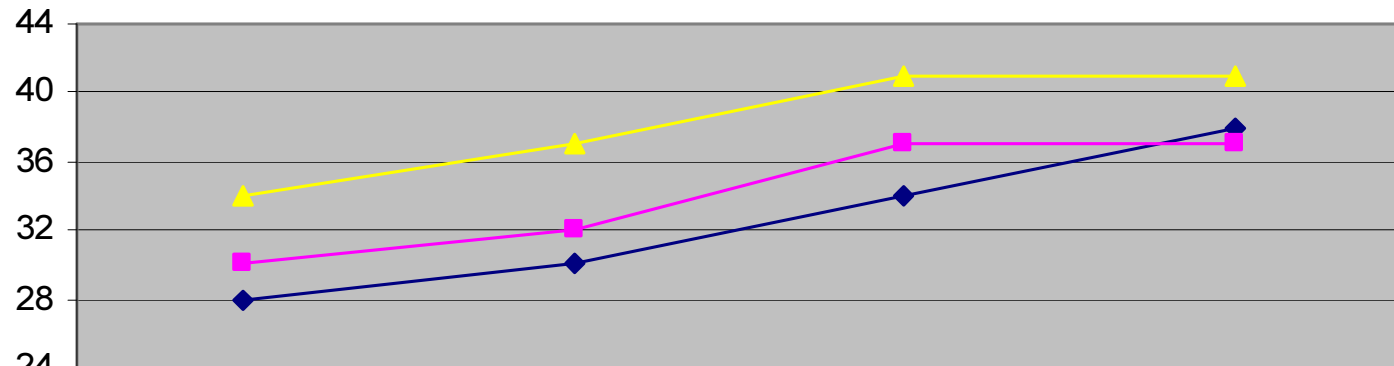
Key Stage 3 L6+ Maths



◆ Rotherham	48	48	51	51
■ SN Average	48	49	53	53
▲ National Average	52	53	57	56

Rotherham Key Stage 3 Science L6+ results compared with Statistical Neighbour and National averages 2004-2007

Key Stage 3 L6+ Science



	2004	2005	2006	2007
◆ Rotherham	28	30	34	38
■ SN Average	30	32	37	37
▲ National Average	34	37	41	41

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 4th July, 2008
3.	Title:	16-19 NEET’s Fund Manager – Commissioning Process
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary

The CYPS Cabinet Member and Advisers report dated 15th April 2008 advised that the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) had awarded CYPS £1.5m ESF to support the delivery of 16-19 NEET activity in Rotherham.

The overall aim of Rotherhams 16-19 NEET Fund Manager, co-ordinated response is to reduce the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) by providing a coherent delivery network, which will meet the needs of the target groups, by increasing the numbers of young people receiving intensive and key worker support and providing a range of needs lead provision for them to progress into.

The LSC require each Fund Manager to establish a commissioning process, to procure a range of innovative activity designed specifically to meet the needs of the target group and to be delivered by a wide range of relevant providers. This report requests approval for the commissioning process which has already been endorsed by the LSC.

6. Recommendations

- **That the information is received.**
 - **That approval is given to commence the establishment of a 16-19 NEET Fund Manager Commissioning Process.**
 - **That Panel Members receive a report on the outcome of the initial Commissioning Process in September 2008.**
-

7. Proposals and Details

By the end of the project the LSC require Rotherham, as Fund Manager, to deliver the following outputs:

- Provide enhanced support to assist 500 young people in the development and implementation of their Individual Learning Plans by March 2010
- 325 Young People progress into education, employment or training by March 2010
- A reduction of 300 NEETs by March 2009
- A reduction of NEET young people in Rotherham to 7.1% by March 2010
- 325 Young People obtaining basic skills and employability skills by March 2010
- 200 Young People obtaining vocational skills accreditation at entry level 1 and 2

The LSC have agreed the following Open and Competitive Tendering (OCT) process to facilitate a flexible delivery model which procures activity to meet the specific needs of the target group and the outcomes described above.

In order to provide a 'needs led' model it is intended to establish by September, a preferred suppliers list. This list will be compiled by an OCT process in partnership with the LSC. See below timeframe for this process.

Stage	Activity	Date
1	Request expressions of interest for Invitation to Tender (ITT) from appropriate providers by advert on RMBC website, publication in local, sub-regional and national publications	w/c 30 TH June 2008
2	Issue Invitation to Tender	30 th June – 25 th July 2008
3	Launch event for potential bidders	8 th July 2008
4	Tenders returned	8 th August 2008
5	Appraisal of tenders (LSC and RMBC)	w/c 11 th August 2008
6	Successful applicants are informed if they have been registered on preferred suppliers list	1 st September 2008

The Fund Response Manager will then utilise the preferred suppliers list to assist in the implementation of the Project Delivery Plan. The Delivery Plan activity will be agreed by the LSC and the Widening Participation Sub Group and any 'call off' from the preferred supplier's list will be carried about by the circulation of an 'activity specification' to all relevant suppliers.

This approach has been adopted to facilitate a quick and flexible response to the education, employment and training requirements of young people who are NEET. It is not the intention of the Fund Response Manager to utilise this process to allocate large contracts but to procure short term, high impact activity which supports young people in accessing mainstream provision and positive pathways to employment, education and training. Inclusion on the preferred suppliers list is not a guarantee of commissioned activity. The preferred supplier's list will be valid until the end of the LSC contract – 31st March 2010.

8. Finance

- 16-19 NEET Fund Response Manager funding is allocated £1.5m for financial year 2008/09 and 23009/10. A further £0.5m will be available if the outputs included in the initial contract are achieved.

