

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

Date: Friday, 31 October 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

FOR DISCUSSION

8. Update on Performance in relation to PSA 14 and NPI 117 - 16 to 18 Year Olds who are not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) and Connexions Services Activity within Rotherham (report attached) (Pages 1 - 6)
9. 14 to 19 Strategy (including LSC developments) - Update (report attached) (Pages 7 - 11)
10. Impact Assessment of Young Runaways and Missing from Home Protocols (report attached) (Pages 12 - 30)
11. Children and Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation - Impact Assessment of Action Plan (report attached) (Pages 31 - 40)

12. Secondary School Lifestyle Survey 2008 (Borough Wide) (report attached) (Pages 41 - 51)

MINUTES

13. Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 3rd October 2008 (copy attached) (Pages 52 - 58)
14. Minutes of a meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel held on 24th September 2008 (copy attached) (Pages 59 - 63)
15. Minutes of a meeting of the Children's Board held on 8th October, 2008 (copy attached) (Pages 64 - 73)
16. Minutes of meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 26th September 2008 and on 10th October 2008 (copies attached) (Pages 74 - 93)

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Friday, 28 November 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:-

J. Blanch-Nicholson, Ms. T. Guest,
M. Hall (Statutory Co-optee), Father A. Hayne,
C. Purvis and P. Wade.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	31 st October 2008
3.	Title:	Update on Performance in Relation to PSA 14 and NPI 117 - 16 to 18 Year Olds who are not in Education, Training or Employment (NEET) and Connexions Services Activity within Rotherham
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

In February 2008 the Senior Director of Children and Young People's Services outlined proposed action to achieve the LPSA NEETs target (PSA14) for November 2008 of 7.1% (including the stretch element) and the Not Knowns target of less than 5%.

At the meeting Cabinet Member and Advisors endorsed the following areas for prioritisation to address the NEET target;

- Working with schools to reduce the percentage of young people leaving year 11 to NEET from the 2007 target of 8% (8.4% achieved or 321 young people) to 4.2% (161) in 2008.
- Improving systems to identify leavers from post 16 learning and secure a follow on destination - to reduce entrants into the NEET cohort.
- Increasing the range and number of learning and employment, with learning opportunities to meet the needs of NEET young people; including the development of public sector apprenticeships (an increase of 50 by November 2008).

with overall objective of reducing the NEET cohort by 350 young people (reduction of 161 school leavers and 136 leavers at age 17 from learning and creating 50 apprenticeships).

This report provides an update on progress to date.

6. Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- **Note progress against targets to date.**

7. Proposals and Details

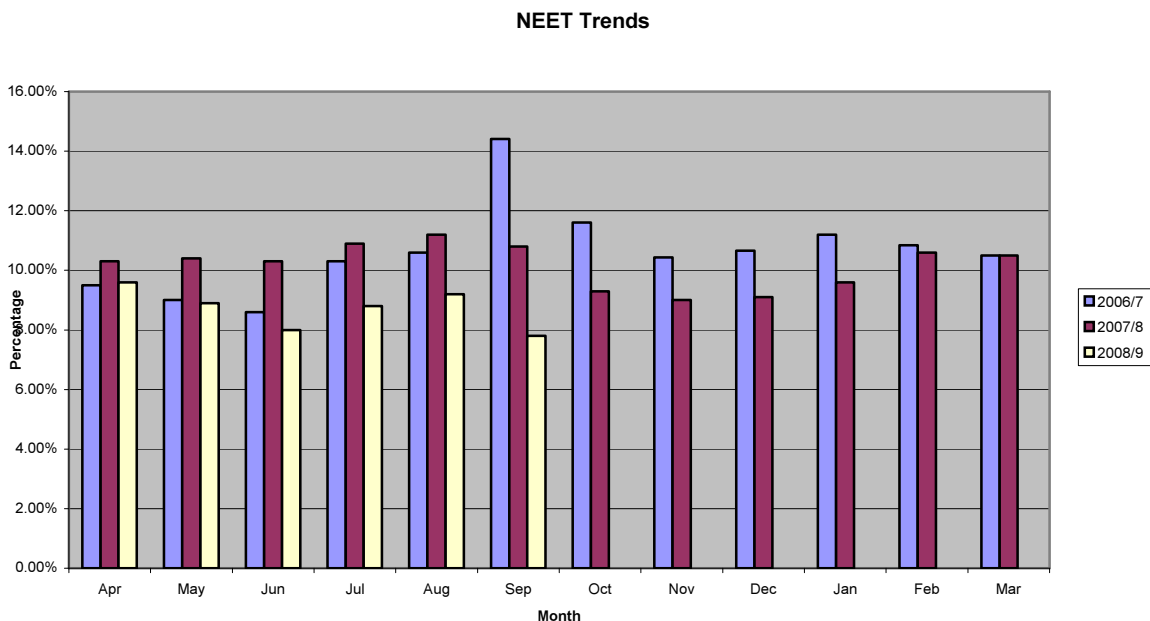
Current Position 16 –18 Year Olds_NEET / Not Known

	September 2008	September 2007
Adjusted NEET % (LA Definition)	7.8% (912)	10.8% (1206)
16-18 Year Olds Not Known %	7.5% (900)	10.6% (1233)
In Learning %	75.7% (9131)	78.6% (8180)
Cohort	12,055	11,636

As of 30th September 2008

- The percentage of 16-18 year olds NEET was 7.8% (912). This equates to a 32% reduction in NEET in comparison to last September NEET figure (1206).
- The percentage of 16-18 year olds Not Known was 7.5% (900). This equates to a 29% reduction in Not Known for the same point last year when the figure stood at 10.6% (1233).
- The percentage of 16 - 18 year olds in learning was 75.7%(9131) in comparison to 78.6% in September last year (8180). Although the overall percentage in learning has fallen due to a rise in overall cohort numbers, the actual numbers of young people in learning has risen by 950.
- The NEET trend through the year has shown a consistent reduction and data indicates that performance is on track to achieve the NEET target of 7.5% and potentially achieve the PSA stretch target of 7.1%.

Figure 1 NEET Trends April 2006 to September 2008



Progress Against Priorities

1.0 Reducing the Percentage of Young People Leaving Year 11 to NEET

Activity

- Children and Young People's Services hosted two conferences in early January 2008 and issued a challenge to all learning providers and Connexions staff to halve the numbers of school leavers leaving becoming NEET, from 8.2% NEET (321) to 4.1% (160).
- Individual meetings have been held with all schools to agree a NEET target and to establish NEET action teams to achieve a cross authority target for year 11 NEET of 4.1%. Ongoing support has been provided through the 14-19 team and Connexions providers to develop NEET action plans.
- Schools who are concerned regarding achieving the NEET figure are currently meeting with NALD to identify further action to support progression.
- Focused September Guarantee meetings have been held with post 16 learning providers, Connexions providers and the LSC to plan and monitor support to achieve the 100% target for the September Guarantee for 16 and 17 year olds.

Impact

As of the end of September:

- 99% of year 11 leavers from Rotherham schools had received an offer of a guaranteed place in post 16 learning in line with the September Guarantee requirements. This equates to a 4 % improvement on the position at the same time last year.
- The number of year 11 NEET (including not available) stand at 320 young people equating to 8.2% which is similar to the position last year. Evidence suggests that there is a downturn in relevant available employment opportunities for young people and this may impact on year 11 progression figures. Final information on year 11 progression will be available at the end of October.

2.0 Improving Systems to Identify Leavers from Post 16 Learning and Secure a Follow on Destination to Reduce Entrants into the NEET Cohort,

Activity

- Data protocols with all post 16 learning providers have been refreshed to improve practice and joint working has taken place with NALD to identify early leavers from learning. Monthly updates on leavers and destinations from all post 16 learning providers are now established.
- Additional Connexions resource has been targeted at college students to support those at risk of disengagement with a particular focus on those with LDD.

- A refocusing of post 16 Connexions activity has provided a rapid response approach to reengaging NEETs within three months of becoming NEET.
- Regular NEET Action Group meetings have been held with all post 16 learning providers and Connexions providers in order to implement the September Guarantee and to review provision.
- The Development of Entry to Construction programmes within Entry to Employment programmes (E 2 E) with negotiated progression routes in Further Education has improved retention and achievement in this sector

Impact

- Implemented the September Guarantee for 17 year olds - 95% of 17 year olds eligible for the guarantee were offered a place in learning.
- The retention in learning of 17 year olds has risen from 73.7% (November 2006) to 75.0% (November 2007) and stands at 77.9% as of the September 2008.

3.0 Increasing the Range and Number of Learning and Employment Opportunities with Learning to Meet the Needs of NEET Young People Including the Development of Public Sector Apprenticeships

Activity

- Pilot community based E to E provision commissioned through a partnership between Morthyng and Rotherham Young People's Services.
- Work preparation activity funded by the LSC with Phoenix Enterprises for long term NEET job seekers, including basic skills, work tasters and job search.
- In May 2008 21 young people recruited from the NEET register joined a three month pre apprenticeship programme at Rotherham College of Arts and Technology (RCAT). The programme offered young people the opportunity to undertake two day work experience placements in a RMBC department alongside gaining formal qualifications in employability skills and numeracy and literacy with a view to moving onto paid apprenticeships with the council. All young people who completed the course were interviewed by RMBC for apprenticeships with the Council, 7 of whom were successful.
- We are recruiting a further 15 young people from the 2008 school leaver cohort to join RMBC as apprentices in October.
- £1.5 million was secured from the EU Structural Funds Programme (2007-2013) to deliver a 16-19 NEET Co-ordinated Response Fund Manager programme. This programme aims to reduce the proportion of young people aged 16-19 that are NEET, by developing a 'Brokerage' model that provides a sustainable, coherent delivery network that meets the needs of young people. A further allocation of £0.5m will be awarded if all contract aims and objectives are achieved. The programme is currently piloting a 123 place NEET programme to contribute to the achievement of the November LAA stretch NEET target of 7.1%

Impact

- Pilot community based E to E provision commissioned in NEET hotspot areas has achieved a 70% positive outcome of EET for participants
- Training Pays continues to outperform against targets having secured 22 learning opportunities for young people in work during the month of September bringing the total number sign ups for the programme for Rotherham to 284 .
- 7 Apprentices have been employed by the Council .

Conclusion

We have made steady progress in decreasing numbers in the NEET cohort and the overall percentage in NEET has steadily declined since February 2008 and to reach 7.8% in September 2008 the lowest position in four years.

Finance:

The current Connexions grant is £2,728,056 for Rotherham. This is now administered as an Area Based Grant through RMBC. The grant will be subject to a tendering process during the current financial year 2008/9.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

Failure to achieve the LPSA stretch target would mean that Rotherham Borough Council would stand to lose the reward element of the LAA grant. This equates to £681,548 and would be a substantial loss to the borough.

Perhaps more importantly, the young people on the NEETs register are more likely to have poorer outcomes than their peers who are in EET. This should be of a concern to everyone.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Local Authority has a PSA NEETs target of 7.1% against which we are currently on track to achieve performance within the 70% achievement band of 7.5% to 7.1%.

859 16-18 year olds were known to be NEET as of 30th September 2008 in comparison to 1145 for September 2007 The DSCF adjusted NEET figure is 912 (figure incorporates a percentage of those with lapsed destinations) giving a percentage of 7.8% against a target of 7.1% for November 2008.

The 16-18 cohort for 2008 is estimated at 12,055 young people (September 2008). The stretch target of 7.1% would therefore mean that only 855 young people could be in the NEET cohort (adjusted) and there must be less than 600 in the unknown cohort.

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

Cabinet Members and Advisers report February 2008 - proposals to reduce NEETs in Rotherham.

Cabinet Member report 4th July 2007 - Trends in 2006 Year 11 leaver Post-16 destinations, Young People Not in Education Employment and Training and the Labour Market

Cabinet Member report 4th July 2007 - Training Pays Progress

Cabinet Member report 3rd September 2007 – Employment Opportunities for 16-18 year olds in Rotherham

Widening Participation Strategy group 20th August 2007 – September Guarantee report

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership 23rd October 2007 – Progress report on the NEETs target

Corporate Management Team 10th December 2007 - Employment opportunities for 16-18 year olds in Rotherham

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 31 st October 2008
3.	Title:	14-19 Strategy including LSC developments
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

The 14-19 Learning Plan and 14-19 Strategy and Resources Board are now in place following extensive consultation with all partners and key stakeholders within Rotherham. This provides Rotherham with a firm foundation to deliver the changes set out in White Paper 'Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver'. This White Paper details the transfer of responsibility for 16-19 education from LSC to Local Authorities (LAs) by the end of the decade.

The rationale for the transfer is that LAs should provide strong, local leadership for all aspects of learning up to the age of 19 and act as the accountable body for all outcomes for young people up to that age (and 25 for those with learning difficulties and disabilities).

6. Recommendations

This report is received.

7. Proposals and Details

The proposed legislation which should be in place by December 2008 and will confer on LAs the following responsibilities:

- to enable every young person to access the most appropriate, engaging and high quality provision
- to deliver the raising of the age of compulsory participation to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015
- to deliver the new 14-19 entitlement
- to enable an integrated approach to the delivery of children's and young people's services up to the age of 19
- to integrate education, skills and planning.

Leadership by the LA is seen as being consistent with:

- the commitment in the Sub-national Review to devolved decision making with an expectation that LAs will provide a strategic steer and a single point of accountability for outcomes
- the responsibility that the LA already has for the 0-19 *Every Child Matters* outcomes and commissioning under Children's Trust arrangements
- the transfer of responsibilities for Education Business Partnerships and Connexions that has already been announced.

The proposed changes have the following organisational features:

- each LA will undertake strategic commissioning to ensure that every 16-19 year old has a *suitable* place in learning, or employment with training – this is seen as essential to the raising of the age of participation
- LAs will organise themselves and plan in clusters that reflect travel to learn areas
- there will be the creation of a new legal category of sixth form colleges with provision from these institutions being commissioned through the LA
- the LSC will be replaced by the end of the decade with a new, streamlined Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) that will:
 - establish a national planning and commissioning framework to which LAs will conform
 - provide a uniform and consistent data set which LAs will use to inform their planning
 - manage the national 16-19 funding formulae
 - ensure LAs deliver secure budgetary control and the new national entitlements
 - act as the arbiter, if LAs are unable to reach agreement at the sub-regional and regional level
 - intervene where LAs are failing to fulfil their new duties
- a new Skills Funding Agency (SFA) will be established and will be responsible for all aspects of 19+ delivery, for overseeing the new National Apprenticeship Service and for the funding of FE colleges for post-19 learning.

- there will be the progressive devolution of responsibilities for the commissioning of 14-19 provision from YPLA to LAs. This will include FE colleges once clusters satisfy YPLA of their ability to execute this responsibility.

14-19 Strategic Commissioning

LAs are given a clear role to plan provision to secure sufficient high quality and motivating provision:

- at every level
- for every line of learning
- for all learners, including the most vulnerable.

This will be expressed in an annual **14-19 Commissioning Plan** based on an indicative regional YPLA funding allocation.

As a result LAs will be expected to develop a 14-19 strategic commissioning function that allows them to:

- match supply with demand for three qualification routes that make up the new 14-19 entitlement:
 - General – GCSE and A levels
 - Applied – a new 14-19 entitlement to 17 lines of Diploma
 - Vocational – an expansion of apprenticeships to cater for every 16-19 learner, with the requisite ability, who wants one
- make commissioning judgements based on robust data relating to:
 - learning outcomes
 - the quality and suitability of existing provision
 - the progress made by different groups, particularly the most vulnerable and including those in juvenile custody.

