

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**

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

**Date: Monday, 12 January 2009**

**Time: 9.30 a.m.**

### **A G E N D A**

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency
3. Apologies for Absence
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Questions from the press and public
6. Matters Referred from the Youth Cabinet
7. Communications
8. Annual Health Check Working Group - Nomination of Members  
To nominate 2 Elected Members and 1 Co-opted Member to represent the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel on the Annual Health Check Working Group

### **FOR MONITORING**

9. Integrated Children's Services - Progress (report attached) (Pages 1 - 5)
10. Children and Young People's Services Commissioning (report and presentation slides attached) (Pages 6 - 7)
11. Provision for Ethnic Minority Learners (report attached) (Pages 8 - 12)

12. Anti-Bullying Strategy - Progress (report attached) (Pages 13 - 29)
13. Management of Sure Start Children's Centres on School Sites (report attached) (Pages 30 - 33)

### **MINUTES**

14. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 28th November, 2008 (copy attached) (Pages 34 - 42)
15. Minutes of a meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel held on 10th December, 2008 (copy attached) (Pages 43 - 50)
16. Minutes of meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 21st November, 2008 and on 5th December, 2008 (copies attached) (Pages 51 - 64)
17. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**  
The following item is likely to be considered in the absence of the press and public as being exempt under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended (information relating to financial or business affairs)
18. Children and Young People's Services - Revenue Budget 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 (report attached) (Pages 65 - 68)

**Date of Next Meeting:-  
Friday, 6 February 2009**

#### **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.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday, 12th January, 2009</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Integrated Services Progress Report</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Services.</b>

**5. Summary**

To update Members on the integration agenda regarding locality services and the Integrated Safeguarding Unit.

**6. Recommendations**

**For Members to note the current progress of the Children and Young People's Services Integration agenda.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

See Appendix 1 for a full analysis of the key actions required to fulfil NHS Rotherham and RMBC requirements for integration.

### Staffing and accommodation

6 of the 7 Locality Managers are now fully operational. The 7th Manager had a confirmatory interview on 12th September, 2008. This will allow us to implement the last stages of the management structure.

Of the 17 Team Managers, there are currently 3 vacancies being recruited to. The team of 17 have a variety of professional backgrounds from health, education and social care:-

- 6 Social Care
- 2 Education
- 4 Health
- 2 Youth Offending Service

We have a number of Localities which are now in their new premises:-

- Rotherham North based at The Kimberworth Centre (within the Kimberworth Children's Centre Campus). 2 teams based here. The Children and Families Multi-Agency Special Needs Service is also based at the centre.
- Rotherham South based at The Place, Clifton. 3 multi-agency teams are now based within the building, together with Learning Support Services and Specialist Youth Services.
- Wentworth Valley based at the new Customer Service Centre at Maltby. 2 multi-agency teams have been based there since 15th September, 2008.
- Wentworth South based at St. Mary's, Rawmarsh since the end of November 2008. 3 teams are located within the building alongside the Pupil Referral Unit.
- Wentworth North to be based at Swinton Brookfield Children's Centre. Anticipated that the building works should be completed by late November 2008. 2 teams to be based here from February 2009.
- Rother Valley South. The identified building is at Outgang Lane, Dinnington. The building has started to be refurbished. The major works involve the preparations for both Health and Council I.T. systems. 2 teams to be based here. Anticipated opening January 2009. 2 teams covering Rother Valley West also to be based within the building, pending the opening of Anston Customer Service Centre in 2010.

- The integrated Safeguarding Unit will be based at Crinoline House in the short to medium term. Education Safeguarding staff moved into the Unit the week commencing 1st September, 2008. The Child Protection Unit based at Doncaster Gate Hospital will move to Crinoline House as Doncaster Gate closes.

### **Policies, Procedures and Performance**

A joint procedure for casework supervision has been developed by Health and Local Authority staff. This procedure has been adopted by the P.C.T. Board, Joint Leadership Team and Children and Young People's Board. This is operational within the Council and a training programme has been developed to roll out within multi-agency teams commencing November 2008.

Locality Managers are producing a number of essential operational procedures which will be available electronically and initially in paper form.

Monthly Joint Performance Locality meetings have been established, scrutinising cross-cutting performance information and setting Locality targets.

The first of the Locality plans has been developed and others will be completed by the end of the year.

The Health Visitor Performance Clinic also includes the Director of Locality Services.

The extended Provider Services Team meets every 6 weeks sharing cross cutting themes.

### **Organisational Development**

A 5 day development course for managers looking at models of supervision was undertaken in June and July 2008. This supported the development of the Joint Supervision document.

Locality Managers have undertaken a skills gap audit for Team Managers and in collaboration with training providers a programme started on 3rd November 2008. This 14 day programme concludes in March 2009.

The content is information-based, ensuring basic requirements around the child care law/regulation/policies and procedures are covered. The delivery of this is 'in-house' thus enabling an understanding of Rotherham processes.

Team Managers have begun to build a joint identity and supportive environment:-

- 3 Development Days for Team Managers, together with Locality Managers and Director of Locality Services arranged for early 2009.

Work Shadowing has been a tool used by new members of staff and those moving into posts with changed job descriptions. This has proven extremely informative and useful.