The External Funding Team in CYPS will act as the accountable body for all the ESF provision for 14-19 year olds. This will include the establishment of a Commissioning Process; performance management of contracts and the application of the EU Commission rules and regulations on eligibility with regard to the use of European Social.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Details of main risks affecting project	Likelihood of risk/threat	Consequence of risk/threat	Steps to be undertaken to minimise and mitigate risk
Failure to recruit suitable providers on to the Commissioning Framework	Medium	Inability to achieve outcomes risk of loss of funding. Failure to reduce Rotherham's NEETs targets	Advertised across wide range Launch event Plenty of time to responde
Failure of commissioned providers to meet the financial rules and regulation of EU commission	Medium	As contract holder RMBC could be subject to the removal or repayment of grant funding if contracted providers do not meet the eligibility criteria and financial rules, regulations and audit requirements of the EU Commission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioning and ongoing performance management of the external contracts will managed by the CYPS External Funding team. This team have been responsible for the management for the current ESF Objective 1 Programme and have extensive experience of management and auditing of external contracts.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Rotherham Local Area Agreement identifies the reduction in the % of NEETs to 7.1% by 2010 as one its key performance measures. CYPS Single Plan also identifies the need to develop the quantity, quality and scope of provision for the target group as an ongoing priority.

The following key strategic documents provide more specific detail:

- Rotherham Widening Participation (NEETs) Strategy September 2006-10 Page 12-14: "Ensure accurate tracking and data sharing; enhance preventative measures and early interventions; develop appropriate learning and training provision 14-19; support transition and re-engagement; ensure young people's involvement and view influence the development of the IAG offer and the commissioning and review of provision at all stages. This proposal's objective of a 7.1% NEET target by 2010 reflect the Government Office Target included in the Widening Participation Strategy.
- Rotherham Draft Rotherham 14-19 Learning Plan 2007-2013: "increase the proportion of 17 year olds participating in education and training; reduce the proportion of 16-18 year olds who are NEET; increase the number of young people completing an Apprenticeship; Increase the percentage of young people who progress to Higher Education particularly from more vulnerable and under-represented groups; ensure that post 16 learning option meet the needs of all young people, including young people who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who have offended; ensure the validity and reliability of data; increase the percentage of young people achieving L3 by 19."

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- 16-19 NEET's Fund Manager Cabinet Report 15th April 2008
- 16-19 NEET's Fund Manager Steering Group Minutes
- 14-19 Strategy Group Minutes.

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ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL - REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 4th July, 2008
3.	Title:	Business and Support Plan for Integrated Services
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

On 5th September 2007 Members supported the proposal for a business support structure for Children and Young People's Services that would be planned alongside integrated children's teams. Following the consultation on integration and the subsequent move to locality teams, progress has been made to develop a business support function for Provider Services. This phase of the work should conclude in September 2008, at which time focus will move to develop the business support function for the rest of Children and Young People's Services.

Bringing together different agencies, support and administration functions, into a single service is a complex piece of work. This report also summarises the work being undertaken by the Primary Care Trust to achieve an integrated business support function.

6. Recommendations

That Panel Members note progress on the development of business support for integrated children's services.

7. Proposals and Details:

On 5th September 2007 Members considered a report outlining the challenges and options for the development of a business support function for integrated children's services. Members supported Option 3 which proposed a business support management structure with staff deployed across operational teams. The features of this option are to base staff locally and manage them through a business support structure with operational and business support managers working together to agree priorities in the best interests of children and young people and the Service. This option gives the best opportunity to balance strategic and local drivers, whilst providing consistency and flexibility of resources.

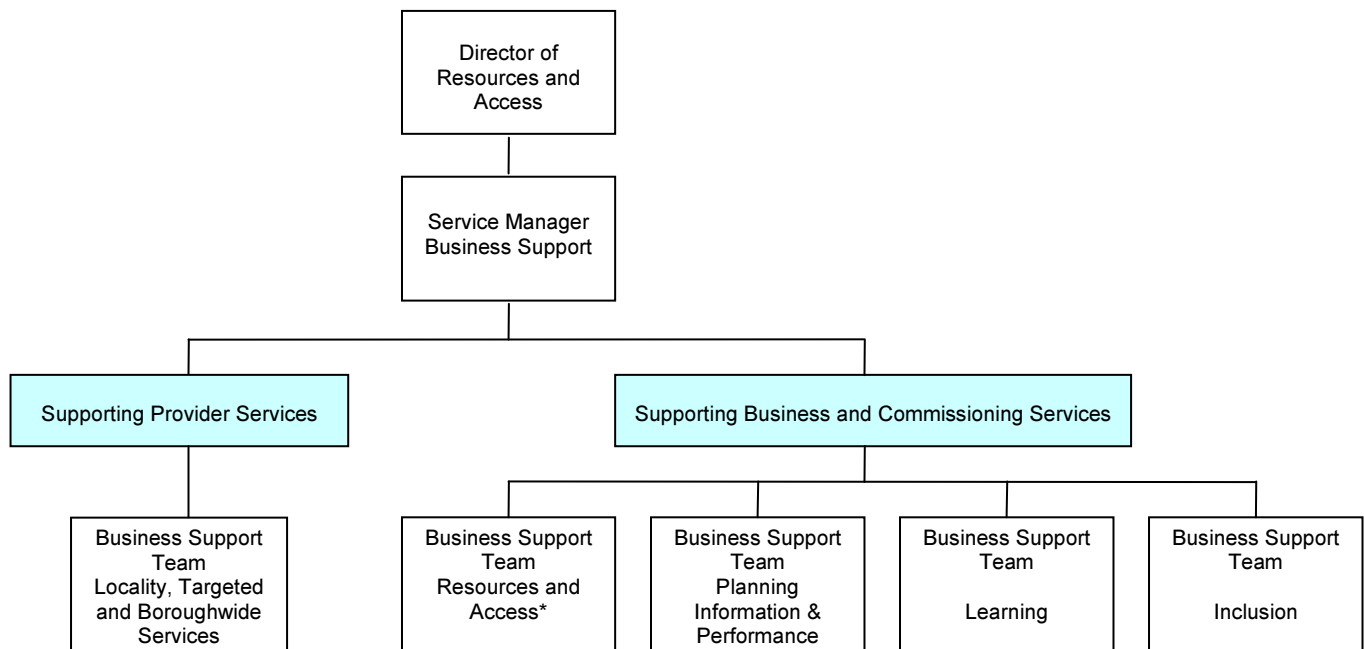
The key advantages are:-

- Allows strategic functional management of locally based staff and a planned response to change.
- Enables flexibility in staff deployment
- Promotes consistency in systems and working practices