Cluster configuration

LAs are required to group together as formal clusters representing a 'travel to learn' area. These clusters will need to be in place by January 2009 in order that they can undertake, from March 2009, the proposed shadowing of LSC processes that will precede the transfer of 16-19 responsibilities in 2010-11.

Current working relationships in South Yorkshire have a strong sub-regional bias that reflects not only the collaboration stimulated by Objective 1 and Diplomas but also a travel to learn pattern in which 92% of 16-19 students in South Yorkshire pursue their learning within the sub-region. Most LAs in Yorkshire and Humber have indicated their intention to form sub-regional clusters.

A meeting of South Yorkshire Chief Executives and Directors of Childrens Services considered three options and their respective strengths and weaknesses. The options were:

1. A Yorkshire and the Humber regional cluster encompassing those 21 LAs and the County Council that make up the region.
2. A South Yorkshire cluster comprising Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield.
3. A Sheffield City Region Cluster, the boundaries of which would need to be confirmed.

South Yorkshire Chief Executives and Directors of Childrens Services concluded that Option 2, a South Yorkshire sub-regional cluster, offered the best strategic fit at this stage.

Cluster governance and management

The governance and management arrangements of clusters are a matter of local determination. DCSF sets out three types of arrangement for the consideration of LAs:

Model A: LAs in the cluster come together to share their plans but each LA commissions provision individually within its boundaries and the YPLA commissions FE colleges directly

Model B (i): collective commissioning of all 16-19 provision by a sub-regional cluster with a lead authority commissioning FE provision on the cluster's behalf

Model B (ii) collective commissioning of all 16-19 provision by a sub-regional cluster with each LA commissioning FE provision from any college in its area

Model B (iii): a shared, sub-regional service operating under joint governance arrangements, to commission provision collectively across the cluster, including FE.

Model A has been devised by DCSF as the default model for those clusters that do not have in place adequate arrangements to take on additional post-16 funding and commissioning responsibilities.

Model B requires LAs to act concertedly as a cluster in the planning of post-16 provision. Those clusters that can demonstrate the capability to plan in this way will also be ceded responsibility for commissioning FE colleges. This fulfils the intention of the White Paper proposals in that it vests responsibility for the planning of *all* 16-19 education in LAs.

Each LA was requested to give some indication of its preference for one of these models in its response to Government Office by 26 September 2008. Rotherham, along with the three other South Yorkshire Authorities, would operate on model (B) from September 2009.

4. Next steps

In preparation for the transfer, the LSC will from September 2008 invite LAs to work closely in tracking its business planning cycle and to attend relevant meetings.

November 2008 - February 2009 each cluster, once confirmed by Government Office, must set out cluster governance and management arrangements for approval.

A sub-regional steering group and an operational group have been formed to prepare for the transfer. A detailed action plan with key dates and decisions required will be drawn up and the steering group will report regularly to Chief Executives and, as required, to Leaders' meetings.

8. Finance:

Currently there is no additional funding to support this work.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

- Failure to transfer the responsibilities for the commissioning of 16-19 education from the LSC to the LA
- Rotherham will not meet the proposed statutory responsibilities set out in the White Paper 'Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver'
- Provision in Rotherham will not meet the needs of individual learners.
- L2 and L3 performance by 19 will fail to improve
- The skills base in Rotherham will fail to meet the employment demands

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Developments are consistent with:

- The Community Strategy (Local Strategic Partnership)
- The Corporate Plan (RMBC)
- The 14-19 Learning Plan (14-19 Strategy and Resources Board) following extensive consultation with all partners and key stakeholders within Rotherham and taking account of the sub-regional partnership work already in place.
- The Economic Master Plan (RMBC) which takes into account the City regions developments and the economic relationship between Rotherham and Sheffield.
- Rotherham Productivity Plan (Work and Skills Board)

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

White Paper Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver'

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting:	Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel
2. Date:	Friday 31 st October 2008
3. Title	Impact assessment of young runaways and missing from home protocols.
4. Programme Area:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary:

This report updates the C&YP Scrutiny Panel on the impact over the past twelve months of the South Yorkshire Runaways Joint Protocol and the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board 'Action Plan for Services to Runaways'. It also provides up to date information on the scale of the problem in Rotherham, what the analysis of the data tells us about young runaways and what the multi-agency responses and plans are for prevention and support.

The Social Exclusion Unit defines a runaway as '*a child aged under 18 who spends one night or more away from home or care without permission, or who has been forced to leave by their parents or carers*'.

6. Recommendation:

That the content of this report is noted.

7. Proposals and Details

There are two key local documents relating to the provision of services for young people who run away. The first of these, the **South Yorkshire Runaways Joint Protocol – Running Away from Care and Home**, was written in June 2005, and has been updated in April 2008. The Strategic Director for C&YPS is a signatory to this overarching Protocol.

Rotherham's response to the protocol, under the direction of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, is an **Action Plan for Services to Runaways**, originally drafted in April 2006 and updated in June 2008 [copy attached]. This is the key document for a review of local provision and response. The Action Plan has a number of aims and actions which fall into 6 areas:

- Putting someone in charge
- Preventing running away
- Ensuring immediate safety
- Providing longer-term support
- Helping 16-17 year olds who can no longer live at home
- Making things change

A multi-agency Rotherham Runaways Action Group [RRAG] oversees the Action Plan and the 'Lead Individual in the Authority' reports back to the LSCB. Monthly data is provided by the Police and the data is broken down by name, age, gender and whether and where the young person was found. Also noted are the frequency with which an individual goes missing [whether that classifies them as 'repeat missing persons'] and specific information about Looked After Children – Children's Homes are by far the most frequent address from which reports are given to the police for example.

Data for the year so far includes:

2008	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Totals
Number of individual young people missing aged 16 or under.	16	22	19	46	52	43	198

The number of 'incidents' recorded monthly is significantly higher than this, because some young people go missing/run away quite frequently [again more likely to be LAC]. All reports of young people running away or going missing are referred to Safe@Last, the non-statutory organisation in the Borough with a specific brief of working with young runaways and missing persons. The services offered by Safe@Last are:

- Operation of a helpline
- Facilitating missing person's return interviews
- Delivering training
- Preventative work with schools
- Outreach work with children and young people who do, or are at risk of, running away.
- Operation of a refuge for runaways.

Further analysis of the most recent data reveals the following:

- There are around 6000 missing person reports annually to South Yorkshire Police [this includes adults, although the vast majority are young people]

- In the six month period from April to September 2008 there were 660 reports to the Police concerning Rotherham children
- Around 58% of the individual young people who are reported as missing are LAC – although this rises significantly as a % of incident reports, reflecting the prevalence of LAC amongst the ‘repeat missing persons’ data. Comparative South Yorkshire data indicates that there is a high incidence of repeat runaways in Rotherham.
- National research indicates a considerable degree of failure to report missing young people, and it is appropriate to assume that Rotherham is no different. Given that 100% of LAC who go missing **are** reported, the above figures are likely to be skewed.
- South Yorkshire wide figures show that 35% of all missing person incidents are resolved within two hours of the report and 91% within 24 hours.
- There is a significantly higher incidence of girls running away than boys.
- Safe@Last received 307 referrals between September 2007 and September 2008. Since it opened in April 2007, 5 Rotherham young people have accessed the refuge and 4 more have been supported in finding other safe options.

In addition, following the September 2007 report, Scrutiny requested detail on the following:

- i. ***the distance spread of the children running away*** – this information is gleaned from either where the young person is located if they do not return of their own will, or from return interviews. There are only two confirmed cases of young people leaving South Yorkshire [to Wales and Exeter], with the overwhelming majority staying in Rotherham.
- ii. ***the reasons for running away*** – these fall into two categories, young runaways are either ‘pushed’ or they are ‘pulled’. The most common reason given for running away is home / family conflict, with issues between girls and step-fathers being particularly noted. Other more ‘pulling’ factors are the influence of peer groups, including girl / boy friends. There are no significant factors in Rotherham that vary from well documented national research and data – that is to say, these are the most common factors nationally.
- iii. ***whether the rurality of the Borough is a factor*** – the short answer appears to be no. Analysis of the areas/communities that the young runaways come from indicates commonality with the findings of the general audit of need analysis undertaken by C&YPS.
- iv. ***preventative work with parents*** – Safe@Last recognise that supporting young people missing from home very often requires listening to the parent / carer. This is an area which will be looked at more thoroughly over the next twelve months, as Rotherham’s Parenting Strategy becomes fully developed and embedded in integrated C&YPS.
- v. ***work being undertaken with schools*** - Safe@Last have secured funding from Rotherham Children’s Fund, for a Runaways Education Officer. This post will ensure that all year 6 and 50% of year 7 children have input from Safe@Last through Crucial Crew in year one of the funding. All of years 6&7 and 50% of year 8 in 2009/10 and all of years 6, 7 and 8 in 2010/11. This work commenced in June 2008.
- vi. ***evaluation of Safe@Last*** – has been commissioned by them, from an international organisation who are leaders in the field of working with runaways, *The Railway Children*. Research, data collection and analysis will be concluded by March 2009, with an Evaluation Report to be published in the Autumn of 2009.

8. Finance

South Yorkshire Police have estimated that it costs approximately £1000 each time a young person is reported as missing. This is the basic cost of processing a missing person report and conducting standard enquiries, investigations, etc. For more complex cases, (every case is risk assessed) this cost could well be multiplied with costs associated with extra staff time, additional police vehicles, air searches, etc. Working with these figures South Yorkshire Police have produced an internal report indicating a potential saving of £116,000 just by reducing the incidence of repeat running away.

The financial cost to Children and Young People's Services is even more difficult to calculate. For LAC, and in particular those in residential care, considerable additional resources such as extra staff, sometimes 24 hours a day, can be spent on preventing runaway incidents and in attempting to locate and return young people who have been reported missing. In risk assessment terms, not knowing the whereabouts of a vulnerable and often damaged child or young person, is clearly a major concern which can, in the more extreme cases, require a response such as specialist therapeutic placements or even secure accommodation.

There is a cost to the Authority whenever a young person from Rotherham accesses the Safe@Last refuge.

9. Risk and Uncertainties

Young Runaways or young people missing from home and care, present significant concern for everyone involved with them, most obviously for the health and welfare of the young person. We know from research that running away is a dangerous activity and there are clear connections with a spiral into a life of crime, prostitution and substance misuse.

Issues identified by organisations working with young runaways include the need for improved inter-agency co-operation, better information of what support is around and an increase in emergency accommodation.

Safe@Last is a small and highly specialist organisation and predominantly relies on donations and grant applications to maintain it's existence. Sustainability could prove to be difficult.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

In January 2008 the Children's Secretary, Ed Balls, and the Minister for Young People, Kevin Brennan announced that the Government wanted all agencies to work together to prevent young people from reaching the crisis point where they run away. To assist agencies in this work a new cross-government working group would be established and a National Action Plan produced to drive forward the work on young runaways.

In addition a new measure on the number of young people who run away from home or care is to be included in the National Indicator Set from 2009. In order to ensure accurate reporting on this new indicator, the information currently collated

on missing persons in Rotherham needs to be reviewed and where necessary improved. This work will be taken forward by the RRAG and overseen by the Director of Targeted Services in C&YPS.

It is also imperative that the integration of C&YPS into Localities, alongside the important links with local Safer Neighbourhood Teams, is reflected in Rotherham's responses to children and young people who runaway. Consideration will be given to the best way to manage this, complementing the impetus of the National Action Plan, the introduction of a new National Indicator and the redraft of the South Yorkshire Protocol.

11. Background and Consultation

- Children Missing from Care and Home (D.O.H. 2002)
- Young Runaways (Social Exclusion Unit 2002)
- Running away in South Yorkshire (Children's Society and Safe@Last 2004)
- Care Matters' published in November 2006
- Children and Young People's Plan and Well being strategy (2006-2009)
- The Corporate Plan
- Still Running II (Children's Society 2005)
- South Yorkshire Joint Protocol 'Running away from Home and Care (2005 & 2008)
- Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Report and Action Plan – April 2006
- Report to Rotherham C&YP Scrutiny Panel – 7th September 2007.

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ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: AN ACTION PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR RUNAWAYS

Putting someone in charge

GOAL: Everyone knows who is responsible for making sure that things happen		
Action	Detail	progress
<p>1. National co-ordination</p>	<p>The Children’s Secretary has Cabinet level responsibility for runaways and, led by the Minister with the Safeguarding brief, the DCSF has taken the lead in co-ordinating policy developments across Government to ensure appropriate services are in place to respond to the needs of those who run away.</p> <p>Improving children and young people’s safety depends on a wide range of people – practitioners, agencies working in partnership, national inspectorates, central and local government and, crucially, parents, and children and young people themselves. The Children Act 2004 set a duty on a range of bodies, including children’s services, health services and the police to have regard to the welfare and safety of children and young people. It also included a requirement for all local authorities to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in place by April 2006. These LSCBs have now been established in all local areas. They bring together a range of partners to scope and co-ordinate safeguarding services in each area and oversee the safeguarding responses of relevant agencies.</p>	<p>The Government made a commitment in the Children’s Plan and the Staying Safe Action Plan that it would act to improve services for young runaways. The Young Runaways action plan fulfils the commitment, specifically identifying and addressing the particular needs of young runaways.</p> <p><i>the Missing from Care and Home Guidance (2002)</i> by Spring 2009 to set out clear roles and responsibilities in responding to young people who have run away from home or care is to be redrafted in 2009.</p>

Original plan april 2006
 Updated June 2008
 M.McD

ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: AN ACTION PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR RUNAWAYS

<p>1. National co-ordination, cont.</p>	<p>By the end of 2008, Local Authorities are expected to have in place reformed targeted youth support services, based on effective multi-agency working and common assessment. These will enable early identification, intervention and support coordinated by a lead professional to meet the needs of vulnerable young people, including those at risk of running away, before their problems reach crisis point.</p> <p>Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) have been established to bring together partners to ensure there are services in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It is the LSCB's role to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what their member organisations do individually and together to effectively safeguard the children and young people in the area of their authority.</p> <p>The local area's response to young runaways will need to be set in the local context – it should be built in to plans for safeguarding and youth homelessness prevention, and should draw upon existing support services for young people including, where appropriate, those offered by voluntary sector organisations in the area. Young people's views and experiences should be considered as local responses are developed.</p> <p>Working with Government Offices, we will support Local Safeguarding Children Board's to evaluate running away as a risk, and to put in place action plans for agencies to keep young runaways safe.</p>	
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ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: AN ACTION PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR RUNAWAYS

<p>1. National co-ordination, cont.</p>	<p>Collecting the right data at local level is essential to driving improvements in services for young runaways. That is why the Government has introduced a new indicator in the National Indicator Set about children and young people who run away from home or care.</p> <p>This indicator will help to secure effective joint working between children’s services, the police and other local partners to ensure that necessary data about young runaways is collected. It will allow local strategic partnerships and children’s trusts to begin to establish the scale of problem in their local area, to put services in place respond accordingly, and to establish local targets if appropriate.</p> <p>The new indicator (NI 71) will be included in the NIS from April 2009. the data will be collected for the indicator on a quarterly basis, and the indicator reviewed in 2009-10, to ensure that it is driving better collections of data about young runaways, and improvements in local services for young</p> <p>The Social Exclusion Unit’s Report (2002) on young runaways, and the Department of Health <i>Missing from Care and Home Guidance</i> (2002) which was issued alongside it, set out sound core principles for meeting the needs of those young people who run away from home or care, highlighting the need for a multi-agency response. This guidance now needs updating to reflect development across the safeguarding children agenda.</p>	
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ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: AN ACTION PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR RUNAWAYS