## **Integrated Safeguarding Unit**

The operational and strategic aspects of safeguarding have now been separated into two work streams. Jim Stewart has the strategic responsibility, working to the Safeguarding Board and Annie Redmond is the operational unit manager. Jim Stewart will continue to be accountable to the Children and Young People's Strategic Director and Annie Redmond to the Director of Locality Services.

A key development will include exploring the notion of Child Protection Case Conferences being held in schools and health centres within the Localities.

An action plan outlining the improvement programme and developments within the Unit has been implemented.

3 Education posts have been transferred to the Operational Safeguarding Unit:-

- Children Missing from Education
- Senior Education Welfare Officer with responsibility for safeguard training advice to schools and staff with an education lead.
- Principal Education Welfare Officer with responsibility for allegations management, policy and advice to schools on child protection issues.

The next stages for further integration have been mapped out and consultation with relevant Health staff commenced. The integration process was assisted with the input of a Project Manager from N.H.S. Rotherham. The process is in its final stages and N.H.S. Rotherham are dealing with the relevant H.R. processes. An appointment was made on 4th September, 2008, to the new post of Nurse Consultant Safeguarding Children. The post holder will be based within N.H.S. Rotherham and work closely with the Strategic Safeguarding Manager.

## **8. Finance**

The costs for integration were to be met within the agreed financial envelope.

However, some integration costs have placed additional pressures on the budget, e.g. the running costs of 7 Locality bases where a number of teams had been located within Crinoline House. The additional Business Support and Admin. costs of providing cover in 7 bases, covering 17 teams which, for the Local Authority, was previously 5 bases covering 9 teams. The Children and Young People's Services' budget has managed the pressures. This financial year, 2008/2009, has been the transition year and thus difficult as new budget headings have needed to be established with staff transfers and creations of new teams and budget codes.

2009/2010 will have devolved Locality budgets with accountability at Locality level. There are pressures which will need careful managing at each level.

**9. Risk and Uncertainties**

The Government agenda directing Children and Young People's Services to Trust arrangements is well embedded within Rotherham. Not to comply with this requirement would leave the service in a vulnerable position. The Audit Commission in collaboration with RMBC's Auditors, KPMG, are conducting an assessment of readiness for integration. This will give an independent evaluation of progress for the Children and Young People's Board members. The evaluation will be ready early January.

**10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Integrated working will improve outcomes for children and will contribute to our Annual Performance Assessment and the C.A.A.

**11. Background and Consultation**

DfES Every Child Matters: Next Steps 2004  
Statutory Guidance on Interagency Co-operation to Improve the Wellbeing of Children: Children's Trusts 2005

National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (2004)

Service Change Assurance Process / Assessment report to the Strategic Health Authority, prepared by the NHS Rotherham on the proposal to integrate services.

Reports to the Children & Young People's Services Cabinet Member in September 2006, November 2006, May 2007 and September 2008.

Previous papers to the Children & Young People's Board in relation to Governance and Integrated Services.

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**World Class Commissioning Competencies (Department of Health): Application to CYPs Commissioning**

<b>World Class Commissioning Competency</b>	<b>RMBC CYPs</b>
Are recognised as the local leader of the NHS	Are recognised as the local leader of Children and Young Peoples Services, by the council, its partners, its providers and the community of Rotherham
Work collaboratively with community partners to commission services that optimise health gains and reductions in health inequalities	Work collaboratively with community partners to commission services that optimise benefits for Children and Young People and reductions inequalities
Proactively seek and build continuous and meaningful engagement with the public and patients, to shape services and improve health	Proactively seek and build continuous and meaningful engagement with children, young people and families, to shape services and improve outcomes
Lead continuous and meaningful engagement with clinicians to inform strategy, and drive quality, service design and resource utilisation	Lead continuous and meaningful engagement with service experts to inform strategy, and drive quality, service design and resource utilisation
Manage knowledge and undertake robust and regular needs assessments that establish a full understanding of current and future local health needs and requirements	Manage knowledge and undertake robust and regular needs assessments that establish a full understanding of current and future local needs and requirements
Prioritise investment according to local needs, service requirements and the values of the NHS	Prioritise investment according to local needs, service requirements and the values of Every Child Matters
Effectively stimulate the market to meet demand and secure required clinical, and health and well-being outcomes	Effectively stimulate the market to meet demand and secure required outcomes for children and young people
Promote and specify continuous improvements in quality and outcomes through clinical and provider innovation and configuration	Promote and specify continuous improvements in quality and outcomes through provider innovation and configuration
Secure procurement skills that ensure robust and viable contracts	Secure procurement skills that ensure robust and viable contracts
Effectively manage systems and work in partnership with providers to ensure contract compliance and continuous improvements in quality and outcomes	Effectively manage systems and work in partnership with providers to ensure contract compliance and continuous improvements in quality and outcomes
Make sound financial investments to ensure sustainable development and value for money	Make sound financial investments to ensure sustainable development and value for money



### Current Medium Term CYPS Commissioning Schedule

	Q4 08	Q1 09	Q2 09	Q3 09	Q4 09	Q1 10	Q2 10	Q3 10	Q4 10	Q1 11	Q2 11	Q3 11	Q4 11
CAMHS (Joint NHS)	●	●	●	●									
Leaving Care	●												
Short Breaks (Joint NHS)	●	●	●										
Substance Misuse (Joint NHS)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Connexions (parallel-BDR)	●	●	●	●									
Commissioning Event (Joint- adults, NHS, supporting people)	●	●											
Contracts	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Complaints	●												
Young Carers				●	●	●							
LAC Psychologist								●	●	●			
Teenage Parents Support project (Joint NHS)					●	●							
Junction project								●	●	●			
Post abuse service								●	●	●			
Positive Opportunities (Joint across LSP- Proud)	●	●											
Care Placement strategy	●	●	●	●									
Targeted Youth Support (joint NHS)			●	●	●	●							
Locality commissioning (all partners)			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Provision for Ethnic Minority Learners</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young People’s Services</b>

**5. Summary:**

This report was presented to the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Lifelong Learning. It outlines the model of developments to address the current challenges in relation to ethnic minority achievement (EMA) in Rotherham.