The main disadvantages are:-

- Potential conflicting priorities (local / strategic / operational / business & support)
- Business support staff may consider themselves outside the teams that they support.

Proposed Structure



* Includes Business Unit to provide support for CYPS on corporate issues.

Progress Update

A business support structure is being put in place to support all departments within the Directorate. Following consultation for Children and Young People's Integrated Services, the initial focus of this work is in developing a support structure for Provider Services (Locality, Boroughwide, Targeted Services and Safeguarding). Staff supporting provider services will mainly be accommodated in locality bases and offer a direct administrative and finance function to the teams within a given locality. With the majority of staff out-posted, the importance of a small business unit is more evident. This unit will achieve economies of scale by co-ordinating areas of work relevant to all teams within the Directorate and respond to requests for Directorate-wide information for corporate returns.

Specific progress has been made with Provider Services in developing that element of the business support structure, defining roles and drafting job descriptions. Work is underway, in conjunction with HR and Finance colleagues, to align staffing budgets and the staffing establishment. Phase one of this work should be completed in September 2008.

Phase two is to plan the business support structure for the rest of the Directorate over the next year.

Close attention is being paid to the professional development of this staff group including routes of entry, learning and development, and career progression. In support of this approach and in line with a corporate initiative, on 13th May 2008 two Apprentices started their 12 week placements, one in the Directorate Support Team and the other with the Rockingham Professional Development Centre Admin Team. These placements will be monitored and evaluated to increase the number of young people recruited, particularly those not in education, employment and training.

We are continuing to work positively alongside Managers, Human Resources and Union Representatives from the Primary Care Trust as they plan the process to identify colleagues who will join the business support team for integrated services. This requires consideration of employment law and possible TUPE arrangements and legal challenges followed by a consultation with affected staff.

8. Finance

The business support function is being developed within existing financial resources.

9. Risk and Uncertainties

The "back office" functions are essential for successful organisational delivery, bringing together many diverse functions into a single organisation is challenging.

A core development team is considering business support it has membership from Health and Council colleagues.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Business support staff are integral to the policy and performance agenda. Coherent, well managed systems are essential for monitoring performance. Business and support functions provide an excellent service in this regard.

11. Background and Consultation

The core development area team are continuing to develop the detail and provide further work site consultation events with all relevant staff.

Consultation Document for Children and Young People's Integrated Services

Safeguarding Children Consultation Paper

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. **Meeting:** Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2. **Date:** Friday, 4th July, 2008
3. **Title:** Rotherham Adoption Inspection and Action Plan
4. **Programme Area:** Children and Young People’s Services
5. **Summary**

The Ofsted Inspection of Adoption Services in Rotherham took place in January 2008. The inspection concluded that Adoption Services in Rotherham were “Good” overall. Only two areas were designated as in need of action in order to meet statutory requirements and a number of recommendations for service improvement were made.

6. Recommendations

That this report is received and the actions contained within it endorsed.

7. Proposals and Details:

A detailed action plan has been devised and key actions are set out below:-

Statutory Requirements

- (i) **Ensure written adoption support assessments are completed.**
The post adoption support assessment process has been reviewed and assessments of need are now routinely undertaken.
- (ii) **Ensure that checks are undertaken in relation to specialist workers to make sure they are registered to undertake adoption support work or that employment checks are undertaken by R.M.B.C.** All contracts have been reviewed and all comply with regulations.

Key Recommendations

- (i) **Ensure the smoking policy is fully implemented in accordance with guidelines.** This has now been implemented.
- (ii) **Ensure the Panel Advisor is fully independent.** The Service Manager is in discussion with neighbouring Local Authorities to explore reciprocal arrangements.

- (iii) **Undertake minor amendments to the safeguarding policy in respect of Adopted children.** This has now been completed.
- (iv) **Ensure clear co-ordination of adoption support and sufficient resources to provide quality support.** The report acknowledged that the developing Looked After and Adopted Children's Support Team was showing good evidence of an ability to provide this service. The team is working in close collaboration with the Adoption Team to provide an excellent support service for adopters.
- (v) **Ensure birth families and adopters receive support to maintain contact between adopted children and their birth family.** A new post of Letterbox Co-ordinator has been agreed to promote positive contact. This will ensure that adopted children have an understanding of their life story and identity.

8. Finance

We are developing the role of the current Letterbox Co-ordinator post, additional funding has been secured within overall resources. All other developments will be managed within the Adoption Team budget.

9. Risk and Uncertainties

The action plan has been completed and all actions either completed or progressing well.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

There are 2 key National Performance Indicators in this area:-

- Percentage of Adoptions of Looked After children.
- Number of children Placed for Adoption within 12 months of their 'Best Interest Decision'.

The outcome of the Adoption Inspection contributes to the Annual Performance Assessment.