GOAL: Everyone knows who is responsible for making sure that things happen		
Action	Detail	progress
<p>2. To identify lead individuals in every local authority with responsibility for runaways</p>	<p>Morri McDermott; Operations manager Children and Young People’s services to lead on planning services for young runaways.</p> <p>The lead individual has formed a group along with named individuals with responsibility for missing children from the Police, Education, Housing and Voluntary Sector. The aim of the group is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the S.Y. Protocol is implemented, promoted and it’s effectiveness monitored. • Receive, monitor and analyse data and practice reports (including feedback from service users) • Ensure that good quality information including emerging patterns and themes re. missing children are taken to Rotherham Safeguarding Board. • Identify and share good practice • Identify training issues around both the protocol and working with young people to reduce missing incidents. • Ensure that the LA is in a position to respond to the Governments new action plan for young runaways • To ensure that the data is available to be able to report on the new NI 	<p>The group is well established but continues to develop and evolve. The Government’s new action plan and NI will ensure that the group look to continue to grow in strength.</p>

ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: AN ACTION PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR RUNAWAYS

Preventing running away

GOAL: Ensure that young people at risk of running away are identified and given access to the right services		
Action	Detail	progress
<p>3. To implement local preventative strategies to prevent running away</p>	<p>Research has shown that many young people who go missing from home do so because of difficulties they face in their families. These may be temporary and are able to be easily resolved. However, a significant group of these young people have experienced a high level of family disruption. They may or not be known to the local authority. Research also suggests that young people who run away from home are likely to be absent from school. The identification of young people missing from home may arise from concerns expressed by parents, carers, teacher's, etc.</p> <p>South Yorkshire Police may be notified and will take appropriate action in accordance with the protocol, a referral to the L.A. and/or Safe@Last the identified voluntary organisation may be made and again appropriate actions taken.</p> <p>Safe@Last provides the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A free referral helpline • Early response to young people • Direct work with young people and their carers <p>Young people who go missing from their care placements are likely to have previously gone missing from their family home and have had periods of school absence.</p> <p>For these young people it is critical that their experience of care whether fostering or residential is a positive and rewarding one.</p>	<p>Currently unless the L.A. is involved data regarding young people missing from home is collected by S.Y. Police and shared with the Rotherham Runaways action group and local safeguarding board at regular intervals.</p> <p>risk assessment on young person's undertaken pre-admission in Care homes and foster placements.</p> <p>Police also working with new risk assessments.</p> <p>All children's homes have incentive scheme in place to reward positive behaviours and discourage running away.</p>

ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: AN ACTION PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR RUNAWAYS

Preventing running away

GOAL: Ensure that young people at risk of running away are identified and given access to the right services		
Action	Detail	progress
<p>3. To implement local preventative strategies to prevent running away</p>	<p>Research has shown that the way services for looked after children are managed will affect the numbers of children who go missing from their placements.</p> <p>It is important that the statutory services provided by Rotherham offers young people purposeful constructive care, that listens to them and takes account of their views, Placements in Rotherham will be characterized by an environment that demonstrates to young people, who may be challenging and disaffected, that they are valued, respected and have access to education, health and constructive leisure opportunities..</p> <p>Good quality risk assessments and personalised care plans are essential in developing preventative strategies for young people who are at risk from running away.</p> <p>Equally important are good strategies for reporting and responding to missing from home and care incidents.</p> <p>A pilot scheme run by Lancashire Constabulary in 2004/05 demonstrated that a system of rewards could prove a factor in reducing missing person incidents.</p> <p>Young people who have run from care should expect their local authority to respond like a concerned parent. "Is it good enough for my child"</p>	<p>Risk assessment on young person's undertaken pre-admission in Care homes and foster placements. Police also working with new risk assessments.</p> <p>All children's homes have incentive scheme in place to reward positive behaviours and discourage running away.</p>

Original plan april 2006
Updated June 2008
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ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: AN ACTION PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR RUNAWAYS

GOAL: Ensure that young people at risk of running away are identified and given access to the right services		
Action	Detail	progress
<p>4. To improve monitoring & management of incidents of young people missing from care.</p>	<p>To analyse data re. runaway incidents from care homes and foster placements. This to identify patterns and potential trouble spots. Each children's home maintains accurate records of the movement of young people on a daily basis. Records of occupancy are sent by e-mail to service support on a weekly basis and are sent in turn to a national data base.</p>	<p>All incident's of young people missing from care are sent to designated lead officer and reviewed on a monthly basis. Information is shared with Safeguard board and strategies put in place as/when required. PPU provide monthly report and this shared at Rotherham Runaways group</p> <p>Information Sharing (IS) index is a computer based system which will contain individual records of all children. This is being piloted in some Las but no date of when expected in Rotherham.</p>
<p>5. To provide more & better family support services</p>	<p>Creswick Road Children's Home to be reopened as a home providing crisis intervention, short break residential and community outreach support to families at risk of breakdown.</p> <p>Looking to develop 2 emergency beds in fostering service.</p>	<p>Discussions commenced with service providers.</p>

ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: AN ACTION PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR RUNAWAYS

GOAL: Ensure that young people at risk of running away are identified and given access to the right services		
Action	Detail	progress
5. To provide more & better family support services	Safe at Last are looking to fund a family support worker to the MISPER scheme	Funding being applied for
6 To provide more information and support for teachers & schools about running away	Young people need information at key stages 3 and 4 about where to go for help instead of, and if they are thinking of running away. To develop a schools pack on running away Support available online for teachers at, (www.teachernet.gov.uk/pshe/)	Draft pack in place from Safe at Last Safe at Last have delivered presentations in some Rotherham Schools
7 To develop local information campaigns	To include info on: Why children runaway Danger of running away Sources of help and what to do if someone runs away.	Issues discussed at the Rotherham Runaways group and at Safe@Last steering group

ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: AN ACTION PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR RUNAWAYS

Ensuring immediate safety

GOAL: Young people who run away will have someone to talk to & a safe place to go		
Action	Detail	progress
8 To develop family based emergency accommodation options	To recruit and train foster carers specifically to provide family based emergency accommodation	The family placement service has foster carers who will work with young people placed on emergency criteria. Front Desk and senior management team are made aware of vacancies in foster care on a daily basis. Local Authority have a resource panel meeting every Tuesday with multi-agency representation,
9 To develop & test out options for community-based refuge provision	To develop and evaluate the delivery and costs of flexible, community based emergency accommodation for young runaways	Refuge opened in August 2007. RMBC have entered into an agreement with Safe at last re. placement at the refuge. L.A. Lead Officer for Missing persons is a member of the steering group for the refuge and has been assisting Safe at Last with policy and procedures
10 To increase the capacity of helplines to respond to parents /carers and runaways	To develop child and parent focussed helplines to work more effectively. To answer more calls from runaways and their families To ensure better referrals to other services	Safe at last (12 hrs) and national runaways helpline In place

ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: AN ACTION PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR RUNAWAYS

Ensuring immediate safety

GOAL: Young people who run away will have someone to talk to & a safe place to go		
Action	Detail	progress
11 A clear local police lead to be responsible for missing young persons	Designated officer to be appointed at Basic Command Level to enable police to link more effectively with local services for runaways, develop specialist skills and knowledge about running away and give a more consistent and efficient response to runaways	Bill Thomas appointed to post. This appears to be working very well. There is good communication between B.T. and children's Homes as well as with s/w teams including the young asylum seeking team.
12 Fewer unnecessary calls to the police about young people missing from care	Systems for reporting children missing from care set up to ensure that only those who are genuinely vulnerable are readily identified and reported.	PPU have developed management information across the borough. (I Trace) Regular meetings with managers of children's homes and monthly group meeting. B.T. has attended the residential managers meeting and arranged a training sessions for managers and staff in January 2007
13 Local police forces to develop better accessible & computerised information records	ACPO to spread examples of best practice in case management information systems to all police forces and highlight the benefits. Each Police force to develop better computerised and accessible info. records on all vulnerable missing persons under the age of 18	PPU have developed management information across the borough. (I Trace)

ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: AN ACTION PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR RUNAWAYS

Providing longer-term support

GOAL: Young people & their families get access to follow-up help & support when young people return to home or care		
Action	Detail	progress
14 To provide return welfare interviews	Runaways, particularly the most vulnerable should be provided with timely and sensitive interviews after running away, to identify any longer term needs	Safe at last providing 100% service Police making progress but continue to experience some difficulties re. capacity
15 A common approach to ensure better referrals to social services	To reduce the number of young people who are inappropriately referred to social services. To ensure that local agencies share information about young runaways.	Common Assessment Framework Training has been rolled out across the borough. The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a key part of delivering frontline services that are integrated and focused around the needs of children and young people. The CAF is a standardised approach to conducting an assessment of a child's additional needs and deciding how those needs should be met. It can be used by practitioners across children's services in England. The CAF will promote more effective, earlier identification of additional needs, particularly in universal services. It is intended to provide a simple process for a holistic assessment of a child's needs and strengths, taking account of the role of parents, carers and environmental factors on their development. Practitioners will then be better placed to agree, with the child and family, about what support is appropriate.

Original plan april 2006
Updated June 2008
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ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: AN ACTION PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR RUNAWAYS

		The CAF will also help to improve integrated working by promoting co-ordinated service provision.
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ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: AN ACTION PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR RUNAWAYS

Helping 16-17 year olds who can no longer live at home

GOAL: 16-17 year olds make a successful transition to independence		
Action	Detail	progress
16 to provide better supported accommodation for vulnerable 16-17 year olds	<p>Local housing authority and Children and Young People's services to work in partnership when assessing the needs of vulnerable 16-17 year olds.</p> <p>Ensure that homeless strategy takes into account the needs of all homeless groups including vulnerable 16-17 year olds.</p> <p>Ensure that 'Supporting People' and homeless strategies provide appropriate accommodation and housing related support options for vulnerable and homeless 16-17 year olds.</p>	<p>Appropriate officer within housing service attends weekly resource panel for young persons referred for service. Representative from Leaving Care team attends the resource panel meeting also. Both reps. Above attend monthly missing from home and care group meeting.</p>
17 to provide better financial support	<p>To review and improve the financial support systems for vulnerable 16-17 year olds.</p> <p>To make information re. benefits, etc. clearer</p>	<p>Leaving Care Services to ensure that young care leavers are supported re. financial issues</p> <p>Housing and benefit advice officers to do same for non looked after young people</p>
18 to improve access to learning or training	<p>To increase young people's opportunities to access mainstream learning and training through a more flexible and individual centred route.</p>	<p>Appropriate person from Education and lifelong learning services to be identified.</p>

ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: AN ACTION PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR RUNAWAYS

Making things change

GOAL: There is activity in every local area on runaways which is improving their safety & reducing running.		
Action	Detail	progress
19 Services to have clear local agreements on duties & responsibilities for runaways from home & care	Local areas to have agreements (protocols) in place	South Yorkshire running away from care and home joint protocol Launched in July 2005 in place The protocol is currently under review and to be re-launched in 2008
20 Monitoring & evaluation	An advisory group to be instituted	Rotherham runaway multi-agency group to report to safeguarding board in January of each year

M.McDermott: April 2006

Modified June 2008

Original plan april 2006
Updated June 2008
M.McD

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 31st October, 2008
3.	Title:	Impact Assessment of Sexual Exploitation Action Plan
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary:

This paper provides an update on progress across Rotherham around arrangements to protect children and young people from sexual exploitation.

6. Recommendations:

That the content of this report is noted.

7. Proposals and Details:

Working Together, April 2006, states that *'The LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children Board) should actively enquire into the extent to which children are involved in prostitution in the local area. They should assume that it is a local issue unless there is clear evidence to the contrary'*. In other words there needs to be a recognition that sexual exploitation of young people is a national issue and its management requires both a national and local strategic response.

Rotherham's response to the above was to develop a Multi Agency Action Plan and to robustly consider and revise where appropriate, arrangements and processes between key agencies in dealing with children and young people at risk. Scrutiny originally reviewed the Action Plan in 2006. Reports to the LSCB and monitoring by the Sexual Exploitation Steering Group has required regular updates of the Action Plan and the latest of these, from March 2008, is attached. The most recent meeting of the Sexual Exploitation Steering Group has confirmed that a further update is to be prepared and submitted to its next meeting. Additional or updated notes to those contained within the attached Action Plan are referenced below where pertinent.

Key areas of note in relation to protecting children and young people from sexual exploitation are noted below:

- **Structures** - A multi agency Sexual Exploitation Steering Group has continued to meet to take forward the Action Plan. The Steering Group is chaired by the Director of Targeted Services in C & YPS and includes senior representatives from the VCS, Neighbourhood and Adult Services, NHS Rotherham, South Yorkshire Police and the C & YPS Safeguarding Unit. In addition a Sexual Exploitation Forum meets to review the operation of the procedures in this area of work. Training, education and sharing of best practice between agencies ensures that the recognition, referral and assessment processes in respect of children and young people at risk are continuously being reviewed and strengthened. Strategy meetings are held to plan the most appropriate response to ensure the welfare of individual young people who are assessed as being at risk of sexual exploitation.
- **Risky Business Project** - This continues to be the main multi agency resource for the borough and, in the integration of C & YPS, sits within the Directorate of Targeted Services. Funding for posts has been secured and / or mainstreamed and we are in the final stages of moving to Town Centre based premises. The Project receives referrals, undertakes assessment of risk and directly intervenes to manage and reduce the risk by working with young people and / or other agencies. As well as direct assessment and intervention, the Project also delivers accredited preventative work with young people in secondary schools and youth service provision. In 07/08 more than 650 young women participated in preventative group work within or outside of schools and the total number of young people who benefited from preventative work via the training package delivered in schools was in excess of 4,200. Risky Business Project also participates and delivers training to other professionals which included in 07/08 Foster Carers, Magistrates, PCSOs, Youth Work etc.

- In 07/08 C & YPS Front Desk had 118 contacts which included elements of concern about risk from sexual exploitation; 59 Of these benefitted from direct prevention work with Risky Business. All these contacts were appropriately assessed. There are currently 2 young people subject to child protection plans in which the family's inability to protect them from sexual exploitation is a factor.
- **Activity** – As per the action plan we have been proactive in a number of areas, some examples of which are given below;
 - The use of letters served by the police under the section 2 of the Abduction Act on males as a result of investigations, with a breach of requirements laid out within the letters being an arrestable offence. In addition the police are currently in the final stages of proactively making use of Risk of Sexual Harm Orders: 2003 Sexual Offences Act, which are seen to be a vital tool in the risk management of potential perpetrators.
 - Another joint police and social care wide range investigation in 2007 resulted in a male receiving a significant custodial sentence. The degree and quality of the multi agency working in this very complex and very drawn out case was rightly commended by the trial judge and is being held up as a model of excellent practice.
 - A multi agency response to concerns in a particular part of the borough and the receiving of some young people to a 'place of safety' and subject to further assessment has recently been reviewed and a report considered by the Sexual Exploitation Steering Group. Much good practice was noted but just as importantly, the learning from this exercise was identified and plans put in place to ensure that such future activity is even more effective and scrupulous.
- Other work that has been taken forward within the Action Plan involves establishing a texting service for young males (under 18) who may be caught up in sexual exploitation. This is an area which requires and is getting further exploration and analysis to determine whether there is an issue within the borough in relation to this.
- This winter will see the launch of a 'publicity' programme whereby young people are targeted with detail of how they can receive advice and / or support should they feel in any way exploited, intimidated or fearful of any form of exploitation. This will be done by posters in key places where young people gather, youth facilities, toilet areas in nightclubs etc. The Sexual Exploitation Steering Group will oversee and monitor the effectiveness of this campaign by the use of a dedicated phone number on the posters and leaflets.