Despite some significant, recent improvements, issues of underachievement among Rotherham’s EAL (English as an Additional Language) population are still evident. Moreover, Rotherham is now host to a recent and growing population of new arrivals from other European Union countries whose needs are significantly different from the established British Asian community.

The model proposed in this report combines recommendations for a shift in strategy and practice and identifies opportunities to test new practice in an initial, limited pilot programme.

The Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning referred this report to the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel for information.

**6. Recommendations:**

**It is recommended that the report be received.**

## **7. Proposals and details:**

### **Rationale :**

This report presents an outline model of developments to address the current challenges in relation to ethnic minority achievement (EMA) in Rotherham.

Despite some significant, recent improvements, issues of underachievement among Rotherham's EAL (English as an Additional Language) population are still evident. Moreover, Rotherham is now host to a recent and growing population of new arrivals from other European Union countries whose needs are significantly different from the established British Asian community.

Funding to support BME pupils came originally from the Home Office (Section 11 funding). This was then converted into a Standards Fund Grant (Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant [EMAG]) that was devolved to schools. At this time there were a number of children coming to the borough as asylum seekers. These pupils were not eligible for support from the EMAG grant and the Local Authority established the Welcome Centre as a means of inducting these children in to the school system. The Welcome Centre was adequately resourced to address the needs of this group of pupils. The number of asylum seekers coming to Rotherham has reduced but Rotherham is now host to a recent and growing population of new arrivals from other European Union countries whose needs are significant.

The increased volume of newly arrived pupils has resulted in the Welcome Centre no longer being able to fully address the needs of this group of pupils. Not all new arrivals can be inducted through the Welcome Centre; figures for August 2007 to April 2008 indicate 156 of the 297 were inducted through the Welcome Centre. Other pupils went directly to schools or colleges with little additional support. Consequently, Rotherham needs a more consistent and coherent induction process focussed on pupil learning and achievement at the point of admission on school sites.

The model proposed in this report combines recommendations for a shift in both strategy and practice and identifies opportunities to test new practice in an initial, limited pilot programme.

The proposed model is based on national best practice as exemplified in the Minority Ethnic Achievement Programme (MEAP) for advanced learners and the New Arrivals Excellence Programme (NAEP). During 2007/8 the School Effectiveness Service has also researched practice in other Local Authorities (LA), notably Bradford, Sheffield and Kirklees. There have also been on-going discussions with Elected Members through the Cabinet and Scrutiny procedures with an increasing urgency placed on this area of work.

The plan seeks to address the needs of New Arrivals into Rotherham as well as to "close the gap" with respect to underachievement of Advanced EAL learners. It is focused on raising attainment and achievement for all young people with English as an additional language (EAL) by building capacity and sustainability in schools and the LA.

### **Current challenges**

Following extensive consultation in early Autumn 2007 with the National Strategies, the Local Authority has responded to the significant and increasing challenges in relation to ethnic minority achievement.

In particular these are:

- Ongoing under-achievement of advanced learners with English as an additional language, mainly of Pakistani heritage
- Increasing numbers of new arrivals from Central and Eastern Europe, particularly Czech and Slovakian, including Roma
- Current provision needing to respond to national best practice as outlined by the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) in the New Arrivals Excellence Programme (NAEP) which states that "Access and inclusion are best achieved within a whole-school context where pupils are educated with their peers."
- Recognising the need for greater coherence across the LA, particularly the Learning and Inclusion Departments within Children and Young People's services, and increased expert capacity to address the full range of emerging issues
- Developing a sustainable model in which schools are expected to take responsibility for their own improvement in this area, (consistent with School Effectiveness practice in other areas) with appropriate LA support, especially early in periods of exceptional change and challenge
- Designing provision for new arrivals which increases the LA's effectiveness in developing good race relations and promoting Community Cohesion (new duty on schools from 2007)
- Improving consistency of initial provision for New Arrivals

### **Progress to date**

Over the past two years the LA has begun to build sustainable practice, through engagement with National Strategies, in addressing identified priorities for development.

This has included involvement in the Minority Ethnic Achievement Programme (MEAP), participation in the Regional EAL best practice Hub and training for primary schools in the EAL toolkit. In addition the Improving Schools Programme (ISP) has an EAL strand.

Further, it has sought to align more closely the work of Inclusion Services and School Effectiveness Service (SES) allowing for more efficient and effective use of limited resources. From September 2008, the SES has assumed direct line-management responsibility for the Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Service (ECDS) based at the Welcome Centre and is integrating their work into mainstream school improvement approaches. Further alignment of services such as ECDS, Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Traveller Education Service (TES), School Improvement Partners (SIPs) and schools is now required to maximise the effective use of resources to address the issues.