11. Background and Consultation

This report has been written following the Ofsted Inspection and relates to areas of improvement required to fully meet Adoption National Minimum Standards and statutory requirements within the Adoption and Children Act, 2004.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
6th June, 2008

Present:- The Mayor (Councillor G. A. Russell) (in the Chair); Councillors Ali, Burton, Dodson, Fenoughty and Hughes.

Also in attendance were:- Mrs. J. Blanch-Nicholson (Home-Start), Mr. M. Hall (Parent Governor), Father A. Hayne (Diocese of Hallam)

Apologies for absence were received from:- Councillors Currie, Donaldson, Kaye, License and Sharp.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

2. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

3. MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE YOUTH CABINET

There were no matters referred from the Youth Cabinet.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

(a) The Chairman welcomed new Councillors Fenoughty and Hughes to their first meeting of the Panel.

(b) Councillor G. A. Russell was welcomed to her chairmanship of the Panel for the ensuing year as Mayor.

5. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS 2008-2010

Sioned-Mair Richards, Scrutiny Adviser, presented the submitted report outlining proposals for coopted membership following the revised recruitment process.

Resolved:- (1) That the following be coopted to serve on the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel for a period of two years:

Michael Hall – Parent Governor

Anna Lidster – Parent Governor

Joan Blanch-Nicholson – Home-Start

Tracy Guest – Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Consortium

Father A. Hayne – Royal Catholic Diocese of Hallam

(2) That the statutory co-optee nomination from the Anglican Diocese of Sheffield be awaited.

6. PRIORITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES 2008/2009

Sonia Sharp, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, gave a presentation relating to the above.

The presentation covered Children's Trust Arrangements together with Key Progress made in 2007/08 and priorities for 2008/09 in respect of:-

- Being Healthy
- Staying Safe
- Enjoying and Achieving
- Making a Positive Contribution
- Enjoying Economic Well-being

Highlighted within the presentation headings were the following priority issues for 2008/09:

(a) Being Healthy

- obesity
- sexual health
- breastfeeding: increasing the numbers
- infant mortality
- reducing smoking in pregnancy
- access to mental health services

(b) Staying Safe

- fostering: recruitment of carers and increasing the number of foster placements available
- safeguarding
- consistency/quality of social care
- recruitment of social workers

(c) Enjoying and Achieving

- special schools
- communication/language/literacy
- building schools for the future
- emphasis on Key Stage 1 to reduce the gap to the national average
- reduce the difference between boys and girls in line with national difference at the end of each key stage
- more cross border liaison to commission places for young children

- ensuring children access to affordable culture and leisure activities

(d) Making a Positive Contribution

- continue to tackle bullying
- positive engagement and imagery of young people
- community cohesion
- reducing the number of young people entering the criminal justice system

(e) Enjoying Economic Well-being

- NEET : aim to reduce NEET to under 7.1% by December, 2008
- apprenticeships
- promote family friendly practices
- performance post 16
- supporting vulnerable groups
- ensuring disadvantaged get access to opportunities

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- disposable income concerns not just limited to low income families
- funding following the child (concerns for smaller secondary schools)
- funding regimes
- new funding from Central Government to support the education of looked after children
- swimming pool provision
- parenting support

Resolved:- (1) That the information be noted and Sonia be thanked for her presentation.

(2) That the process of funding following the child be examined.

7. FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR THE YOUTH SERVICE - SCRUTINY REVIEW

The Chairman introduced, and Councillor Burton presented briefly, the submitted report incorporating the final draft report of the above review group which was set up to examine whether Rotherham MBC had the capacity to deliver the new statutory duty to secure "positive activities for young people".

The report covered:

- the original concerns leading to the review
- terms of reference
- methodology and composition of the review group
- what are Youth Services:-
 - forms of provision
 - national policy development
- evidence gathering:-
 - statutory responsibility of the Council
 - information, advice and guidance
 - targeted youth support
 - voice and influence
 - volunteering
- findings and recommendations

Simon Perry, Director of Targeted Support Services, in welcoming the review report elaborated on some of the background and challenges and highlighted the following issues:

- review conducted in an extraordinary time of change
- challenging the perception of young people
- challenge of balancing resources between universal and targeted demands
- capital investment initiatives

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- sharing of good practice with other organisations
- need for consistency of approach across all directorates regarding projects
- emphasising that this was wider than traditionally accepted Youth Services and included issues such as substance misuse, teenage pregnancy etc.

In closing the discussion, the Chairman thanked everyone involved in the review.

Resolved:- That the information be noted and the report be referred to

Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee for consideration.

8. WORK PROGRAMME 2008/2009

The Chairman introduced the submitted report regarding the Panel's proposed work programme during the coming year.

The Work Programme had been structured again around the five themes of 'Every Child Matters' namely:

- Being healthy
- Staying Safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic well being

The Panel had identified the following issues for in depth examination:

- update on progress for Children Trust arrangements ('Rotherham Proud')
- measures to address sexual exploitation of children and young people ('Staying Safe' and 'Rotherham Safe')
- Imagination Library – one year on ('Enjoying and Achieving' and 'Rotherham Learning')
- Parenting Strategy ('Making a positive contribution and 'Rotherham Alive')
- Sports participation (with Regeneration Scrutiny Panel)

The Panel would also take responsibility for health scrutiny in relation to children and young people's services. The following issues would be considered:

- sexual health strategy
- update on mental health services
- substance misuse work

The Panel would also be undertaking the following reviews:

- support for newly arrived children in schools
- road traffic safety (with Regeneration Scrutiny Panel)

The Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel had agreed to focus on the following priority areas over the 2008/09 municipal year:

- improving the health of looked after children

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- work and placement opportunities for looked after children and care leavers
- update on issues emerging from the 'Care Matters' Green Paper

The Panel considered nominations to the Child Safety review.