8. Finance:

C & YPS have secured funding for staff at Risky Business, multi agency training is managed through the LCSB training budget, and ongoing operational issues such as the campaign referred to above are dealt with and managed within the Steering

Group in a multi agency way. There are no direct financial implications to consider other than an acknowledgement that, on a multi agency basis, this is a key and important area of work for all and that therefore, because cost pressures exist for all partners, it is imperative that we continue to prioritise the work in the face of competing demands.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

Sexual exploitation is an area that every Local Authority is required to address unless there is clear evidence to the contrary. Rotherham has developed some good services and resources and any reduction would significantly impact on the effective management and intervention in what is known to be an extremely damaging form of child abuse. The strengthening of processes to accurately report the extent of the problem within Rotherham has informed planning for the stabilisation and further development of the existing resources.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

Local procedures are in line with national guidance and actions within the action plan are being progressed.

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

Working together to safeguard children – 2006
Report to the Safeguarding Children Board – June 2008
Reports and papers to Sexual Exploitation Steering Group – ongoing.

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ROTHERHAM'S SEXUAL EXPLOITATION ACTION PLAN 2007-2009 – Progress as at 28th March 2008

Number	Action	Date To Be Completed By	Lead Officer(s)	Completion/Progress
1	<p>The Risky Business Project will become a multi-agency resource by September 2006.</p> <p>Paper to be prepared reviewing the targeted work of Risky Business within the context of integrated services.</p>	To be revised: June 2008	Pam Allen Simon Perry Viv Woodhead	<p>Funding for one post has been secured through MTFS. Another post secured through Connexions contract.</p> <p>Further work has taken place. Some posts within Risky Business have now been mainstreamed securing the core functions of the Project.</p> <p>Work is increasingly taking place within a multi-agency context.</p> <p>The Project will be considered within the context of the Integration Agenda.</p>

Number	Action	Date To Be Completed By	Lead Officer(s)	Completion/Progress
2	Further consideration will be given to the needs of young boys for services who may be at risk of sexual exploitation and recommendations made by the end of March 2008.	1 April 2008 Revised date to be set by GS	Simon Perry	Text contact service with an identified worker in place. Launch and promotional materials being finalised. Pilot to be undertaken to offer service and begin to establish the level of demand.
3	The Forum will make proposals to the Safeguarding Board about a campaign to highlight the risks and dangers associated with sexual exploitation.	Revised: January 2008	Viv Woodhead Jayne Senior Steve Pearson	Launch undertaken in May 2007 of e-version of Parenting Handbook which includes sexual exploitation. Members Seminar undertaken in June 2007.
4	The Sexual Exploitation Forum will produce an annual report and report to the Safeguarding Board	June 2008	Viv Woodhead	Report produced in June 2007, report in 2008 to be produced by Sexual Exploitation Steering Group.
5	The Assistant Safeguarding Manager will work with colleagues in Housing and Licensing to make further proposals around safe accommodation and safe transport in respect of issues of sexual exploitation.	Revised: November 2008	Viv Woodhead Katie Giller Angela Smith	Completed Properties were considered but funding not available. Need to revisit this area.

Number	Action	Date To Be Completed By	Lead Officer(s)	Completion/Progress
				<p>Housing and Licensing staff included in training. Very good take up of places. Training to be offered on an annual basis.</p> <p>Plans for campaigns with Licensed Premises and Licensed Vehicle associations were taken forward during Autumn 2007. This work is in progress.</p> <p>Number of beds for vulnerable young people available through Supporting People increased.</p> <p>Also, Safe at Last has two beds which can be accessed on an emergency basis.</p>

Number	Action	Date To Be Completed By	Lead Officer(s)	Completion/Progress
6	The new Multi-Agency Team would benefit from centrally located premises in order to increase accessibility.	Revised: September 2008	Simon Perry Pam Allen Angela Smith George Simpson	Resources yet to be identified to allow this to move forward. Funding of accommodation to be revisited by September 2008. Discussions are being undertaken as part of Integration agenda.
7	Steering Group to broaden its membership and include representation from Health, Police and the Voluntary Sector	Revised: July 2007	Joyce Thacker Pam Allen	Joyce Thacker to revisit Terms of Reference for the Steering Group and check appropriateness. Viv Woodhead To ensure there is cross-communication between the Steering Group, the Forum and operational staff. Completed

Number	Action	Date To Be Completed By	Lead Officer(s)	Completion/Progress
8	Increasing activity against those adults identified as posing a risk of Sexual Exploitation to children	Revised: March 2008	Viv Woodhead DI Tim Staniforth Pam Allen	<p>Where viable the use of Abduction Orders, ASBOs and Prosecution, also by encouraging and supporting young people to provide "Achieving Best Evidence" Interviews. This is ongoing. Evidence of some effective joint working in 207.</p> <p>A high profile successful joint Police/Social Care investigation was an excellent example of what working together can achieve.</p> <p>Police and Safeguarding are liaising with counterparts in Sheffield looking towards establishing protocols for sharing information across South Yorkshire.</p> <p>Annual event to be planned involving colleagues from the other three South</p>

Number	Action	Date To Be Completed By	Lead Officer(s)	Completion/Progress
				Yorkshire Authorities.
9	To encourage participation of carers and young people in Sexual Exploitation Strategy meetings	Ongoing	Viv Woodhead	All planning meetings have young people involved. Two strategy meetings have involved parents.
10	Design a leaflet for parents to explain the nature of strategy meetings and possible outcomes.	May 2008	Viv Woodhead	Sexual Exploitation Forum has agreed to develop.
11	Consideration to develop help line for advice/support to worried parents.	June 2008	Pam Allen Cath Ratcliffe	
12	Review the self referred work of Risky Business and consider priorities in line with strategy.	June 2008	Simon Perry Chris Brodhurst-Brown Viv Woodhead Pam Allen	
13	Develop a shared understanding with Police on recording perpetrator activity to be useful in potential prosecutions.	June 2008	To be determined by PPU	This is being progressed
14	Consider the level of need for services for post 18 year olds; to inform this work review the work of Risky Business with this age group and request any statistics available from Sheffield, Doncaster and Barnsley.	June 2008	Simon Perry Shona Mcfarlane Chris Brodhurst-Brown Jayne Senior Grow	

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 31st October, 2008
3.	Title:	Secondary School Lifestyle Survey 2008 (Borough Wide) Appendix A – Summary analysis of results of 2008 survey
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary:

The Lifestyle Survey enables Children and Young People’s Services to determine the views of children and young people about various subjects such as being healthy; their current levels of fitness and activities; how they feel about school; whether they are a carer; whether they feel safe or are being bullied; how often they may smoke, drink or take drugs; plus what their views are about sex and relationship education. The survey also includes questions about their neighbourhood in general.

The survey conducted in Secondary Schools is completed by Year 7 and Year 10 pupils over the Summer term and in 2008 with 10 schools out of 16 taking part, over 2248 pupils.

The 2008 Lifestyle Survey for Primary Schools will start on the 20th October and run until 19th December, 2008. The report on the findings will be available in March 2009. This survey is aimed at Year 5 pupils.

The attached Summary at Appendix A provides some brief analysis of the results of the 2008 Secondary Lifestyle Survey.

The borough wide report which includes the findings from the 2008 Secondary School Lifestyle Survey will be made available on the intranet. A summary version of the report will be made available on the Council website.

6. Recommendations:

That Scrutiny Members receive this report.

7. Proposals and Details:

For the third year in 2008, a Lifestyle Survey has been undertaken with children and young people within Secondary Schools, and the primary survey will commence on the 20th October, 2008. The Lifestyle Survey is an on-line annual survey.

The first Lifestyle Survey in 2006 enabled Children and Young People Services to determine a baseline figure for some of the key areas for development such as health, bullying and smoking. These were identified as priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan. The Lifestyle Survey for 2008 continues to seek the views of children and young people about what matters to them.

The results of the 2007 Lifestyle Survey have already enabled us to monitor the impact of any interventions or actions that have been undertaken and the 2008 results will enable us to monitor the impact even further and identify whether trends continue or whether new issues arise. The results of the Lifestyle Survey are used to inform service planning and identify where resources should be targeted within Children and Young People Services, the NHS Rotherham and Schools.

For the Secondary School survey, Year 7 and Year 10 pupils in all Rotherham secondary schools were invited to take part. 10 schools took part in 2008.

The Primary School survey is again a questionnaire but is designed for Year 5 pupils. 587 pupils undertook the survey during the Autumn term of 2007 and 25 primary schools have indicated they wish to take part in the 2008 survey (at least 3 schools per Area Assembly).

In relation to the survey results, a borough wide report and individual school reports are produced. Individual schools will be able to use this information to target resources. Pupils will also receive a feed back newsletter letting them know the significant results for their school. The Healthy Schools Team will be working with schools to look at the results and update their action plans as appropriate. The results will also inform service plans and strategic plans, such as the Children and Young People's Plan.

A project group consisting of representatives from Children and Young People Services, the NHS Rotherham and Healthy Schools organised the design and implementation of the survey. The project group will be looking at developing a survey to enable Special Schools to take part in the survey for 2009.

8. Finance

The financial costs for producing the secondary survey for 2008 are:-

Development of Survey Online	£1311.00
RBT Maintenance for both secondary and primary	£350.00
RBT Database for both secondary and primary	£500.00
Printing Costs: Newsletters for pupils (based on 2007 costs)	£309.93
Posters secondary and primary (based on 2007 costs)	£440.72
Total	£2,911.65

Costs are to be split between PCT (40%) and CYPS (60%). These figures do not include staff time in analysis and writing the reports.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

It is planned to undertake the survey annually and the questions will be reviewed each year. However, the number of surveys each school is asked to complete needs to be monitored in order to ensure there is no duplication and that schools are benefiting from the surveys they take part in.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Given the Lifestyle Survey is conducted on an annual basis we all need to make sure the results are used to monitor or improve services for children and young people.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Lifestyle Survey Report 2008.

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Secondary School Lifestyle Survey 2008 – Summary of Results

Introduction

The following is a summary of the main headlines that have emerged from the findings of the survey:

- The purpose of the Lifestyle Survey was initially to provide a baseline of information to feed into the Children and Young People's Plan. The purpose of this year's survey is to monitor the impact of actions taken as a result of the previous year's findings and use the results to inform service development and improvement in Children and Young People's Services, the NHS Rotherham and schools.
- The individual results will be fed back to the schools participating in the survey. This will provide data that may highlight areas of success or concern and so enable them to target resources accordingly.
- The survey was conducted in June and July 2008 during the summer term.
- Year 7 and Year 10 pupils in all Rotherham secondary schools were invited to take part and 10 schools participated.
- The survey was designed online by RBT and every school was sent the online link and also a pack containing instructions and letters for parents.

General

The responses to the survey in 2008 consisted of 1065 Year 7 pupils and 1183 Year 10 pupils. The respondents had a gender split of 53% female pupils and 47% male pupils.

86% of the young people who participated in the survey considered themselves to be White British. The remaining young people considered themselves to be Asian or Asian British 7%, Other BME 6% and 1% preferred not to answer.

1. Be Healthy

Over the last three years almost 10% more male pupils felt their health was very good compared to female pupils. 13% of Year 7 pupils (15% in 2007) and 14% of Year 10 (11% in 2007) considered themselves to have a long term illness, health problem or disability.

1.1 Food and Drink

- 12% of young people stated that they eat no fruit and 14% eat no vegetables at all.
- In 2008, 71% of Year 7 pupils ate the recommended five + portions per day and 52% of Year 10 pupils ate the recommended five + portions per day.

- The percentage of all pupils drinking no water has decreased from 16% in 2007 to 13%.
- The percentage of pupils eating breakfast at home rose slightly from 70% (2007) to 73%.
- The number of pupils not eating breakfast decreased from 21% in 2007 to 18%. The most significant difference being that the number of Year 10 females not eating breakfast decreased from 34% in 2007 to 28% in 2008. A similar drop is reflected in the results for Year 10 males.
- 2% of females and 4% of males had no lunch in Year 7 and by Year 10 this had risen to 10% of females and 9% of males. This has risen year on year since 2006 for both male and female Year 10 pupils.

1.2 Activities and Fitness

- There continues to be a drop in the number of young people taking part in between 4-7 or 7+ sessions of exercise or physical activity per week of around 10% between Year 7 and Year 10.
- The top five choices for sports/physical activities are; swimming (60%), walking or walking the dog (52%), cycling (49%), football (47%) and golf (41%).
- Only 18% of female pupils take part in sport/exercise on most days on a lunchtime at school compared with 34% of male pupils. 63% of pupils stated they 'never' take part in sport and exercise at an organised club at lunchtime on a school day.
- 31% of Year 7 pupils and 22% of Year 10 pupils state that they never do sport and exercise in lesson time.
- 13% of Year 7 pupils take part in sport and exercise at an organised club after school on 'most days' compared to 10% who are taking part in Year 10.
- 60% of female pupils and 64% of male pupils would like to do more sport and exercise in school.
- 60% of Year 7 pupils and 46% of Year 10 pupils take part in sport and exercise out of school on 'most days'.
- 62% of Year 7 pupils and 54% of Year 10 pupils stated that they would like to take part in more sport and exercise out of school.
- 40% of pupils undertake sport and exercise with an adult from their family, the same as in 2007. There has been an increase of 6% in the percentage of Year 7 girls who do sport and exercise with an adult from their family.
- 'Having more time' and 'having facilities that I can get to easily' have been the most popular answers for the last 3 years when asked what was needed to increase the amount of exercise participated in, regardless of age or gender.

- In 2007 43% of Year 7 pupils compared with 33% of Year 10 pupils thought that to increase fitness they would need to enjoy school P.E. The results in 2008 are relatively similar.

1.3 What you think and feel

- Year 7 pupils generally felt good about their 'family', 'friendships' and 'home life', with all these areas scoring over 68%. The percentage who felt that 'school work' was good was significantly lower at 48%.
- Year 10 pupils again generally felt good about their 'family', 'friendships' and 'home life', with all these areas scoring over 53%. The issue of 'school work' being good again was significantly lower at 39%.
- In Year 10 only 19% of female pupils feel good about their weight compared to 41% of male Year 10 pupils. Also in Year 10, 48% of female pupils and 59% of male pupils feel good about their home life.
- The views of Year 10 pupils were generally more negative than those of the Year 7 pupils, with significantly lower numbers feeling good about their 'family' and 'home life'.
- More boys overall were happy with the way they looked and their weight than girls from both year groups.
- 71% of female pupils in Year 7 can talk to an adult at home. By Year 10 this has dropped to 50%.
- 2% of all pupils overall said that they were 'never' happy while 3% of all pupils said that they were 'never' content/OK. Male pupils in both Year 7 and 10 were more likely to be 'never' happy/content.
- 21% of all Year 10 pupils said that they 'often' felt stressed compared with 15% of all Year 7 pupils.
- Over 59% of all pupils, in 2008, were 'often' happy compared with 64% of pupils in 2007 and 68% of pupils in 2006.
- 52% of all pupils stated that they were 'sometimes' worried, compared to 56% in 2007 and 62% in 2006.

1.4 Smoking, Drinking and Drugs

- Results showed that smoking rates increased with age and that females are more likely to be regular smokers than male pupils.
- 68% of all Year 7 pupils have never tried cigarettes, compared to 75% in 2007, with no significant difference in the gender split.