This proposal seeks to strengthen the work of the LA by ensuring the response is better co-ordinated and that monitoring, evaluation and review are integral to the

work. Further, the alignment of resources with schools in the “front line” of the development of this work, seeks to ensure greater sustainability and flexibility.

### **Proposals**

It is proposed to:

- Increase the LA’s capacity to provide clear strategic leadership and expertise in this area by creating a team of specialist curriculum adviser, primary consultant and secondary consultant and the appointment of additional posts, through the remodelling of existing staff (subject to a review of the work of current staff in the Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Service)
- Support schools in taking responsibility for a sustainable approach to Ethnic Minority Achievement, from New Arrivals to Advanced Learners of English as an Additional Language, by developing hubs of effective practice in identified schools. This will be one primary school and two secondary, one of which will focus on developing good practice for Advanced Learners and one for New Arrivals
- Use LA Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Service resources more strategically and increase LA capacity to raise achievement for learners with EAL by re-allocating some of the existing centrally funded resources from the Welcome Centre to support Hub schools to:
  - i. develop their own capacity to meet the needs of EAL learners.
  - ii. develop outreach provision to improve performance in partner schools.

This will be a phased pilot from January 2009 with preparation work during Autumn 2008. The pilot will be formally evaluated, with external moderation by a Principal Adviser, Bradford LA.

- Ensure that monitoring, evaluation and review of provision and outcomes for young people with EAL is undertaken by senior LA officers and SIPs and that information generated leads to action.

### **8. Finance:**

Support for schools in developing standards and achievement and the quality of provision is provided by the School Effectiveness Service as its core commitment to schools. An effective and efficient response to the current challenges, particularly in relation to new arrivals from other European Union countries, requires:

- a) reallocation of current SES personnel
- b) reallocation of staff in the Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Service, to meet new demands
- c) enhanced staffing resources through the remodelling of existing staff
- d) additional and specific expertise, especially Slovakian and other minority First Language speakers

### **9. Risks and Uncertainties:**

Failure to address the changing requirements posed by the changes will impact negatively on the LA’s external evaluations. Currently:

- LA compliance with legal and statutory duties is subject to external scrutiny
- LA alignment with developing best practice nationally is tested by national and regional partners

- Continued patterns of underachievement in vulnerable groups affect school and LA inspection outcomes
- Pressures on community cohesion from disengagement and disaffection may escalate and damage the Borough
- Failure to recruit personnel of appropriate quality and skills affects the quality of delivery to learners
- The capacity of Hub schools to develop and disseminate effective practice is as yet unproven (hence the proposal to introduce a pilot phase)

**10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:**

Any plans arising from an analysis of this report will be consistent with the Community Strategy, the Corporate Plan and the Children and Young People's Single Plan. The improvement actions should address the corporate priorities for:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Regeneration   | - improving the image of Rotherham;<br>- providing sustainable neighbourhoods of quality, choice and aspiration. |
| Equalities     | - promoting equality;<br>- promoting good community relations.   |
| Sustainability | - improving quality of life;<br>- increasing employment opportunities for local people.                          |

**11. Background Papers and Consultation:**

- Extensive and systematic consultation with Bradford, Sheffield and Kirklees LAs to explore "best practice" and other LA's responses to this agenda.
- Regular review and consultation with National Strategy Senior Adviser (EAL) and Minority Ethnic Achievement Programme (MEAP) Regional Adviser
- Continuing consultation with Headteachers, Governors and LA officers
- Continuing discussion with elected Members through Cabinet and Scrutiny processes

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<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO PSOC</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Anti Bullying Strategy Report Update Report</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young People’s Services</b>

**5. Summary:**

This report is written to update the Committee on the progress of the Anti Bullying Strategy and the implementation of the recommendations.

**6. Recommendations:**

**To consider the outcomes described in the Report. To provide steer to the work of Anti Bullying Strategy Group in progressing the Strategy.**

**7. Proposals and Details:**

The recommendations of the Scrutiny Review have provided direction to the Anti Bullying Group (ABSG) and to the Anti Bullying Development Officer (ABDO)

An ABSG is a multi-agency group with representation across CYPS service areas, including secondary and primary school head teachers, Neighbourhoods as well as the police, the fire service, Health and voluntary sector organisations. This group has taken primary responsibility for developing the Anti Bullying Strategy and for implementing the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review.

**8. Finance:**

Finance is currently being met within existing resources

**9. Risks and Uncertainties:**

Following disappointing returns in the use of Sentinel the decision was taken to withdraw funding. Consideration is now being given to using existing SIMS based systems where schools have greater experience.

**10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:**

Within Every Child Matters Staying Safe, bullying is a key aspect in ensuring young people remain safe. Tell Us Survey is a national survey conducted by Ofsted, bullying is a question in that survey and results for RMBC are compared to national figures. Lifestyle Survey is a local survey undertaken with Year 5, 7 and 10. This enables us to determine local issues around bullying.

We need to monitor our performance in relation to bullying for our Annual Performance Assessment and demonstrate we are responding to the needs of children and young people.

**11. Background Papers and Consultation:**

Anti Bullying Strategy Update Report submitted to the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2007.