Resolved:- (1) That the information be noted and the proposed work programme for 2008/09, as now submitted, be approved.

(2) That Mrs. J. Blanch-Nicholson and Mr. M. Hall be this Panel's representatives on the Child Safety review.

9. NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON PANELS, GROUPS, OTHER BODIES ETC. 2008/2009

Resolved:- That the following nominations be made to the bodies set out below for the 2008/09 municipal year:

- (i) Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel
Councillor Dodson
- (ii) Members Consultation Advisory Group
Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel. Substitute to be determined.
- (iii) Sustainable Development Advisory Group
Councillor Currie
- (iv) Health, Welfare and Safety Panel
One Member, Councillor G. A. Russell
One Substitute, Councillor Ali
- (v) Visits of Inspection to Adult Services Establishments
All Members of the Scrutiny Panel are invited to attend
- (vi) Visits to Children's Establishments (evenings)
Chairman or Vice-Chairman
- (vii) Members' Training and Development Panel
Chairman

10. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S BOARD HELD ON 23RD APRIL, 2008

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Children's Board held on 23rd April, 2008 be noted.

11. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 4TH APRIL, 2008

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel held on 4th April, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

12. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 28th March and 11th and 25th April, 2008 be noted.

13. SONIA SHARP

The Chairman reported that this was Sonia's last meeting of the Panel before taking up her new post with Sheffield City Council.

The Panel placed on record its sincere thanks to Sonia for her work for the Panel, the Council and the young people and wider community of Rotherham and wished her all the very best in her new challenge.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
Friday, 23rd May, 2008

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); The Mayor (Councillor G. A. Russell), Austen, Jack, McNeely, P. A. Russell and Swift.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boyes, Burton, J. Hamilton and Sangster (Chair of the Audit Committee).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

2. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

3. HEALTH INEQUALITIES ACTION PLAN

Steve Turnbull, Head of Public Health, presented the submitted report indicating that the Council, PCT and Rotherham Partnership approved the Health Inequalities Action Plan in September, 2007. The report, received by the Cabinet at its meeting on 30th April, 2008, provided an update on progress against the plan and also reflected on the feedback from the first revisit of the National Support Team (Health Inequalities).

The report drew specific attention to :

- Life Expectancy Statistics
- Overall Performance
- Areas of focus and emergent areas
- Feedback from National Support Team

There was no guarantee that implementing successfully and undertaking all actions within the plan would be successful in meeting the national health inequalities targets. This emphasised the importance of maintaining the action plan as an evolving and live document, delivering on longer term public health actions and ensuring that public health infrastructure was fit for purpose. It was also a reflection of the complexity of securing step changes in health status across a large diverse and evolving population and that there was a limited evidence base for securing such improvements as were necessary. The action plan was one of the first of its kind in the country.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- life expectancy
- quality of life
- women's health

- mental health promotion and suicide
- officer representation at the Youth Cabinet

Resolved:- (1) That the latest life expectancy statistics be noted.

(2) That the progress against the Health Inequality Action Plan and the assessment of progress by the National Support Team be noted.

(3) That the work ongoing to strengthen the place in the plan for actions to address mental health and suicide and accidents in young men, be noted.

4. PAYMENT OF INVOICES WITHIN THIRTY DAYS

Further to Minute No. 179 of the meeting of this Committee held on 28th March, 2008, Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report which detailed BVPI 8 and how it measured the payment of undisputed invoices within 30 days.

The Council had agreed the following average annual targets for performance of BVPI 8 with RBT :

2007/08	96.3%
2008/09	97.0%
2009/10	97.5%

Outturn performance for 2007/08 achieved 94% which was an improvement on the 2006/07 outturn performance of 91%.

Performance against BVPI 8 was not as consistent as it should be and it was recognised that the Council should act to instil and embed good practice in this area and work was ongoing to this effect. Recent performance had achieved:

April 95%

Details of late goods received notifications by directorate were submitted as appendices to the report.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- Chief Executive's Directorate champion
- cost implications
- impact on vulnerable small suppliers
- ROCC system
- lessons learnt/discussions with neighbouring authorities

Resolved:- That the information be noted and mitigating actions be supported.

5. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 169 of the meeting of this Committee held on 28th March, 2008, Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report detailing how the Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy was based around the 4 key visions of the National Procurement Strategy:

- Vision for leadership, management and capacity
- Vision for partnering, collaboration and supplies management
- Vision for systems that allow business to be done electronically
- Vision for stimulating markets and achieving community benefits

Implementation of the strategy was via four action plans corresponding to the visions and the report provided an update on progress against those action plans.

The action plan produced following the base budget review of third sector funding had now been incorporated into reporting of the Strategy Action Plan.

Resolved:- That the actions to implement the Procurement Strategy be noted and the ongoing actions be supported.

6. PROCUREMENT LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Further to Minute No. 168 of the meeting of this Committee held on 28th March, 2008, Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report setting out the details of the indicators developed to date, targets and the first, second and third quarters and year end reported performance.

Of the eighteen indicators (details of which were appended to the report):

- seven were status amber with performance on target
- three were status red with performance under target
- two were still under development
- one had work ongoing to baseline the current position
- two were for information/monitoring only without targets
- three related to the Ringway contract (highways) with reporting yet to commence

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- maintaining level of spend with local businesses at 35% of core trade spend
- fair trade
- engaging/working with the third sector

Resolved:- That the current performance against the indicators be noted.

7. REVIEW OF FRAMEWORK FOR PRODUCTION OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Further to Minute No. B215 of Cabinet held on 30th April, 2008, Andrew Bedford, Strategic Director of Finance, presented the submitted report which reviewed the way the Annual Governance Statement was produced. It took account of :

- The new CIPFA/SOLACE Framework publication "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government" issued in 2007
- The Annual Governance Statement Rough Guide for Practitioners which takes effect from 2007/08

The review showed that only minor amendments were needed to present processes.