- 40% of Year 10 female pupils have smoked cigarettes, although around half of these have only tried it once. 12% of female Year 10 pupils smoke on a daily basis as opposed to 9% of male pupils.
- The number of pupils overall smoking between 1-5 cigarettes every day has risen significantly in comparison to 2007. The most noticeable increase is with Year 10 males smoking 20+ cigarettes every day.
- The numbers of pupils wanting help to stop smoking has increased since 2007.
- The majority of Year 7 pupils had either never tried alcohol or only tried it once, but with a reduced number falling from 69% in 2007 to 54% in 2008.
- In Year 10 the percentage of pupils who have never tried alcohol or tried it only once falls to 22% (30% in 2007).
- 6% (6% in 2007) of Year 7 pupils drink alcohol on a weekly basis compared with 27% (30% in 2007) Year 10 pupils.
- In both 2007 and 2008, 1% of Year 7 pupils claim to drink on a daily basis. This figure rises to 3% for Year 10 pupils.
- In 2006, 2007 and 2008, analysis shows that as young people get older the number of units they consume increases. The number of pupils who consume 1-10 units per week has almost doubled since 2007. This is consistent in both year groups and genders. The biggest increase from 2007 is for Year 10.
- The numbers of pupils who feel they had a problem with alcohol consumption has risen considerably in 2008. In both year groups more males than females thought that they had a problem.
- 78 (20 in 2007) young people over both year groups felt that they needed help to stop drinking.
- Year 7 pupils identified alcopops, lager and beer as their preferred choice of alcoholic drinks. Year 10 pupils preferred alcopops, sprits and lager.
- 72% of pupils had never tried any of the illegal drugs listed in the survey, compared with 89% in 2007 and 91% in 2006.
- 62% of Year 10 pupils had 'never' tried drugs compared to 86% of Year 10 pupils in 2007 and 93% in 2006.
- Solvents were the drug most commonly tried or regularly used by all pupils, although this figure was still low below 5%.

1.5 Sexual Health

- Around a third of pupils felt they had been taught about contraception at the right time. Only 40% of females and 38% of males felt they had been taught about pregnancy at the right time.

- Pupils were asked who they would go to for advice on sexual health issues and their friends, parent/carer/family member and doctor were the top three choices.

2. Stay Safe

2.1 Bullying

- 14% of pupils stated that they had been bullied within the last four weeks prior to the survey. There are more Year 7 pupils than Year 10 pupils being bullied and more male than female pupils.
- The three most common types of bullying were verbal bullying, being ignored and physical bullying.
- Significantly more Year 7 pupils are likely to report an incident of bullying than Year 10 pupils. More Year 7 pupils felt that they had received help and support than Year 10 pupils.
- Overall, 33% of female pupils compared to 38% of male pupils witnessed someone being bullied. 42% of Year 10 males have witnessed someone being bullied.
- 6% of all pupils answered that they have been involved in bullying someone else - 3% of female pupils and 9% of male pupils.

2.2 Safety

- 67% of pupils always feel safe 'at home', 32% 'out with friends', 29% 'on the way to and from school' and only 23% always feel safe 'in school'.
- 9% (8% in 2007) of Year 7 pupils and 7% (10% in 2007) of Year 10 pupils never feel safe at school.
- 13% of Year 7 males never feel safe at school. This drops to 9% of Year 10 males. 32% of Year 7 pupils never feel safe 'out by myself'.
- 21% of all pupils never feel safe in Rotherham Town Centre, and 23% of Year 7 females never feel safe on local buses and trains.

3. Enjoy and Achieve

3.1 In School

- The majority of pupils enjoy school at least part of the time but more males 15% (13% in 2007) never enjoy school compared to females 6% (9% in 2007).
- In both 2007 and 2008 around 50% of both year and gender groups felt that they achieved good marks most of the time. Around 3% of both year and gender groups stated that they never achieved good marks.

- In 2007 significantly more Year 7 female pupils 'always' try their best than Year 10 female pupils. This gap is reduced in 2008 but remains significant.
- 34% of male Year 7 pupils (down from 40% in 2007), 'always' try their best at school compared to 19% of Year 10 males (23% in 2007).
- 16% more Year 7 than Year 10 pupils 'always' try their best at school.
- 86% of Year 7 (92% in 2007) and 84% of Year 10 pupils (89% in 2007) would like more fun/interesting lessons to help them do better at school.
- More Year 10 pupils than Year 7 pupils wanted smaller class groups. More females than males wanted quieter/better behaved classes.
- 12% more Year 7 pupils compared to Year 10 pupils would like more help from family/friends.
- 19% more Year 7 male pupils compared to Year 10 male pupils would like fewer bullies to help them do better at school. This is an increase of 9% from last year's results.
- 69% of all pupils answered positively to knowledge about their School Council. This shows a significant drop of 14% in awareness over the last three surveys (79% in 2007, 83% in 2006).
- 50% of pupils stated that they knew the name of their School Council representative, but only 45% of these pupils felt that their views were represented. By Year 10 there is a significant increase in the number of young people who did not feel their views were represented.

4. Make a Positive Contribution

4.1 Out of School

- 'Out with or visiting friends' and "out with or visiting family' remain firmly established as the top two favourite activities to do out of school.
- The majority of all pupils watch television/DVD's/video's for between 1 and 4 hours per day. There are no overall significant differences in viewing times between either gender or year groups, but females are more likely to watch for 1-2 hours per day and males for 4 plus hours per day.
- 70% of all pupils use the internet 'every or most days', with the overall figure for Year 7 pupils being 64% rising to 75% for all Year 10 pupils.
- The percentage of pupils using chat rooms 'every or most days' reduced from 30% to 22% for Year 7 pupils overall and from 41% to 23% for Year 10 pupils overall. This drop may be because the choice 'socialising sites' has been included as an additional question in 2008.

- Over 47% of Year 7 pupils (52% in 2007) compared to 39% of Year 10 pupils (40% in 2007), played on games consoles 'every or most days'. The gender split is significant with 27% (28% in 2007) of female pupils as opposed to 61% (64% in 2007) of male pupils playing 'every or most days'.
- Usage of games consoles every day decreases significantly from Year 7 to Year 10 females but remains constant for male pupils across both year groups.
- Both Year 7 and Year 10 female pupils use MSN (on line messaging service), 'every or most days', more than their male counterparts. 63% of Year 10 females use MSN "every or most days'.
- As with MSN, both Year 7 and Year 10 female pupils use Socialising sites, 'every or most days', more than their male counterparts. 63% of Year 10 females use socialising sites 'every or most days'.
- There is an upward trend in the number of pupils who stated that they worked for money on 'every or most days", from 8% in 2006, to 9% in 2007, to 13% in 2008. The majority of pupils in both year groups and gender groups 'never' work for money.
- 14% of pupils stated that they look after younger children unpaid, on 'every or most days' which is a 1% increase on the 2007 survey and a 3% increase on the 2006 survey. The gender split is very similar in Year 7 pupils, but 7% more female pupils in Year 10 look after younger children unpaid, on 'every or most days' than male Year 10 pupils.
- 5% stated that they worked unpaid looking after an older relative, on 'every or most days' which is the same as for 2007. 6% stated that they worked unpaid looking after an older relative, once a week which is 1% less than last year.
- The most common answer as to who pupils look after on an unpaid basis is brothers/sisters. In contrast more male pupils in both Years 7 and 10 look after their mother/father than female pupils.
- The majority of pupils were not aware of the Young Carers Service.
- Pupils would be most likely to talk to a Teacher about being a carer, followed by a Youth Worker and a Learning Mentor.

5. Achieve Economic Wellbeing

5.1 Leaving School

- The majority of both year groups and gender groups hope to study and go to university when they leave school, although the number of pupils wanting to do this drops slightly from Years 7 to Year 10, in particular for the male pupils.
- The next most popular option for both year groups is to 'study and get a job at 18', closely followed by 'get a job at 16'. This is similar to the results from the 2007 survey.

5.2 Your Local Neighbourhood

- Overall 31% of pupils rated their school as 'good', 26% the local bus service, 21% shops and 21% parks and playgrounds. However, when added together 63% of pupils felt that their school was 'good' or 'OK'.
- 46% of Year 10 pupils felt that 'things for young people to do' were not very good in their area.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
Friday, 3rd October, 2008

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

Also in attendance were:- Mr. M. Hall (Community Representative), Father A. Hayne (Diocese of Hallam) and Ms. T. Guest.

Apologies were received from Councillors Currie and Hughes and Mrs. J. Blanch-Nicholson and Mrs. D. Booth.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

39. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

40. MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE YOUTH CABINET

The Scrutiny Panel noted National Holocaust Day in January, 2009 and welcomed the information to be sent to all Members.

41. COMMUNICATIONS

- (a) The Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee had agreed to support the £11 million Takeover Day on the 7th November, 2008 which would allow the Youth Cabinet to set the agenda and takeover the meeting.
- (b) The Co-optees Mentoring Scheme was also being promoted with a link to an Elected Member. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Caroline Webb in the Scrutiny Office.

42. 'MY PLACE'

Consideration was given to a report concerning the Government's Capital Investment Programme entitled 'My Place', which was making available grants of between £1 million and £5 million to develop twenty-first century youth facilities in local areas. The programme had £190 million to allocate, with £160 million due to be committed in 2008 and a further £30 million in Spring, 2009. 'My Place' was designed to enhance the Government's "Aiming High for Young People: A Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities" Agenda, by responding to what was described as a "clear ongoing demand" from young people, parents and communities for more and better places for young people to go.

The 'My Place' project was being managed by the Big Lottery Fund, on

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behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Initial expressions of interest were required by 30th September, 2008 from which successful candidates would be decided by February, 2009, and subsequently invited to a second round and a far more detailed and substantive submission. Indications were that successful bids were likely to be awarded between £2 million and £3 million.

The report stated that Rotherham's proposal was to submit a bid for the building of a twenty-first century youth facility near to the Rotherham town centre. The suggested preferred option was for the voluntary sector (possibly YMCA in partnership with Voluntary Action Rotherham) to become the lead partner for the "My Place" development, with the Borough Council acting as a strategic partner and donating/leasing the land.

The Scrutiny Panel also received a presentation by two former members of the Rotherham Youth Cabinet, Lydia and Andrew, Young Advisers appointed by Children and Young People's Services to work on the agenda of the voice and influence of young people in strategy and service delivery and the consultation exercise undertaken on the 'My Place' project.

The presentation drew attention to:-

- The role of Young Advisers.
- Big Lottery Fund to delivery on behalf of the D. C. S. F.
- The bid to meet the 'My Place' objectives to be successful.
- The story so far.
- Discussion with young people.
- Submitting the application and consultation.
- Regular meetings with the Architect to consider feedback.
- Bid submitted on the 29th September, 2008.

A discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were raised and clarified:-

- Support from Council Directorates.
- Potential sites and transport links.
- Application details and the draft sketches submitted.
- Contributions and ambitious plans submitted by young people.
- Internal layout and accessibility.
- Focus on being totally inclusive for all young people.
- Other 'My Place' projects in the country.
- Responsibility and sustainability of the premises and partnership agreements.
- Remit and age range of the 'My Place' project.
- Consultation process and inclusion of hard to reach groups.

Resolved:- (1) That Lydia and Andrew be thanked for their very informative presentation.

(2) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(3) That further reports be submitted to Elected Members, as soon as the outcome of the initial expression of interest was available.

43. BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

The Director of Resources and Access made a presentation to the Scrutiny Panel about the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) 'Transforming Learning' programme.

The presentation drew specific attention to:-

- What was BSF.
- Rotherham's BSF Programme.
- Timescales.
- Principles.
- Broad Aim – to deliver outstanding outcomes and provision for all learners.
- To create learning environments that would accelerate this transformation.
- Strategy for Change.
- Diversity, Choice and Access,
- Rotherham Learning Partnership.
- Transforming Learning.
- Academy Status for Maltby Comprehensive School.
- Co-location of Hilltop School on the comprehensive school campus and the amalgamation of the adjacent infant and junior schools.
- Integrated Schools.

A discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were raised and clarified:-

- The building of world class schools and facilities as opposed to demolishing and rebuilding a school.
- Appointment of a Design Consultant and Design Champion.
- Inclusion of voluntary aided schools in the BSF Programme.
- Long term funding of the project.
- Logistics of change and minimisation of disruption to pupils to prevent them being adversely affected.
- Scrutiny Review – Use of Council Buildings.
- Use of the schools by the wider community and the arrangements for this to take place.
- Extra vehicular traffic around a multi-school campus.
- Overcrowding and ability of the school to deal and cope with demand.
- Pupil place planning.
- Lead in time and timescales for delivery.

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- Costs associated with each phase of development.
- Government guarantees and the impact of any change.
- Sustainability of the new schools.
- Specialist schools and the transportation of young people across the borough.
- Investment in the school building programme and the contribution to environmental climate change.
- Traffic generation at both primary and secondary schools and the plans to reduce this.
- School travel plans.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services welcomed the questions and input from the Scrutiny Panel, but pointed out that it was a long slow process, which potentially was a £170 million investment into the infrastructure of Rotherham's schools.

It was equally important to secure this funding in order to provide Rotherham's children with modern facilities to improve their education and attainment.

Resolved:- (1) That the Director of Resources and Access be thanked for his informative presentation.

(2) That the contents of the presentation be noted.

(3) That consideration be given to the contents of the report into the Scrutiny Review – Use of School Buildings.

(4) That consideration be given to setting up a joint meeting with Regeneration Scrutiny Panel with a further report being submitted on the progress of travel plans for schools across the borough.

44. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - BUDGET OUTTURN 2007/2008 AND LOOKING FORWARD TO 2009/2010

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Resources and Access, which detailed how the Children and Young People's Service Directorate Outturn (excluding schools delegated budgets) for 2007/08 showed an overspend of £573,265 against a net cash limited budget of £32,897,245. This represented a variation of 1.74%.

This outturn was before adjusting for the carry-forward of traded balances (£616,431 deficit). The adjusted variance to budget was £43,166 underspent (0.13%).

In addition to the above, the report detailed earmarked balances to a value of £19,030. Approval had been given to carry forward the earmarked balances. The adjusted outturn for Children and Young People's Service after carrying forward the earmarked balances was an

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underspend against budget of £24,136. An additional request to retain £4,827 (20%) for the Service's use in 2008/09 was in line with the new carry-forward policy.

A summary of the outturn position for the Directorate was provided in addition to schools' balances, which drew specific attention to the overspend for Looked After Children and the challenges facing the Adoption and Fostering Service.

There was also a Building Schools for the Future resource commitment, which was required in order to deliver the programme, with support from Council and school budgets to support this.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were raised and subsequently clarified:-

- Surplus of school budgets.
- Large forecasted overspend IN 2008/09 for Children and Young People's Services and whether the budget would be adjusted for future years.
- National shortage of foster carers and the marketing campaign being proposed in Rotherham.
- Statutory duty as "Corporate Parent" to meet the needs of looked after children and the challenges of predicting future demand.
- Strategy to address the challenges facing the Directorate.

Resolved:- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.

(2) That further information be provided to this Scrutiny Panel on the marketing drive and recruitment campaign of fosters carers in Rotherham.

(3) That further updates on the budget process be submitted to this Scrutiny Panel in due course.

45. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 5TH SEPTEMBER 2008

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel held on 5th September, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

46. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2008

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 12th September, 2008 be noted.

47. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended (information relating to financial or business affairs).

48. SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Principal Catering Officer which provided an overview of the report produced by PriceWaterhouseCooper (PwC) on the School Meals Catering Service, the key recommendations of the report and the actions taken by the School Meals Catering Service to address those recommendations.

The subsequent PwC report recognised the financial pressures impacting on the School Meals Catering Service and identified additional specific factors which, if addressed, would contribute towards the delivery of a sustainable and strategic service. These included:-

- Comparison of Meal Take Up 2004-05 to 2007-08.
- Finance.
- Key Issues of the PwC Report.
- Response to PwC Report.
- Strategic Direction.
- Operational.
- Financial Sustainability.
- Proposals to be Implemented in the Future.
- Current Position.

A discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were raised and subsequently clarified:-

- Comparison of meal take-up between schools and performance data.
- Pressures on revenue, priority and value for money.
- Economies of scale and menu choice.
- Best practice visits to improved school meal take-up areas.
- New menu to be introduced during November, 2008.
- Take up of free school meal places.
- Cultural diversity of some schools and the challenges to provide choice for all.
- Opinions and feedback from parents regarding school dinners.
- Taster sessions with parents and their viability.
- Staffing levels.
- Composting and recycling of school meal waste.
- Links with the Obesity Strategy.
- Number of schools restricting egress at lunchtime.

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

(2) That a report be submitted to this Scrutiny Panel in six months time with an update on the service with data on school meal take-up.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SCRUTINY SUB-PANEL
Wednesday, 24th September, 2008

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dodson, J. Hamilton, McNeely, P. A. Russell and from Mr. P. Owen.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12TH DECEMBER 2007

Agreed:- (1) That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel, held on 12th December, 2007, be approved as a correct record.

(2) That, with regard to Minute No. 6 (Performance Indicators Affecting Looked After Children), the Scrutiny Sub-Panel noted details of the current position concerning the recruitment, appointment and retention of qualified social workers, as well as the use of the multi-disciplinary Locality Teams.

(3) That progress reports about the following items be submitted to the next meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel:-

minute number 4 – Offending by Looked After Children

minute number 5 – Work Placements for Looked After Children

3. LAC COUNCIL

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Looked After Children Service Manager, stating that the Care Matters agenda contained a number of recommendations which were to be incorporated into the forthcoming amendments to the Children Act 1989, due in 2009. An Action Plan and Implementation guidance had been published, giving clear timescales for development.

The report stated that a key requirement was the development of a Looked After Children's Council, which will meet with Directors and Elected Members, including Members of this Scrutiny Sub-Panel, in order to ensure their involvement in shaping and developing all aspects of the Borough Council's service to Looked After Children. This work should begin with the development of the Borough Council's "promise" to all of the Looked After Children.

A number of issues were discussed:-

- the composition of the Looked After Children's Council and the representation of the young people themselves (including care leavers);
- the first meeting of Looked After Children's Council would take place during the Autumn, 2008;
- ways of ensuring that the Borough Council would be informed of and would respond to the issues raised by the Looked After Children's Council;
- the role of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel in regularly monitoring the progress of the Looked After Children's Council.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the establishment of the Looked After Children's Council be welcomed.

(3) That a meeting of all members of this Scrutiny Sub-Panel and the Looked After Children's Council (including care leavers) be arranged to take place during one evening in January, 2009.

(4) That progress reports about the Looked After Children's Council be submitted at regular intervals to this Scrutiny Sub-Panel.

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in those paragraphs, indicated below, of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

5. LEAVING CARE AND ACCOMMODATION TENDER OUTCOMES

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Looked After Children Service Manager concerning the Leaving Care Service and Care Leavers Accommodation service, which have been subject to a service tender.

The report stated that Action for Children (formerly NCH, the National Children's Homes charity) is the current provider of the Leaving Care service and part of the accommodation service. In order to provide a more streamlined and best value accommodation provision, the accommodation service currently managed by Action for Children and the post 16 residential provision at Hollowgate, off Moorgate, Rotherham (currently managed by the Borough Council) were all amalgamated into one Accommodation service and tendered as a whole.

The Scrutiny Sub-Panel noted that Action for Children had been successful in their tender for both services (minute references No. 67 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on 17th October 2007 and No. 80 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on 31st October 2007).

The report described both the existing service provision and the outcome of the tendering process. The new supported accommodation building at Hollowgate would receive Housing Corporation grant funding. The care leavers who would eventually be resident in the new building were currently staying in other accommodation nearby, for a temporary period until completion of the construction work in 2010.

The Scrutiny Sub-Panel welcomed Mary-Ann Barton, representing Action for Children, who explained the role of the charity in this service provision.

During consideration of this item, the Scrutiny Sub-Panel discussed the entitlement of care leavers to various state benefits and it was agreed that foster carers ought to be informed of the current entitlement.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That arrangements be made for members of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel to make a visit of inspection of the new supported accommodation for care leavers at Hollowgate, on completion of the construction work in 2010.

(Exempt under Paragraph 3 of the Act – information relating to financial or business affairs)

6. INSPECTION OF FOSTERING SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Looked After Children Service Manager concerning the OFSTED inspection of Rotherham's Fostering Services, which had taken place during the week commencing 19th May, 2008. The report summarised the findings of the inspection. Also submitted to the Scrutiny Sub-Panel was the action plan of the actions required (statutory requirements) and the recommendations made to improve provision. The resource implications of the required actions were contained within the report.

The report stated that there were currently 382 Looked After Children with the Borough Council, of which 267 were in foster care placements with 111 foster carers. The Scrutiny Sub-Panel's consideration of this item included discussion of the following issues:-

- the placement of children and young people with carers, using discretionary regulations to allow placement;

- resource issues and the practice of placing children and young people 'over numbers' in foster placements (eg: keeping sibling groups together and the alternative of having to seek independent fostering placements);
- the further inspection of Rotherham's Fostering Services, by OFSTED, which was scheduled to take place during November, 2008;
- the need to recruit additional foster carers and alternative ways of achieving such recruitment;
- the arrangements for social workers' statutory inspections of the placement homes of Looked After Children.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the contents and the implementation of the Action Plan and recommendations be noted.

(3) That further reports be submitted to the next meeting of the Looked After Children Sub-Panel:-

(a) detailing the outcome of the further inspection, by OFSTED, of Rotherham's Fostering Services; and

(b) describing the operation of the existing arrangements for social workers' statutory inspections of the placement homes of Looked After Children.

(Exempt under Paragraph 2 of the Act – information likely to reveal the identity of an individual)

7. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - STATISTICS AND REGULATION 33 REPORT

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Looked After Children Service Manager containing a statistical profile of Looked After Children in the Rotherham Borough area. The report provided the following details, as at 11th September, 2008:-

- 382 Looked After Children in the Rotherham Borough area (compared with 337 reported at the December, 2007, meeting);
- 29 of these children were allocated to the children's disability team;
- the number of children placed in the various types of care available;
- the incidence of absence from school;
- Out of Authority placements;

- information about the themes and trends resulting from the Regulation 33 visits to residential children's homes.

Further to Minute No. 7(b) of this Sub-Panel's meeting held on 12th December, 2007, the report included information about the education being received by the Looked After Children who were currently absent from school.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the contents of the Regulation 33 Report (visits to residential Children's Homes) be noted.

(3) That a further report be submitted to the next meeting of this Scrutiny Sub-Panel detailing the educational provision for Looked After Children.

(Exempt under Paragraph 2 of the Act – information likely to reveal the identity of an individual)

CHILDREN'S BOARD
Wednesday, 8th October, 2008

Present:- Councillor S. Wright (in the Chair); Andy Buck, Mike Cuff, Jason Harwin, Ann Lawrence, Joyce Thacker and Janet Wheatley.

132. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Matt Jukes.

133. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S BOARD HELD ON 16TH JULY, 2008

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Children's Board held on 16th July 2008 were received as a correct record.

134. MATTERS ARISING

A. It was noted that work was in progress to develop the 14-19 Board, including links with the health agenda.

B. The availability of resources to support a tool kit for schools and other appropriate activities to prevent violent extremism was welcomed.

135. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

A. Reference was made to a recent officer meeting relating to the safeguarding of children.

Agreed:- (1) That an informal review take place of the policies and practices relating to the safeguarding of children.

(2) That Joyce agree the method of this review with the Chair of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board.

B. Reference was made to the economic downturn and its likely impact on children, young people and their families. It was noted that the Corporate Management Team were to review the position shortly.

Agreed:- That this matter be kept under review by the Board.

136. BREASTFEEDING POLICY FOR ROTHERHAM - UNICEF BABY FRIENDLY ACCREDITATION

Andy Buck presented the submitted report outlining that the NHS Rotherham, Rotherham Foundation Hospital Trust (RFHT) and Children's Centre colleagues had developed a joint Breastfeeding Policy as a first step towards gaining UNICEF Accreditation in both the Hospital and Community Settings within the next 3-5 years. An action plan for each

setting has been developed to support this.

Rotherham needed to ensure that all Children's Centres understood their role and accepted the support available. If this did not happen it would be difficult for the NHS Rotherham and LA to achieve Community UNICEF Baby Friendly Accreditation.

Support would be targeted at areas of highest need in the first instance to ensure this activity was linked to the health inequalities agenda.

Board Members welcomed the activity in place and particularly supported increased publicity and social marketing to make mothers more aware of the benefits of breastfeeding.

Agreed:- (1) That the roll out of the Children's Centre Breastfeeding policy be supported.

(2) That the delivery of the UNICEF Baby Friendly Action Plan working in partnership with the NHS Rotherham and RFHT be supported.

(3) That the Scrutiny Review on Breastfeeding be supported.

(4) That increased publicity and social marketing be undertaken wherever possible.

137. CHILDHOOD OBESITY UPDATE

Andy presented the submitted report which updated the Board on the current progress and future plans to tackle childhood obesity in Rotherham.

The report stated the NHS Rotherham's strategy had four elements:

- **Treatment:** developing treatment services to help obese people to reduce their weight.
- **Prevention:** Developing preventative services to assist those of healthy weight to maintain their weight, and to prevent those who are overweight from becoming obese.
- **Environment:** Developing a leptogenic environment, i.e. one that promotes healthy lifestyles.
- **Adaptation:** Ensuring that existing services are able to respond to the needs of the increasingly obese population.

In all of these areas a partnership approach was vital. NHS Rotherham had established multi-agency groups to develop strategies for both childhood and adult obesity and is taking plans through LSP and RMBC structures for an integrated multi-agency approach.

The risk of inaction was that progress towards reducing obesity and life

expectancy targets may be hindered, particularly within the most deprived communities in Rotherham. If we did nothing costs and activity would increase steeply in both primary and secondary care. Tackling obesity would positively impact upon a range of other long term conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

We would increase the appropriate prevention and treatment of obesity in primary care, but we acknowledge that because of the overall increasing prevalence there will continue to be substantial numbers of obese children and young people that will require management by secondary care specialists, and due to the predicted increase in prevalence it is unlikely that we will see significant overall reductions in secondary care activity.

The success of the Carnegie Camp, where the 38 children who attended between them lost over 55 stones, was welcomed.

Reference was also made to supporting the philosophy behind the Jamie Oliver "Ministry of Food" and other professionals who were promoting healthy eating.

Board Members expressed full support for the activities taking place and for any initiatives that would lead to balanced diets and more exercise.

Discussion also took place on the possibility of NHS Rotherham and others supporting the provision of school meals.

Agreed:- (1) That the role and influence on the partnership approach be supported and the childhood obesity programme over the next 3 years be welcomed.

(2) That discussions take place with regard to possible support for the School Meals Service.

138. CHILD POVERTY

Joyce presented the submitted report which stated in 1999 Tony Blair pledged to end Child Poverty within a generation. The Government then made a further commitment in 2007 as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review to eradicate Child Poverty by 2020. It also echoed this in the Children's Plan – Building Brighter futures in December 2007.

The report covered the national picture of poverty in the UK, how Rotherham compared with its Yorkshire Humber and statistical neighbours and looked across the localities in Rotherham at a more detailed picture of poverty and its impact.

Many individual measures existed in their own right and as illustrated could be considered as proxy measures of child poverty. Despite positive efforts to tackle these issues and produce improvements in these

individual and collective measures, the real risk was that this would not impact on financial poverty. The current economic climate and rises in fuel charges presented an immense challenge for our children and families.

Board Members noted that the survey had identified poverty throughout Rotherham and how it impacted on health and well being.

Joyce outlined some next steps that could be taken, possibly including the following :-

- a possible Child Poverty pilot initiative
- the focusing of locality teams on targeting anti-poverty action
- development of good practices in schools
- introduction of training in money management
- developing a range of anti-poverty actions

Agreed:- That the issues presented be supported.

139. LAA 2008-11

Joyce outlined the matters set out in the submitted report which stated the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 imposed the legal duty on councils to work with their Local Strategic Partnership to negotiate a Local Area Agreement with partners and Government. This new agreement will cover the period June 2008 until April 2011.

The report outlined the agreement process for the Local Area Agreement 2008-11 for the Rotherham Partnership and provided details of the associated indicators and targets for Children and Young People's Services.

Successful Partnership ownership of the Agreement was essential for the effective delivery of the Community Strategy and the Agreement. To mitigate against this risk, an extensive process of engagement had taken place ensuring that the Rotherham Partnership, and individual target holders had been involved in all stages of the negotiation process.

A key risk was that the indicators chosen to form the basis of the Agreement were neither simple, measurable, attainable, realistic or achievable within the three year time-scale. To reduce this risk, the negotiation process included an initial check list agreed by Cabinet for short-listing potential indicators the delivery of four structured challenge events that included representatives from Government Office, potential target holders and all key partners; a risk assessment against all 198

potential Indicators undertaken by the Council's Performance and Quality Team and regular reviews of progress by the Chief Executive Officer Group, the Council's Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and the Council's Scrutiny Boards.

Some targets, however, were subject to a stronger stance by Government Office than others and these will remain a challenge for delivery. In terms of CYPS this had the most impact on NI 112 - Under 18 conception rates.

Joyce and Andy made reference to the challenging nature of the targets.

Board Members noted that of the 198 national indicators, 83 relate to children and young people.

Agreed:- (1) That the report and the indicators chosen for the LAA 2008-11 be noted.

(2) That future updates on performance against the LAA be included within the Quarterly Performance Monitoring reports.

140. **READINESS FOR CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS**

Joyce outlined the matters set out in the submitted report which stated that at the July meeting of the Children and Young People's Board it was requested that a report on the readiness for meeting the requirements of Children's Trust Arrangements and NHS Rotherham be provided. The report reminded the Board of the statutory guidance in relation to these arrangements and progress to date in achieving them. It identified outstanding actions and a timescale for completion over the next six months.

The report also set out the actions needed for full integration of services as agreed between RMBC and NHS Rotherham.

The Children Act 2004 required us to establish five essential features of children's trust arrangements, which were:

- A child-centred, outcome-led vision.
- Integrated front line delivery.
- Integrated processes (including common assessment framework and information sharing).
- Integrated strategy (joint planning and commissioning, pooled budgets and shared resources).
- Inter-agency governance.

'Children's trusts put **improved outcomes** for children and young people at the centre of all activity. At every level, children's trusts must be supported by effective leadership arrangements, robust performance management and the involvement of children and young people.'

The full text from the statutory guidance was included in the report.

At the heart of children's trust arrangements was the expectation of a shared agenda to maximise opportunities and minimise risks for all children and young people, with a re-alignment of resources towards prevention and early intervention and targeting to ensure that the gap is narrowed between more disadvantaged children and young people and their peers.