**Contact Name :** Tom Kelly  
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Appendix 1

Recommendation	Commentary on progress
<p>1) The Anti-Bullying Strategy is fully supported and implemented across Children and Young People’s Service</p>	<p>The Anti Bullying Steering Group has taken this as an endorsement by the Scrutiny Board and it is now being implemented through the Joint Leadership Team into Children &amp; Young People’s Service teams. Members of the Anti Bullying Steering Group will similarly disseminate through their partnership organisations.</p> <p><b>Completed</b></p> <p><b>The Anti Bullying Strategy is currently being updated and will include an action plan – (see appendix 4 – Draft document, Revised Anti Bullying Strategy).</b></p>
<p>2) Support is given to the ‘Anti Bullying Standard’</p>	<p>We have looked at similar awards in other Local Authorities. A Rotherham version has been drafted. It is a Gold, Silver and Bronze award. The standard seeks to recognise and encourage progress towards the Gold standard. The Gold is achieved where the school has an Anti Bullying policy that actively addresses bullying and includes a reporting data base to monitor bullying incidents.</p> <p><b>Following discussions with the Healthy Schools team we have now linked the Anti Bullying Standard to the Healthy Schools award. The Anti Bullying Standard is being launched as part of Anti Bullying Week.</b></p> <p><b>25 Schools now signed up to the Standard.</b></p> <p><b>4 of the 25 Schools have now been through accreditation, 4 of the schools are working towards a gold award.</b></p>
<p>3) The effectiveness of the strategy is monitored by Child &amp; Young Peoples Services Scrutiny Panel.</p>	<p><b>Anti Bullying Development Co-ordinator provides audit of Stage 2 casework to Anti Bullying Steering Group.</b></p> <p><b>Work closely with other services to implement strategies. For example:- Social &amp; Emotional Aspects of Learning – now the basis for improving behaviour in schools , MIND/Behaviour Education Support Team – supporting mental health in schools, and Praise Pod – celebrating positive behaviour in school and home.</b></p>

	<p><b>Praise Pod now working in all primaries in the Rawmarsh Cluster</b>  <b>Praise Pod being piloted in Oakwood Technology College.</b>  <b>Schools participating in Praise Pod are as follows:</b></p> <p><i>Redscope Primary</i>  <i>Ashwood Primary</i>  <i>Rosehill Primary</i>  <i>St. Joseph's Primary</i>  <i>Sandhill Primary</i>  <i>Dinnington Community Primary</i>  <i>Thorogate Primary</i>  <i>Treeton C of E Primary</i>  <i>Oakwood Technical College</i></p> <p><b>Trained and preparing to go live in 2009:</b></p> <p><i>Herringthorpe Juniors</i></p> <p><b>Schools expressing a strong interest for 2009:</b></p> <p><i>Clifton Comprehensive</i>  <i>St Thomas, Kilnhurst</i>  <i>Wales Primary</i>  <i>West Melton</i>  <i>Thurcroft</i>  <i>Swinton Brookfield</i>  <i>Dinnington Comprehensive</i></p>
<p><b>4)</b> That School Councils and other student bodies are fully involved in the development and monitoring of school policies and 'whole school approaches' to tackling bullying.</p>	<p>We have included this in the Anti Bulling Standard. Additionally the Anti Bullying Strategy Group are sharing good practice. For example, the Maltby based Behaviour Education Support Team has shared its Anti Bullying practice with Dinnington. It is on the work plan to jointly work with MIND on training for school councils.</p> <p><b>Anti Bullying Development Officer working closely with Rotherham Youth Cabinet to advise on how school councils can best inform school management and Governing Body. Also links in to the Anti Bullying Standard/requirement for School Council reporting to Governing Bodies.</b></p>

	<p><b>Anti Bullying Officer working closely with Clifton, Wingfield, Thrybergh and Maltby Secondary Schools – currently looking at developing their anti bullying policy with emphasis on student voice.</b></p> <p><b>Standard beginning to address this in schools that are working towards the award. Anti bullying Governors will be encouraged to link in with School Councils. A toolkit for Anti Bullying Governors currently being developed and in the interim Anti Bullying Governors can refer to terms of reference for anti bullying governors.</b></p>
<p><b>5)</b> That a single definition of bullying is developed and communicated in Rotherham MBC policies and guidance</p>	<p>Completed. We also emphasise this on the Sentinel training. Once we are able to pull off reports from the database we will carryout an audit in order to measure consistency of reporting. This will influence future training developments.</p> <p><b>Completed</b></p>
<p><b>6)</b> That schools governing bodies are encourage to nominate a ‘designated governor’ for bullying</p>	<p>Still at the planning stage; the remit is often embedded in the Discipline arrangements in schools and is currently held as a collective responsibility by some Governing Bodies. The Anti Bullying Steering Group recognise that the issue of a designated governor may be easier to achieve on larger Governing Bodies, but may need to be seen as part of related duties on smaller Governing Bodies. Opportunities are being arranged to promote the Designated Governor through Chairs and Vice Chairs meetings.</p> <p><b>Linked in to the Anti Bullying Standard. Information to be cascaded to Governing Bodies through the next Governors Newsletter. It will also be an agenda item on the next Chair and Vice-Chair Forum in November. Head Teachers will also be informed.</b></p> <p><b>Letter has been sent out to all Chairs of Governing Bodies encouraging a nomination for a designated governing. Governing Bodies representative will be asked to ensure Policies/Guidance and relevant initiatives are implemented.</b></p> <p><b>48 Schools have now nominated an Anti Bullying Governor.</b></p> <p><b>Toolkit being developed for Anti Bullying Governors – Terms of Reference has been issued in the interim.</b></p>
<p><b>7)</b> School councils should be encouraged to report annually to governing bodies on the</p>	<p>Linked as above and to the Standard.</p>