The report drew specific attention to:-

- Legislation, Proper Practice and CIPFA's Rough Guide.
- Purpose of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS).
- Corporate Ownership.
- The Assurance Gathering Process and the production of the Annual Governance Statement.
- Scope of the Process (Key Players and Key Sources of Assurance).
- Timetable and Reporting.
- Summary Proposal.

There were no direct financial implications. However, any governance gaps identified that required remedial action and had financial implications, would be the subject of a separate report.

The robustness of the Council's governance framework was extensively tested by external audit annually. The Council had been found to have robust arrangements for producing its Annual Governance Statement and for reviewing its Local Code of Corporate Governance annually. Rotherham had achieved the top score of 4 in the Use Of Resources Key Lines of Enquiry for the past two years. It was important that it continued to demonstrate an up-to-date approach in its governance arrangements.

Resolved:- (1) That, as far as this Committee is concerned, the amended framework for producing the Annual Governance Statement be endorsed.

(2) That the continuing need for Strategic Directors and Cabinet Members to sign off a year end Statement of Assurance, to inform the production of the Annual Governance Statement, be noted.

8. CORPORATE COMPLAINTS

Mark Evans, Customer Services Client Manager, presented the submitted report which provided details of the complaints received and handled during Quarters 2 and 3 of 2007/08, across the Council and 2010 Rotherham Limited.

The report drew specific attention to :-

- Overview of Performance
- Actions being taken to improve complaints management
- Local Government Ombudsman complaints
- Learning from Complaints
- Customer Satisfaction

The formal complaints procedure had allowed the Council to address risk to the organisation at a strategic and operational level. Individual complaints could identify potential risks at an early stage and allowed immediate preventative action.

A positive response to complaints was reflective of an organisation committed to continual improvement and a willingness to communicate with stakeholders and customers. Failure to respond appropriately to complaints was likely to result in an increasing litigation against the Council and in the volume of Local Government Ombudsman investigations.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- customer satisfaction survey
- customer signatures on planning applications available on the internet
- progress since the last CPA inspection
- need for more effective management at stage one
- identifying lessons learnt
- complaints review informing the actions to improve complaints management
- complaint information on a ward basis

Resolved:- (1) That the information be noted.

(2) That the quarterly corporate complaints reports be shared with the

Council representatives on 2010 Rotherham Ltd.

9. CORPORATE COMPLAINTS SCRUTINY REVIEW

Robin Stonebridge presented the submitted report setting out the findings and recommendations of the review group. The review document was submitted. Highlighted were the background to the review, membership of the review group, scope of the review, terms of reference, legislative requirements and implications, complaints handling performance, findings, best practice and key recommendations.

The review examined the following areas :-

- current performance in managing complaints arising from inconsistencies in this area across the Council
- the role of staff – referred to in the review as complaints officers – dealing with complaints across the Council
- staff and members training and development issues
- the current complaints procedure in operation
- customer satisfaction with outcomes
- member involvement in the handling of customer complaints

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- lack of training
- qualified staff in post
- need to include petitions in recommendation 3
- member training re complaints handling as part of the induction process

In concluding, Robin Stonebridge thanked everyone involved in the review.

Resolved:- (1) That the review, together with the findings and recommendations, be supported.

(2) That the review and its recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration.

(3) That this Committee be made aware of the guidance on petitions when finalised.

10. ADVICE SECTOR SCRUTINY REVIEW - INTERIM REPORT

Robin Stonebridge presented the submitted report setting out the findings and recommendations of the review group. The review document was also submitted. It was noted that this was an interim report owing to the very broad nature and detailed of the services under review. Highlighted were the background to the review, membership of the review group, scope of review, terms of reference, findings, gaps in provision and interim recommendations.

The review examined the following areas :

- current advice and information provision
- gaps in service provision
- priority groups who require advice
- funding sources
- strategic management of the service
- workforce development and training
- staff resources including the role of volunteers
- audit, quality and standards performance monitoring

The Chairman welcomed Annette Cassam (Rotherham Citizens Advice Bureau), Mick Hall (Co-optee Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel) and Janet Wheatley (Voluntary Action Rotherham) who all endorsed the work and findings of the review group,

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:

- important to recognise the level of need
- changing funding regime
- move towards commissioning services
- hierarchy of information and advice centres
- need to understand the advocacy tier
- closure of the Law Centre
- Advice Plus

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- request from voluntary community sector for a seat on the Corporate Working Group
- outreach services
- need to ensure no conflicts of interest regarding Corporate Working Group participants and future potential tenderers

In concluding, Robin Stonebridge thanked everyone involved in the review.

Resolved:- (1) That the review together with the findings and recommendations, be supported.

(2) That the review and its recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration.

(3) That the urgent action taken in response to the findings of this review to resource the Voluntary Community Sector Advice Service provision be acknowledged.

(4) That the detailed findings relating to Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) for the advice sector should be incorporated into the review of the NRF.

(5) That Cabinet be advised that, subject to clear terms of reference for the Corporate Working Group, to avoid potential future conflicts of interest, it would be helpful for the Voluntary Community Sector to be represented on the Corporate Working Group.

11. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT BOARD

Resolved:- That Councillors Austen and Whelbourn be the scrutiny representatives on the Corporate Improvement Board.

12. CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY ANNUAL CONFERENCE - LONDON- 10TH JUNE, 2008

Resolved:- That Councillors Austen, Boyes, Jack and Whelbourn, or substitutes, be authorised to attend the above.

13. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, presented briefly the submitted draft Annual Report 2007/08 describing the activities and achievements over the past year.