The remainder of the report summarised progress made to date on each of the key features and identified outstanding tasks that should be completed in order to implement children's trust arrangements.

Failure to comply with the requirements of the Children Act (2004) would have a negative impact on the performance of the Council in external inspections. Most importantly, we would increase the risk to children and young people through a failure to join up services in a seamless manner.

The Council and NHS Rotherham were jointly responsible for commissioning children and young people's services. However, the Council and NHS Rotherham each have specific statutory duties. Special arrangements were to be made to ensure that these duties are met by the integrated services.

The Council would continue to do so through its existing governance, management and accountability arrangements.

NHS Rotherham would do so by:

- (a) Reaching a detailed agreement with the Council about the health services to be provided by the new integrated service, including a comprehensive service specification;
- (b) Introducing new performance management and accountability arrangements to ensure that the terms of this agreement are fully met to the satisfaction of the NHS Rotherham Board.

In addition, the Council and NHS Rotherham were agreeing detailed arrangements for the purposes of clinical governance and information governance, thereby building upon the robust systems and processes already operated in both organisations.

All these arrangements would be subject to a legal contract between the Council and NHS Rotherham.

Agreed:- (1) That the assessment of readiness to meet Children's Trust Arrangements from April 2009 and the outstanding actions as set out in the report be noted.

(2) That the key actions set out in the report needed for full integration as agreed between RMBC and NHS Rotherham be noted.

141. MATERNITY ACTION PLAN

Andy submitted a report outlining the progress against the implementation of Maternity Matters.

The report stated that in April 2007 the department of health issued a document called Maternity Matters which outlined the government's 4 choice guarantees. The Healthcare Commission have undertaken a review of all maternity services. The report identified overall improvements needed across the country.

Priority areas for improvement were identified in the report.

To gain an understanding of the baseline and develop a vision for Rotherham, a full needs assessment had been undertaken. This had included:

- A health equity audit which enabled a strong understanding of the needs of Rotherham and highlighted areas which need further resources to reduce infant mortality.
- 3 surveys, seeking patient and staff experiences to gain an understanding of how the service currently operates and how people feel about the service.
- A self assessment of the service has been carried out against standards set out in Maternity Matters to identify where good practice is taking place and any gaps in the service which need to be addressed.

NHS Rotherham had agreed to fund a number of initiatives and these were outlined in the report.

The Rotherham Foundation Trust had also agreed to fund resources to complement present investments and these were also outlined in the report.

Failure to meet the priorities within Maternity Matters would affect our performance rating. – Maternity Matters needed to be implemented by December 2009.

Board Members welcomed the high quality of the Maternity services and their value to the people of Rotherham.

Agreed:- That the vision and direction of the implementation plan be supported.

142. CAMHS STRATEGY

Andy presented the submitted report which stated that in 2004 the National Service Framework (NSF) for Children was released, which contained eleven standards and was viewed as the health contribution to achieving requirements within the Every Child Matters agenda. NSF standard nine focused on the Mental Health and Psychological Well-Being of Children and Young People and gave clear guidance on how CAMHS should be delivered in local settings. The Children's Act 2004 also required Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts to jointly commission services to effectively deliver the NSF standards, as a result of this the multi agency CAMHS Strategy and Partnership Group was fully established in 2006.

Currently CAMHS provision across the borough was commissioned and delivered in the following ways:

- NHS Rotherham Community Health Services managed and provided support into the Single Point of Access team, they also delivered early intervention, advice, consultation and support to patients and staff through a variety of Tier 2 interventions.
- NHS Rotherham Community Health Services delivered therapeutic interventions for children with learning disabilities and moderate to severe mental health problems (Tier 3).
- Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health Trust (RDASH) provided therapeutic interventions for children with complex mental health needs (Tier 3).
- Highly specialised services (Tier 4) are delivered by Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Trust through a regional arrangement via a Yorkshire and Humber Specialist Commissioning group
- Spot purchase provision for children and /or young people who needed services that were not currently provided by commissioned services
- There was also a range of services operating at Tier 1, such as school nursing, health visiting, GPs and paediatricians who actively promoted mental health and emotional well being

The Local Authority commissions:

- Services for looked after children through contracts with NSPCC and Barnados.
- A dedicated service for looked after children at Tier 2
- A one to one intervention service through Rotherham MIND
- Spot purchase arrangements for children and /or young people needing secure accommodation
- There are also a range of services at Tier 1 and 2, such as social workers, youth workers, learning mentors, educational welfare officers and teachers.

Risks and uncertainties were identified as follows:-

- Additional Funding may be required during the life of the strategy especially around accommodation if this can not be identified then a major part of the strategy would be at risk.
- Increased performance management will be required by commissioners to ensure agreed service specifications and funding allocations are being closely monitored, current issues with provider information management systems could cause problems for both commissioners and providers.
- Failure to develop service may result in the NHS Rotherham and Local Authority C&YPS failing in the delivery of existing and new CAMHS PSA (Vital Signs) target.

Agreed:- That the strategy be agreed to reflect both national requirements around CAMHS as evidenced in the National Service Framework for Children and local requirements gained from undertaking consultation and needs assessment work.

143. INDICATORS TO MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF INTEGRATION

Joyce presented the submitted report which set out indicators (11 in total) which had been agreed with Children and Young People's Partners and would be used to measure the success of integrated services.

These indicators in some cases linked very closely to the Local Area Agreement and the National Indicator Set.

Baselines were currently being developed to allow quarterly and yearly (in some cases) monitoring to take place both at a corporate and an Area Assembly level.

These indicators would assist the Partnership in focussing on key areas of development and priorities and would help measure the success of the integration.

Andy asked for time to review these proposals.

Board Members referred to the need to review the role of the locality teams and what outcomes they would achieve.

Agreed:- That consideration of this report be deferred to enable further discussions between the various partners involved.

144. MINUTES OF THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD HELD ON 13TH JUNE, 2008

Key issues from the minutes of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board held on 13th June, 2008 were noted.

Joyce gave an update on the present situation with Serious Case Reviews.

145. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ann was pleased to report that the Jeremy Beadle Memorial Trust was to make funds available to support some Rotherham students with their higher education.

146. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed: - That the next meeting of the Children's Board be held on 10th December, 2008 at 4.30 p.m.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
26th September, 2008

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

Also in attendance for item 76 below (Floods, June, 2007) were:

Mr. J. Meade (Environment Agency)

Mr. M. Smith (Yorkshire Water)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boyes and J. Hamilton.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

75. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

76. FLOODS JUNE, 2007 - PROGRESS

The Chairman welcomed Annette Senior (Emergency Planning Officer), Alan Bamforth (Planner) and Steve Lister (Engineer) who presented the submitted report on progress that had been made by the Council to improve further the resilience against future flooding and information that had been shared with affected communities.

It was noted that a number of national, regional and local reviews had taken place. The main national review was the Sir Michael Pitt review in which all flooded areas were visited and an interim report was published on 17th December, 2007. The interim report contained fifteen urgent recommendations and seventy two interim conclusions. The report was broken down into four main areas:

- Flood Risk Management (climate change – developing understanding of forecasting and building and planning)
- Critical National Infrastructure/Loss of Essential Services (protecting our infrastructure – information sharing – single points of failure/complete loss)
- Emergency Response (local risk register, business continuity, emergency planning, improved communication links with agencies and dams and reservoirs)

- Recovery Arrangements

An overview of the urgent recommendations was set out in the report.

Consultation on the interim report closed on 31st March, 2008 with a final report having been published on 25th June, 2008 entitled "Learning Lessons from the 2007 Floods".

The Government's response to the final report and its recommendations was due in November, 2008 following which appropriate actions would have to be taken by the responsible organisations. The recommendations, together with the respective responsible agency were submitted.

In this progress report, four main areas had been explored and reviewed and the officers outlined the submitted detail as follows:

- Drainage : Steve Lister
- Forward Planning : Alan Bamforth
- Emergency Planning : Annette Senior
- Communications and Marketing : Annette Senior

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued. The Chairman welcomed James Meade (Environment Agency) and Mike Smith (Yorkshire Water) who along with the officers answered, where possible, the questions asked.

Issues covered included:

- work done with the Association of British Insurers to address issues raised by customers regarding increased insurance premiums and excess levels
- implementation of the fifteen recommendations
- financing of the pumps and ancillaries at Catcliffe
- financing of the flood study report commissioned in respect of Dinnington and Laughton Common
- monitoring of sandbags by parish councils and implications for areas not parished
- monitoring of sandbag expiry dates
- allocation of the £30.6 million Restoration Grant
- storage lakes at Waverley
- progress/timescales regarding Whiston Brook

- costings of flood sacks and advantages/disadvantages in relation to ordinary sandbags
- frequency of gulley cleaning
- acknowledgement that agencies were working well together but could anything more be done
- need for lists of vulnerable people from agencies but also from communities as not all lists would be exhaustive
- sequential testing
- Bellwin formula outdated and possible need for a one day scrutiny review
- laying of impermeable surfaces on front and rear gardens by householders
- clarification needed on specific duty being placed on economic regulators to build resilience in the critical infrastructure and the responsible agency
- need for discussion with partners regarding establishing oversight and scrutiny committees to review work by public sector bodies and essential service providers in order to manage flood risk, underpinned by a legal requirement to co-operate and share information
- reviewing of oversight and scrutiny committee annual summary of actions regarding managing flood risk by Government officers and the Environment Agency
- need to build resilience among people by informing them what local authorities are not responsible for and what they need to take more responsibility for
- restoration of Council properties following the flood
- need to take account of alleviation for future flooding
- need to take account of all the measures recommended from the Recovery Group

In concluding the debate, Mike Smith undertook to supply a position statement regarding reinstatement and James Meade reassured the meeting and emphasised the excellent working relationship established between the Council and the Environment Agency.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

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

(2) That the future financial implications for the Council be noted.

(3) That the Director of Planning and Regeneration present a report to the Corporate Management Team to examine the potential impact upon planning policy and development within the borough.

(4) That, to facilitate effective monitoring of the situation, one or two joint meetings per year with partners be scheduled into the Committee's meeting cycle.

(5) That outstanding answers to questions posted today by Members be channelled through Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services.

77. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM – STRONG AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007 IMPLEMENTATION

Steve Eling, Principal Policy Officer, presented the submitted report which provided an update on progress of the "Strong and Prosperous Communities" the Local Government White Paper, the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Council's implementation plan workstreams.

Further developments contributed to the reform agenda, building on previous documents. The most recent key development was the "Communities in Control" White Paper, published on 9th July, 2008. This took forward some components of the previous White Paper together with aspects of the Governance of Britain Green Paper, published in July, 2007 and the Action Plan for Community Empowerment, published in October, 2007. The developments in "Communities in Control" were the subject of the second report, including new workstreams within the Council's implementation plan.

The following sections provided the latest position on implementation of the 2007 Act and the "Strong and Prosperous Communities" White Paper and the progress to date on implementation in Rotherham:-

- Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- Summary of action within Rotherham relating to implementation of Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- "Strong and Prosperous Communities" White Paper October, 2006

Most of the Government's proposals arising from the Strong and Prosperous Communities White Paper and the 2007 Act were assessed as cost neutral by Regulatory Impact Assessment, efficiencies meeting

new costs or by the Government transferring funds as had been the case with LINKs.

Issues around the expectations on participatory budgeting etc. were expected to be about how the Council prioritised and allocated funds rather than growth budget items. Additionally, issues covering strategic commissioning and developing local markets would have an impact.

Final statutory guidance covering commissioning was published on 9th July, 2008. The national Participatory Budgeting Strategy was still awaited.

The Council would need to remain alert to cost implications of the Government's reforms and incorporate into the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The RMBC Implementation Plan provided for risk assessments against each workstream in the plan.

The Council had made good progress in addressing each of the workstreams, reducing risk to the Council to a minimal level.

Existing project groups taking forward "Our Future" were addressing the implementation of relevant aspects of the reform agenda and legislative requirements.

The greatest level of uncertainty related to those aspects of the 2007 Act that had not yet commenced and where the commencement date was not yet known. These were issues beyond the Council's control, but were regularly monitored and updated in the RMBC Implementation Plan.

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

- joint waste authorities
- stronger cities, strategic regions
- consultation with parish councils
- consultation on bye laws
- Councillor Call for Action and potential pilot scheme through an Area Assembly
- ability to resolve at local level
- delegation to members acting within their own Wards
- participatory budgeting

Resolved:- (1) That the progress in implementing the requirements set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 be noted.

(2) That the provisions of the Act not yet commenced be noted and further reports be received as appropriate when commencement details were known.

(3) That the possibility of implementing a 'Councillor Call for Action' semi live pilot scheme, through an Area Assembly, be discussed with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods at the next meeting of Area Assembly Chairs.

(4) That the issues relating to participatory budgeting be considered by the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel.

78. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM – COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL WHITE PAPER AND THE FORTHCOMING COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT, HOUSING & ECONOMIC REGENERATION BILL

Steve Eling, Principal Policy Officer, presented the submitted report which provided an update on progress to date in implementing the "Strong and Prosperous Communities" White Paper and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, adding workstreams and actions to the Council's implementation plan to address the latest developments.

The Government published its awaited Empowerment White Paper "Communities in Control" on Wednesday 9th July, 2008. The White Paper took forward, and developed further, a number of the commitments made in the Strong and Prosperous Communities White Paper, published in October, 2006; the Governance of Britain Green Paper, published in July, 2007 and actions being piloted in the Action Plan for Community Empowerment, published in October, 2007.

The White Paper was divided into eight chapters, each of which was accompanied by an action plan of specific commitments. A brief overview of those commitments was provided in the report.

Government commitments included in the "Communities in Control" action plan had been incorporated in the Council's Local Government Reform Implementation Plan.

The key points from “Communities in Control” were:-

- Chapter 1: The case for people and communities having more power.
- Chapter 2: Active citizens and the value of volunteering.
- Chapter 3: Access to information.
- Chapter 4: Having an influence.
- Chapter 5: Challenge.
- Chapter 6: Redress.
- Chapter 7: Standing for Office.
- Chapter 8: Ownership and Control.

There would be increased costs associated with implementing the Government’s proposals, however, the Government was committed through the “Central/Local Concordat”, agreed with the Local Government Association, to “ensuring that public services, including new obligations imposed on Councils, are properly funded”. New costs had been identified by a Regulatory Impact Assessment indicating a one off cost of £2.94 million and annual costs of £92.09 million across England. It was not possible at this stage to identify the direct financial implications for Rotherham.

The RMBC Implementation Plan provided for risk assessments against each workstream in the plan.

Existing project groups taking forward “Our Future” were addressing the implementation of relevant aspects of the reform agenda and legislative requirements.

Whilst the Government was committed to meeting the costs of new burdens, there was a risk that additional income to the Council via the grant formula would not cover the actual costs of implementing the new requirements across the Borough.

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

- availability of documentation
- accountability to community

Resolved:- (1) That the proposals set out in the “Communities in Control” White Paper be noted.

(2) That the workstreams for inclusion in the Council’s Local Government Reform Implementation Plan be supported.

(3) That it be noted that an All Member Seminar to present the

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Government's proposals set out in "Communities in Control" took place on 23rd September, 2008.

(4) That it be noted that this report be referred to the Our Future Groups 1 and 3 and the relevant workstreams to Groups 2, 4 and 5.