<p>effectiveness of their school policy.</p>	<p><b>Linked to the Standard – also linked to the nomination of a designated Governor for Anti Bullying</b></p> <p><b>Standard now beginning to address this through the schools that have signed up.</b></p> <p><b>Toolkit for Anti Bullying Governors will strengthen this process.</b></p>
<p><b>8)</b> That consideration be given to the funding of the Sentinel System beyond the initial development stage to ensure that its implementation and maintenance is supported.</p>	<p>There were originally 20 schools engaged in the development of the Sentinel system. This has now increased to 43 schools. Funding is secure for the next financial year; however as in the case with all Rotherham MBC priorities further funding will be subject to future bidding processes.</p> <p><b>Evaluation of Sentinel with 43 pilot schools carried out in Summer 2007. Very disappointing return – schools finding system difficult to use. Need to review how we collect information on bullying in the future. Current work looking at a SIMs compatible system.</b></p> <p><b>The interest in Sentinel has increased particularly from schools who are working towards the Standard.</b></p> <p><b>Although the interest in Sentinel initially increased the system was only used by 2 schools. Because of such a disappointing return further funding for Sentinel could not be justified. Future plans are now to look at using SIMs as an alternative and a meeting is to be arranged with Capita. National picture likely to affect future decisions regarding recording and monitoring of incidents as the Government have announced plans to make the recording analysis of Anti Bullying incidents a mandatory requirement. It is important to note that should this become a mandatory requirement then there may be future cost implications.</b></p>
<p><b>9)</b> That a survey of Children &amp; Young People's perceptions and attitudes towards bullying be conducted on an annual basis.</p>	<p>Bullying Survey document has been prepared by Anti Bullying Strategy Steering Group. This to be used to develop more detailed information than currently collected by other surveys</p> <p><b>The Lifestyle Survey questions on bullying to be brought into line with the national Tell Us 2 survey. This will provide Rotherham with an opportunity to baseline against a national baseline.</b></p> <p><b>The Lifestyle Survey question around bullying has been brought into line with the</b></p>

	<p><b>national Tellus3 survey as this now asks if pupils have been bullied in the last 4 weeks and a comparable question is asked in the Tellus3 survey.</b></p> <p><b>The Tellus3 survey covers the following year groups Year 6, Year 8 and Year 10 and enables comparisons to be made with national data. Rotherham’s Lifestyle survey covers Year 5, Year 7 and Year 10 pupils; and is a local survey and has a bigger sample. The number of pupils who completed the Rotherham secondary survey is over 2,000 pupils and over 500 completed the primary survey. Over 1,000 Rotherham pupils completed the Tellus3 survey.</b></p>
<p><b>10)</b> Based on the findings of the pilot evaluation, that consideration is given to encouraging all schools to utilise the missDorothy.com resources, distributed to all schools in S Yorkshire as part of a coordinated approach to addressing bullying.</p>	<p>South Yorkshire Police and Fire Service have been working regionally with missDorothy.com and a further presentation to Rotherham schools was made in March.</p> <p><b>Anti Bullying Development Officer asking School Councils to feedback regarding if their schools are using Miss Dorothy.com. Early indications from pilot schools not showing the impact expected.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>68 Rotherham Schools have attended training.</b></li> <li>• <b>No clarity about how many schools are actually using the materials.</b></li> <li>• <b>PCSO’s have been told to contact the school in their patch regarding Miss Dorothy.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Plans to send out an audit document to all schools will give a better picture of how many schools are currently using Miss Dorothy.com resources</b></p>
<p><b>11)</b> That a coordinated approach is given to the purchasing of resources on an authority wide basis to ensure that they complement current initiatives, such as SEAL</p>	<p>The Anti Bullying Steering Group recognises that there are a number of approaches and subsequently materials promoting Anti Bullying strategies. A sub group of the ABSG focuses on the promotion of curriculum materials. The Anti Bullying Steering Group will promote those materials most closely supporting the definition and the strategy to ensure consistency of materials. It is proposed to circulate information on these materials through the school mail system.</p> <p><b>Anti Bullying Strategy Group has identified key approaches that partners have identified as effective e.g. restorative justice where victims are supported by the perpetrators. Materials supporting this approach circulated to partners with recommendations for use.</b></p>