Resolved:- That, subject to the textual additions/amendments now discussed, the content and structure of the draft Annual Report 2007/08

be approved, finalised and published accordingly.

14. DRAFT FORWARD PLAN

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, presented briefly the submitted draft Forward Plan 2008/09.

Resolved:- That, subject to textual additions/amendments now discussed, the content and structure of the draft Forward Plan 2008/09 be approved.

15. MINUTES

Resolved:- (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th April, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

(2) That, with regard to Item 194 (Yorkshire South Tourism), it be noted that a meeting was to be held at 10.00 a.m. on 24th June, 2008 at the Mansion House, Doncaster to which officers and members of the four South Yorkshire local authorities had been invited.

16. WORK IN PROGRESS

There was no progress to report due to no meetings since before the local elections.

17. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

(The Chairman authorised consideration of the following item to prevent any unnecessary delay in processing the matter referred to)

18. MEMBERS CONSULTATION ADVISORY GROUP

Reference was made to the representation on the above Group.

Resolved:- That consideration of this matter be deferred pending a review of the role and remit of the Group following which a report be submitted to this Committee in September, 2008.

**PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
13th June, 2008**

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); The Mayor (Councillor G. A. Russell); Councillors Barron, Boyes, Burton, J. Hamilton, Jack, McNeely and P. A. Russell.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Austen, Gilding and Swift.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

20. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

21. RBT PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Paul Hamblett, RBT Enterprise Programme Office Manager, and Paul Briddock, Director of Operational Services, RBT Connect Ltd., together with Mark Gannon, Transformation and Strategic Partnerships Manager.

Paul Hamblett presented, with the aid of powerpoint, the submitted report detailing the progress and performance of RBT for the period 1st January to 31st March, 2008.

The presentation covered:-

- SLA Performance.
- Rotherham Connect Contact Centre Update.
- Rotherham Connect Call Volumes.
- Human Resources and Payroll.
- ICT.
- Procurement.
- Savings Update.
- Revenue Collection.
- Revenues and Benefits:- Council Tax Collection
- RBT Complaints by Ward.

Highlights for the period included:-

- SLA failure within Customer Services in January.
- Services respond to the Civic asbestos scare in February.
- New Housing Repairs system.
- Council Tax year-end billing and its impact on services.
- Maltby JSC recruitment commenced.
- 'Tell Us Once' pilot continues.
- Welfare Rights and Money Advice Services 2007/08 performance.

- Payroll Accuracy SLA achieved across the quarter.
- Annual pay award process complete.
- Job Evaluation phase 2 commenced.
- Work on Local Government Pension Scheme changes started.
- HR Consultancy work increased.
- All ICT SLAs achieve their contractual targets.
- RMBC CMT directs that all RMBC graphic design and print requirements to be commissioned via RBT Design and Printing Service.
- SLA failures in Procurement in March.
- BVPI8 performance improvement in 2007/08.
- Procurement Service supports local business.
- Benefits Service retains its 4* CPA score.
- Revenue collection performance.
- Revenues and Benefits SLA performance.

The report set out:-

- Service by service overview covering:-
 - Customer Services/Public Access.
 - HR and Payroll.
 - ICT.
 - Procurement.
 - Revenues and Benefits.
- Progress Against Corporate Initiatives:-
 - Equalities and Diversity.
 - Investors in People.
 - Consultation/Complaints.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- Contact centre drop in performance over Christmas.
- Job evaluation implications.
- Trading position regarding print and photographic services for South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive.
- Accessing Council Intranet from home.
- Council tax payments.
- Welfare rights review.
- Complaints by ward.
- Viability of a single contact to trigger necessary arrangements for cancelling services etc regarding the registering of a death.
- Percentage of catalogued goods or services delivered within the lead times displayed in the item file.
- Percentage of undisputed invoices for commercial goods and services that were input within 25 calendar days of such invoices

- being received by the Purchase to Pay team.
- Percentage of NNDR collected for the year.
- Annual number of reductions in benefit entitlement.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

22. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008 - 2011

Further to Minute No. 183(4) of the meeting of this Committee held on 11th April, 2008, Vince Roberts, Partnership Manager, presented the submitted report summarising the current position regarding the development and approval of Rotherham's Local Area Agreement 2008-2011.

Highlighted were the key issues raised at the respective scrutiny panel meetings during March and April, 2008. The Committee considered scrutiny involvement in the performance management of the Agreement and the review/refresh planned for the autumn of this year.

The general feeling was that a small number of key issues/measures should be identified for in depth examination every couple of months, along with any 'exception' issues.

Serious acquisitive crime was particularly referred to as a potential measure.

Resolved:- (1) That the current position regarding the development and approval of Rotherham's Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 be noted.

(2) That a report be submitted in late July, 2008 outlining the risks and performance of the existing Local Area Agreement 2006-2009.

(3) That, regarding involvement in the review/refresh of the Local Area Agreement 2008-2011, a report be submitted suggesting key measures that could be finalised for in depth examination.

23. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Tim Littlewood, Principal Officer Performance Management, presented the submitted report highlighting the progress made to date with implementation of the Corporate Improvement Plan and actions achieved or on target for completion, actions not achieved or delayed. Also highlighted were any new ideas which needed to be introduced as part of its regular updating.

To date, 77% of the actions had either been achieved, were ongoing or were on target for completion.

The report covered:-

- Areas of achievement/significant progress in respect of:-

- CPA Service Blocks.
- Sustainable Community Strategy/Local Area Agreement/Corporate Plan Refresh.
- Our Future.
- Financial Management.
- Data Quality.
- Awards.

- Areas of delay/concern in respect of:-

- Direction of Travel.
- Customer Access Strategy.
- Health Scrutiny.
- Management Development Centres.
- Conditions of Footways.
- Single Partnership Community Newsletter.
- White Paper Publications.