79. IMPROVING LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY - GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

Steve Eling, Principal Policy Officer, presented briefly the submitted report indicating that both white papers "Strong and Prosperous Communities" published in October, 2006 and "Communities in Control" published in July, 2008 provided for new and developing roles for scrutiny and Members more generally, with scrutiny being seen as having a key role in holding decision makers to account.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (c.28) (the 2007 Act) took forward some of the proposals set out in "Strong and Prosperous Communities" providing statutory duties and powers for scrutiny in relation to "Councillor Call for Action" and scrutiny of partner organisations in relation to agreed Local Area Agreement targets. Other proposals included "Communities in Control" as part of the Government's agenda.

The Government had committed to consult on draft Regulations and Guidance arising from the 2007 Act and "Communities in Control" resulting in a series of consultation papers.

The latest, "Improving Local Accountability" took forward aspects of both the above particularly in relation to:

- developing and strengthening overview and scrutiny
- increasing the visibility and accountability of local public officers
- facilitating the work of Councillors

The consultation deadline as 30th October, 2008.

The Committee considered details of each section of the consultation paper, together with the questions asked and the proposed response.

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

(2) That the draft response to the questions raised in the consultation paper, as now submitted, be supported as the Council's formal response to the consultation paper.

80. POLICY REVIEW 2008

Steve Eling, Principal Policy Officer, presented the submitted report which, as part of the next stage of policy review of policies recommended

for refresh/review in 2008, detailed a new process of monitoring the effectiveness and impact of policies using the new National Indicator Set and other local measures and proposals to create an Electronic Policy Library for the publication of policies.

Policy review in Rotherham had gone through several key stages in recent years. The process started with a major review of the Council's key plans and strategies, ensuring alignment to the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan priorities and fit for purpose criteria. The process then proceeded to review a range of operational policies and plans for alignment, which resulted in the development of a Policy Framework Map, setting out, in a clear and consistent manner, the Council's policies and those adopted in partnership with other agencies.

The report now took forward proposals for Policy Review 2008. The proposals had been developed following a review of the overall policy framework and built on experience to date with key criteria being taken into account.

Several Policies were due for refresh in 2008/09 and also a number had been identified as requiring review. These included:-

- School Organisation Plan.
- Inclusive Learning Service Plan.
- Youth Justice Plan.
- SEN Strategic Development Plan.
- Anti Bullying Plan.
- Rotherham Early Education, childcare and Extended Services Strategy.
- Education Development Plan.
- Regeneration Plan – to be replaced with the new Economic Plan for Rotherham 2008 / 2020.
- Tourism Plan.
- Cultural Strategy – not to be replaced.
- Extra Care Housing Strategy.
- Housing Strategy.
- BME Housing Strategy.
- Homelessness Strategy.
- Customer Access Strategy.
- Neighbourhood Charters.
- Area Plans.
- Corporate Equality Strategy.
- Race Equality Scheme (plus a single equality scheme to be developed).
- Workforce development Strategy.
- Sustainable Development Framework.
- Town Centre Action Plan.
- Strategic Economic Zones.
- Rural Framework.

- Cycling Plan.
- Parking Strategy.

The introduction of the new National Indicator Set provided the opportunity to rationalise the process for monitoring impact of policies with the framework. The revised map identified the alignment of National Indicators to policies where a clear link existed. It was proposed that this was the principal form of monitoring, but that local indicators, where relevant and would add value, should also be used. Alongside the use of data, policy officers for each theme would give a qualitative overview of the success and impact of policies in their relevant theme.

The findings had fed into the list of policies recommended for review this year and such a qualitative assessment would also be used as part of the ongoing policy review process. It should be noted that these had been done in partnership with directorates.

Some key cross-cutting policies were identified as not easily aligning with National Indicators. Where this was the case, it was proposed that policy officers agree with directorates what measures would be used for monitoring the policies concerned.

It was imperative that the Council's financial profile reflected its overall priorities and so the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy was a key strategy for the Council that needed to ensure was Fit for Purpose and aligned with the emerging priorities.

The development of a robust corporate policy framework was critical to effective corporate governance. Without it, the Council was at risk of not delivering its priorities and commitments effectively.

It was noted that this review was part of the Year Ahead Commitments and that many policies had either been refreshed or were in the process of being reviewed.

Resolved:- (1) That the policies recommended in the report for refresh/review in 2008 be noted.

(2) That the National Indicators, aligned to policies as set out in the Policy Framework Map, together with any relevant local indicators and qualitative assessment, be used for monitoring the impact of the policies selected.

(3) That the policies to be monitored be those with national indicators aligned plus cross-cutting and corporate policies.

(4) That monitoring be reported half yearly, with the first report being presented in the autumn.

(5) That an "Electronic Policy Library" be created for the publication of policies on the Council's web site.

81. 11 MILLION TAKEOVER DAY 2008

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, presented briefly the submitted report referring to the success of last year's event on 23rd November, 2007 and the Committee's support of the event whereby the Youth Cabinet attended and jointly chaired the Committee's meeting on that day.

The second "11 Million Takeover Day" was to take place on 7th November, 2008 which coincided with a scheduled meeting of this Committee and again the Committee was requested to support the event.

It was proposed that two young people were linked to each Committee Member and, as with last year, it was suggested that the young people formulate the agenda for the meeting. It was also proposed that this year the young people take a lead in the meeting.

Resolved:- (1) That the information be noted and the 11 Million Takeover Day be supported.

(2) That members of the Youth Cabinet be invited to 'takeover' the meeting of this Committee on 7th November, 2008.

(3) That members of the Cabinet be invited to said meeting.

(4) That further reports on the proposals for the day be submitted.

82. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th September, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

83. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:

(a) Councillor McNeely reported

- she had attended a very useful seminar/briefing for councillors given by the South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board
- she had attended a seminar on Health and Housing at Sheffield Hallam University
- members and co-optees of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel had been invited to visit the ABLE Project on 3rd October, 2008
- the next Panel meeting was to have a short training session on how the various budgets worked in Neighbourhoods, e.g. HRA,

Ordinary Account and the Capital Programme and how they interrelated. Other members were welcome to attend

(b) The Mayor reported (i) that the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel would consider :

- Building Schools for the Future
- Presentation on 'My Place' (a Government initiative to develop youth services and facilities)
- School meals update
- Budget outturn : looking at challenges for the 2009/10 Budget

(ii) that the report into support for newly arrived children in schools was well underway and it was hoped to speak to Linda McAvan, M.E.P.

(iii) that the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel :

- had examined fostering inspection recommendations and made its own recommendations for service improvements
- had considered an item on the Looked After Children Council which was a really exciting development
- would focus at its next meeting in December on education and attendance

84. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
Friday, 10th October, 2008

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Barron, Boyes and Gilding.

Also in attendance was Councillor Doyle for item 91 below (Use of School Premises Scrutiny Review)

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor G. A. Russell) and Councillors Burton, J. Hamilton, Jack, McNeely, P. A. Russell and Swift.

85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Boyes declared a personal interest in item 91 below (Use of School Premises Scrutiny Review) being the Council's representative on the board of Building Learning Communities Ltd.

86. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

87. PUBLIC HEALTH PERFORMANCE

Steve Turnbull, Head of Public Health, presented the submitted report by the Joint Director of Public Health, which summarised the current position in relation to progress against the targets and commitments contained within the Rotherham Public Health Strategy and identified areas of progress and concern.

The report provided details and further information on:-

- Public Health Strategy Performance.
- Audit Commission Report on Health Inequalities.
- Performance Indicators.
- Health Inequalities Action Plan.

There were no additional financial implications, however, public health measures featured in the LAA and performance against these may have an impact on any future reward grant

There was an uncertain relationship between the performance of the Public Health Strategy and the population health measures that we were ultimately trying to improve. This uncertainty and risk was mitigated by utilising the public health evidence base, local knowledge on needs and improving performance management.

Reference was made to the importance of meeting the challenges of improving public health, particularly in view of the stretch targets agreed.

The positives and concerns were highlighted and the need for positive action, particularly in the following areas, was emphasised:-

- Chlamydia Screening.
- All Age All Cause Mortality.
- Childhood Vaccinations.
- Tobacco Control.
- Obesity.
- Teenage Pregnancy.
- Reduce the number of Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETS).
- Breastfeeding.
- Data issues around alcohol.
- Alcohol related admissions to hospital.

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

- Fit camps.
- SAP rating of Council stock.
- Prevention of obesity.
- Prostrate cancer screening.
- Chlamydia and numbers testing positive.
- Need to break down the information to ward/area assembly level.
- Teenage conception – positive results in lowering rates albeit from a very low starting base.
- Funding of the Audit Commission report on health inequalities.
- Affordable warmth.
- Need for Member awareness regarding fuel poverty issues.
- Possible performance clinics.

Resolved:- (1) That the performance against the Public Health Strategy and areas of concern and the actions be noted and the following actions be supported:-

- Performance clinics on All Age All Cause Mortality (LAA).
- Performance clinics on Chlamydia Screening (National Indicator).
- Investigations around data issues around Alcohol Related Admissions to Hospital (National Indicator).
- Investigate additional Local Authority support and interventions for breastfeeding, tobacco control, childhood vaccinations, obesity prevention and alcohol.

(2) That the aligning of the Public Health Strategy to the national indicator and vital sign set be supported.

(3) That the reinforcing of the role of the Joint Director of Public Health be supported.

(4) That the revised approach to the health inequalities action plan be supported.

88. REFRESHED ICT STRATEGY 2008 - 2011

Richard Copley, ICT Strategy and Client Co-ordinator, presented the submitted report introducing the refreshed ICT Strategy that had been updated to cover the period 2008-11.

The refreshed ICT Strategy further aligned the Council's ICT priorities to the national transformational Government agenda and the Council's refreshed Customer Access Strategy.

The Strategy set out where future investment would be focused, together with the expected outcomes and benefits of that investment. The Strategy also contained an implementation plan which showed the order and timings of the various projects.

Delivering the overall ICT Strategy was built around the following seven strategic objectives:-

- Theme 1 Information Management
- Theme 2 Customer Focus
- Theme 3 Member Focus
- Theme 4 Staff Focus
- Theme 5 Partnership Focus
- Theme 6 Business Continuity through Information Assurance.
- Theme 7 Learning, development and training

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

- Elected Member involvement in the Data Security review.
- Area based profiling.
- Community access to information and eGovernment and need to extend to the wider community.
- Need to examine/monitor information about the Council on partner/external websites.
- Need for an effective surgery system.

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- Need for access to the postcode search to find your local councillor.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

89. CPA DIRECTION OF TRAVEL STATEMENT 2008

Tim Littlewood, Principal Officer Performance Management, presented briefly the submitted report which provided details on the Direction of Travel (DOT), which was an assessment of improvement. It defined the progress made over the previous year and the plans and resources put in place to sustain and strengthen improvement. In particular it:-

- Assessed the track record of achievement of outcomes during the previous year and the robustness and delivery of improvement plans.
- Helped keep momentum and focus in delivering improvement priorities.
- Signalled further support and improvement work.
- Informed audit and assessment programmes to ensure they targeted the right areas.
- Provided learning about good and poor practice to inform improvement planning.

The framework would apply a set of labels to reflect Council progress each year. These would appear in the published summary for the Council.

A number of contributions had been received from all Directorates and had been incorporated into the document accordingly.

Over the next few weeks the Chief Executive's Communications and Marketing Team would be providing support and advice on the readability and design of the DOT self assessment prior to submission.

The costs of designing and printing 100 copies of the DOT Self Assessment have been quoted as £753.00.

CPA was a key driver and it was important the Council was well prepared for any future changes to the CPA framework. The direction of travel assessment was a key document which was an important communication tool both internally and externally. It was essential that it provided an accurate, up-to-date and honest assessment of progress.

The deadline for submitting the self-assessment was 10th October, 2008.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and particular reference was made to the reported ambitious timescales of summer 2009 for the joint customer service centre at Aston.

Resolved:- (1) That the Direction of Travel Self Assessment be supported.

(2) That Tim Littlewood clarify the timescales in respect of the joint customer service centre at Aston and revise as appropriate.

90. COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT

Tim Littlewood, Principal Officer Performance Management, presented briefly the latest position with regard to the introduction of Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) as a replacement for Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA).

It was noted that CAA was more forward looking than backward looking and much more focused on people and their perceptions.

Submitted were:-

- (a) An I&DeA briefing paper entitled "CPA to be abolished – new proposals for assessing performance in your area".
- (b) Paper regarding CAA consultation questions.

The briefing covered questions relating to CAA including:-

- What is CAA?
- Why now?
- So what is involved?
- How is CAA different to CPA?
- What should we be doing in my Council?
- What happens next?

The Committee also considered questions that had been provided as part of the consultation on CAA.

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

- Need to consider issues involving partners not covered by the Local Area Agreement.
- Concern regarding the dull appearance of the new community newspaper which should be key in helping to keep people informed.

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

(2) That Cath Saltis and the Performance Team look at how to deal with issues involving partners not covered by the Local Area Agreement.

(3) That the editorial board be advised of the negative views regarding the appearance of the new community newspaper.

91. USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES SCRUTINY REVIEW

Councillor John Doyle presented the submitted report setting out the findings and recommendations of the review group. The review document was submitted. Highlighted were the background to and rationale for the review, membership, scope, terms of reference, summary of findings and key recommendations.

The review examined the following areas:-

- Existing school facilities.
- Current opening hours and availability of facilities.
- Government's extended services initiative.
- Funding sources related to the use of school premises.
- PFI schools.
- Barriers to the use of school premises.
- Issues relating to health and safety, caretaking, security, insurance and damage to premises.
- Perceived community demand for ICT, sports and arts facilities and adult learning.
- Neighbourhood management and extended schools service.

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

- Charging policies.
- Schools as a good resource for taking part in leisure activities.
- Need to foster a feeling that schools were part of the community and not 'no go' areas.
- Need for governing bodies to be made aware of the outcomes of the review.
- Need for a strategy to align existing PFI schools, BSF and the facilities to be provided by DC Leisure to ensure that services reflect the needs of communities across the borough.

- Need for a clear statement to governing bodies explaining what was expected of schools.

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, following consideration by Cabinet, a summary of the document be sent to all school governing bodies and this be included as an additional recommendation in the review document.

(Councillor Boyes declared a personal interest in the above item being the Council's representative on the Board of Building Learning Communities Ltd.)

92. CONFERENCE FEEDBACK - EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, presented briefly the submitted report on feedback from the 'Empowering Communities' Conference she had attended with Councillor Whelbourn on 30th September, 2008 in London.

The conference had focused on ways to achieve effective community empowerment. Speakers presented views and experience of community involvement and empowerment.

The conference proved to be useful in providing links to work and could be developed for Rotherham Members in relation to community empowerment.

The emphasis of the conference had been more towards community development rather than how the Council and partners could engage more effectively geographically and communities of interest wise with respect to empowerment responsibilities and accountability.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

93. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

94. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

- (a) Councillor Boyes reported that a couple of meetings had already

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been held in respect of the PE/School Sport review and a quick completion was hoped for.

- (b) Councillor Austen reported that the review of the Parish Charter had been a little delayed.

95. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

(THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO KEEP MEMBERS INFORMED)

96. TREASURY MANAGEMENT/INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Andrew Bedford, Strategic Director of Finance, updated the Committee generally on the Council's investment position in the light of the current financial crisis and in particular with regard to the Council's investment in Icelandic banks namely Landsbanski and the UK based Heritable Bank Ltd.

Andrew outlined the approved investment strategy and the rationale behind borrowing and investment.

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

- Borrowing and investment parameters.
- Action being taken regarding the Icelandic investments.
- Monitoring of investment strategy.
- Investment profit levels.
- Respective investment rates of Icelandic banks and British banks/building societies.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.