	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>12)</b> That the learning from the BEST project and partnership with Rotherham Mind is rolled out across the Borough and consideration is given to how this partnership can be supported beyond 2008 when the funding of Behaviour Improvement Project ceases	<p>Best practice is being shared across the Behaviour Education Support Team partnership schools as well as in those schools outside of the partnership area e.g. Dinnington (see 4).</p> <p><b>BEST currently funded until April 2009.</b></p>
<b>13)</b> That clear pathways for addressing bullying are developed, understood and communicated to children, parents, teachers and other relevant agencies across the Borough	<p>A pathway has been identified and piloted in the Maltby and Dinnington areas through the Behaviour Education Support Team. This identifies sources of counselling support where necessary for victims of bullying.</p> <p><b>The Pathway Project is on target for dissemination into all schools during Spring Term 2008</b></p> <p><b>Maltby are now working in partnership with Clifton Comprehensive with a view to Clifton setting up a pathway for anti bullying.</b></p> <p><b>Clifton now have a pathway working in school.</b></p> <p><b>The Pathway Project is now completed in Maltby and the model is ready for other schools to use. Anti Bullying Development Officer to meet with Maltby Best to discuss the best way forward for dissemination to schools.</b></p>
<b>15)</b> That links are made with neighbourhood champions (where appropriate) to ensure that a co-ordinated approach is taken to bullying both inside and outside schools	<p>Future work planning will continue to support this recommendation through the core work of the Anti Bullying Development Officer. Members of the Joint Leadership Team attending the Safer Rotherham Partnership do champion the Anti Bullying Strategy. Protocols currently exist that propose that such incidents are dealt with through the school's discipline policy.</p> <p><b>Anti Bullying Development Officer linking with Neighbourhood Champions across Rotherham. The Neighbourhood Champions now able to report incidents in communities as part of auditing process.</b></p> <p><b>Anti Bullying Officer has worked with individual Neighbourhood Champions but is still trying to make links with Neighbourhood Champion Managers.</b></p>

	<p><b>Safer Schools Partnership Steering group has been formed incorporating PYPO's, Healthy Schools, Anti Bullying Development Officer, Healthy Schools and representatives from secondary schools.</b></p>
<p><b>16)</b> That links are made with youth organisations such as the scouts and guides to ensure that a co-ordinated approach is taken to addressing bullying</p>	<p>This constitutes core work for the Anti Bullying Development Officer. Invitation has been sought to scout and guide leaders meetings.</p> <p><b>Anti Bullying Development Officer meets with Scout and Guide Leaders. Anti Bullying Development Officer visiting individual Scouts/Guides Groups across the Borough to promote the Anti-bullying Strategy.</b></p> <p><b>Meetings to be set up.</b></p> <p><b>ABO has had meetings with Guide Leaders with plans to offer Anti Bullying information sessions to Leaders</b></p> <p><b>Youth Organisations have their own anti bullying policies in place and include anti bullying is covered in their handbooks for young people.</b></p>
<p><b>17)</b> That consideration is given to extending the role of the Council's Health, Safety and Welfare Panel to incorporate the monitoring of bullying incidents in schools where there are widespread concerns or significant issues.</p>	<p>Discussion has taken place with Health and Safety colleagues in Children &amp; Young Peoples Service. Currently physical injuries are recorded, but not necessarily sourced as due to bullying. The key source of bullying incidents will in due course be through Sentinel, whereby trends and incidence will provide opportunities for further targeting of resources to areas of concern.</p> <p><b>Difficulties with Sentinel identified above. Main monitoring of coming through Stage 2 Complaints to CYPS. Reliance on schools to report specific types of bullying through other reporting systems e.g. Racial harassment reporting.</b></p> <p><b>Anti Bullying to attend the CYPS Health and Safety group meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Anti Bullying Officer has attended CYPS Health &amp; Safety group meetings and will be invited to future meetings to form a collaboration with group members.</b></p> <p><b>Anti Bullying Development Officer to attend the next CYPS Health and Safety group meeting to discuss future developments for the recording of bullying incidents in schools</b></p>

## Other developments

- The Anti Bullying Development Officer has been involved in supporting 20 schools in reviewing their Anti Bullying policy. This has enabled advice to be provided against our model policy bench mark. A further 12 schools have utilised the Healthy Schools policy day to review their Anti Bullying Policy.
- Very positive partnership has developed with Rotherham United. They are represented on the Anti Bullying Steering Group. An anti-bullying initiative was held recently on a match day promoting the Anti Bullying Strategy. They have given considerable publicity to our partnership in their community newsletter.
- South Yorkshire Members of Parliament have been brokering future regional partnerships with national charities involved in anti-bullying around the development of resources.
- **Anti Bullying Week programme of events circulated involving schools, services and partners. . Communications Team have provided press statements to ensure high profile in national and local media.**
- **The Anti Bullying Development Officer is currently working with Thrybergh Comprehensive on a 4 week anti bullying project. The project is a pilot being run with year 8 pupils with a view to expanding the project from September to include whole school. The project will start with an anti bullying assembly followed by work in form time and 4 weeks of PSHE. At the end of the project the year 8's will hold a performance for parents to include role play, poems and posters. If this has a positive impact it could then be used as a model of good practice for other schools.**
- **Clifton Comprehensive have now appointed an Anti Bullying Officer who will be dedicated to Anti Bullying duties.**
- **Both Rawmarsh Community School and Dinnington Comprehensive are both working with CRESST (Conflict Resolution Education in Sheffield Schools Training), CRESST offer training in Peer Mediation techniques and Restorative Practice.**
- **Wingfield School and Clifton School both held events during Anti Bullying week and worked with their feeder school and partnership schools to bring together a sharing of good practice.**
- **Winterhill School and Wickersley School are both engaging in a peer mentoring**



**training programme.**

- **Anti Bullying Model Guidance currently being updated.**
- **Audit of anti bullying good practice in schools to be completed by June 2009 in order to set up a good practice database.**

## **Revised Anti Bullying Strategy – November 2008**

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council has a long standing commitment to reducing bullying in Children and young Peoples Services with a particular emphasis on schools.