- Revisions to the Corporate Improvement Plan.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- Single partnership community newsletter and editorial control.
- Health Scrutiny capacity building day.
- Produce and submit annual Direction of Travel Statement – not achieved.
- Improve Direction of Travel programme indicators – not achieved.
- Improve consultation and involvement of service users through development and introduction of a detailed councillor call for action – delayed.

Resolved:- (1) That the progress being made with the implementation of the Corporate Improvement Plan and the actions raised as delayed/areas of concern be noted.

(2) That the suggestions additions to the Corporate Improvement Plan be noted.

(3) That Tracy Holmes, Head of Communications and Marketing, be requested to attend a future meeting of this Committee to update Members on the editorial control of the single partnership community

newsletter.

24. PROSPEROUS PLACES: TAKING FORWARD THE REVIEW OF SUB - NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

Deborah Fellowes, Policy and External Affairs Manager, presented the submitted report which detailed the Government's published findings into the Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration on 17th July, 2007. It proposed widespread implications for local authorities and sub-regional groupings in terms of devolving responsibilities and funding regimes, in relation to economic development.

On 31st March, 2008 it published the long awaited consultation paper on how this review was to be taken forward. This paper contained a draft response to the consultation paper. The response deadline was 20th June, 2008.

The report submitted provided further information on the key issues and next steps.

There were no direct financial implications at this stage. The Sub-National Review proposed a number of significant changes that would require primary legislation to implement. It was likely that this would take a number of years to achieve e.g. abolition of regional assemblies and transfer of responsibilities was not expected before 2010. However, the proposals would ultimately have financial implications for local authorities in terms of devolved funding, but also in terms of the additional costs of administering devolved responsibilities.

Many of the details of the proposals set out in the Sub-National Review were yet to be worked through. Therefore, at this stage there was an opportunity to get involved and try to influence the emerging plans for implementation.

The Committee considered the draft response, focusing on the scrutiny element.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- Proposed deletion of first sentence in the response to question 3 regarding potential conflict of interest.
- Role of overview and scrutiny.
- Role of the Leader's Forum.
- Weakness of links with learning skills.

- Submission of report to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel.

Resolved:- (1) That the information be noted.

(2) That the draft response be supported.

25. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER - QUARTERLY REPORT TO 31ST MARCH, 2008

Steve Merriman, Governance and Risk Manager, presented the submitted report which showed the latest position in how the Council's most significant risks were being managed.

The report drew specific attention to:-

- Corporate risks at a glance.
- Current Risk Assessment.
- Target Risk Assessments, after mitigating controls put in place.

The risks contained in the register required significant ongoing management action. In some cases additional resources may be necessary to implement the relevant actions or mitigated risks. Any additional costs associated with the risks would be reported to the Corporate Management Team for consideration on a case by case basis.

It was important to review continuously the effectiveness of the Council's approach to capturing, managing and reporting corporate risks. This report was aimed at retaining the top score of 4 in the Use of Resources Key Lines of Enquiry.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and particular concern was expressed regarding schools ensuring requirements were met in respect of engagement with physical activity in schools.

Resolved:- (1) That the contents of the updated corporate risk register be noted.

(2) That it be noted that there were presently no residual red risks.

(3) That no further risks be added to the register at the present time.

(4) That, with regard to the provision of physical activities in schools, Steve Merriman, Cath Saltis and Matt Gladstone liaise to consider a way forward.

26. REVIEW OF THE LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Steve Merriman, Governance and Risk Manager, presented the submitted report indicating that it was best practice to review the Local Code of Corporate Governance annually.

This year the Code was being amended to take account of the new CIPFA/SOLACE framework publication "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government" issued in 2007.

The revised framework recognised the modern roles of local authorities. One focus of the new framework was on the six core principles of good governance emanating from the 2004 OPM/CIPFA (Langlands) Report "The Good Governance Standard for Public Services" as amended by CIPFA/SOLACE in 2007.

The differences between the present code and the proposed amended code were detailed in the report.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and particular reference was made to Good Governance Principle 5:- "Rotherham will develop the capacity and capability of Members and officers to be effective".

Resolved:- (1) That the amended Code be noted and supported.

(2) That it be noted that the amended Code would be used to help test the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements in order to inform the production of the Annual Governance Statement.

(3) That the Good Governance Principle 5 be referred to the Members' Training and Development Panel for consideration.

27. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, presented briefly the submitted draft work programme for the Committee for 2008/09.

It was noted that work regarding Yorkshire South Tourism was ongoing.

Concern was expressed at the removal of telephone boxes, particularly in rural areas which was seen as a potential area of work. Cath Saltis undertook to pursue this matter.

Resolved:- That the draft work programme, as now submitted, be approved.

28. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

29. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

- (a) Councillor Boyes reported that the first meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel in the new municipal year had considered issues relating to:-
 - Pre-payment for parking.
 - Scrutiny review work on the image and identity of Rotherham.
- (b) Councillor Jack reported that the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel had set the work programme for the year.
- (c) Councillor J. Hamilton reported that the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel had considered a report and the results of an officer audit relating to promoting effective written communication and the use of plain English within the Council.
- (d) Councillor Whelbourn reported that the scrutiny reviews relating to Corporate Complaints and Customer Advice Centres had been submitted to Cabinet.
- (e) It was noted that the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel had set its work programme for the year and included would be:-
 - A one day scrutiny review of allocations from the consumer perspective.
 - Approach to the voids problem.
 - Review of the housing needs of migrant workers.
 - LAA project.
- (f) It was noted that the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel had considered:-
 - Priorities for Children and Young People's Services 2008/09.
 - Future challenges for the Youth Service.
 - Work programme for the year.

30. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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