It is Children and Young Peoples Services Anti Bullying initiatives has a good record of addressing the issues, sharing good practise and achieving positive outcomes on an individual casework basis.

The recent 'Tell Us' survey of October 2008 confirmed that Bullying incidents are relatively few. However Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's Children and Young Peoples Services that the view that for those Children and Young People who are bullied, it can seriously affect learning as well as their emotional health and wellbeing.

### **The Population**

All Children and Young People in Rotherham

### **Outcomes**

Prevent all Children and Young People becoming involved in/or affected by bullying as defined in the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's Anti Bullying guidance.

### **Experience**

All partner agencies will be committed to ensuring that:

- All Children and Young People feel safe and listened too.
- Action taken to regarding their concerns is effective and positive for them

Agencies specifically concerned with improving relationships between young people will be committed to:

- Promoting positive relationships
- Engaging Children and Young People in finding solutions to their difficulties
- Understanding Children and Young Peoples perceptions of the effectiveness of anti bullying interventions available.

### **Indicators**

The proportion of Children and Young People who report they:

- Are safe and happy at school
- Are safe and happy in their community
- Have experienced racist bullying and
- Have experienced homophobic bullying
-

## Appendix 1

### Parents views about bullying and discrimination

Reports of bullying among specifically vulnerable groups identified as:

- Children in special schools
- Children in children's homes
- Children in transition from primary to secondary schools
- Children whose parents complain to the Local Authority, and:
- Children whose parents choose to educate at home.

### Baseline

The Lifestyle Survey question around bullying has been brought into line with the national Tellus3 survey as this now asks if pupils have been bullied in the last 4 weeks and a comparable question is asked in the Tellus3 survey.

The Tellus3 survey covers the following year groups Year 6, Year 8 and Year 10 and enables comparisons to be made with national data. Rotherham's Lifestyle survey covers Year 5, Year 7 and Year 10 pupils; and is a local survey and has a bigger sample. The number of pupils who completed the Rotherham secondary survey is over 2,000 pupils and over 500 completed the primary survey. Over 1,000 Rotherham pupils completed the Tellus3 survey.

### Storey behind the baseline

- Existing anti-bullying policies appear to be effective, but clearly more can be done
- Greater understanding is needed of the extent of bullying
- There is need for greater clarity about the service available to Children and Young People to reduce bullying
- There is scope for more targeted support to support victims of bullying, racism, homophobia and discrimination.
- Develop additional methods to encourage victims to report incidents of bullying

### Partners

Children and Young Peoples Services

BEST

MIND

HEALTH

South Yorkshire Police

South Yorkshire Fire Service

Anti Bullying Alliance

Rotherham United Football in the Community

Rotherham College of Arts and Technology

Actions needed to improve Anti bullying week

- Local coordination of relevant anti-bullying advise, programmes and activities under ECM, the RESPECT agenda and guidance from DCSF.
- Clear policies and practises in all agencies to prevent bullying
- A continued emphasis on solution focused anti bullying work including the establishing of support group approach.
- Promotion of Buddy and Peer Mentor schemes to support victims and encourage anti-bullying
- Increase advice and support to parents whose parents are subject to bullying.

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**Action Plan – Anti Bullying Strategy 2009/10**

<b><u>Desired Outcomes</u></b>	<b><u>Actions</u></b>
Children and Young People report with confidence that bullying in all forms is dealt with effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate with all partners the extent of bullying in Rotherham</li> <li>• Collect data from surveys/inspections and reports</li> <li>• Report on the perceived impact of effective services from a Children and Young Peoples perspective</li> <li>• Report findings in forms accessible to Children and Young People</li> <li>• Measure extent of bullying in comparison to statistical neighbours</li> <li>• Investigate reporting mechanisms from 04/09 onwards in line with DCSF proposals</li> </ul>
Bullying issues are dealt with effectively as possible in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and assess the effectiveness and support provided through Schools Anti Bullying Policies</li> <li>• Encourage schools to undertake anti bullying standard through supported self review</li> </ul>
Strategies in place to deal effectively with bullying in Children’s residential homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s residential unit and schools anti-bullying policies to be monitored on an annual basis and their effectiveness assessed.</li> <li>• Monitor the risk assessment of vulnerability to abuse and bullying in residential settings</li> </ul>

Appendix 1

<p>Looked after children report with confidence that anti bullying is dealt with effectively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the proportion of looked after children and what report being effected by bullying and discrimination and make provisions to reduce it.</li> </ul>
<p>Improved access to support for the victims of bullying</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce details of services available to support victims of bullying</li> </ul>
<p>Identified groups feel less vulnerable and receive targeted support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide targeted support to vulnerable groups</li> <li>• Be alert to issues and concerns raised in respect of racist homophobic and disability bullying</li> </ul>
<p>Reduce homophobic and racist bullying in line with the National RESPECT agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect data to assess the incidence of racist bullying</li> <li>• Ensure the workforce is trained to enable young people and staff to recognise and deal with racism effectively and timely</li> <li>• Develop and implement as a pilot a training package for schools on homophobic bullying</li> </ul>
<p>Members of Children and Young Peoples Services use best available methods when working with Children and Young People who report bullying</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all schools and settings have information on proven evidence based practise in addressing bullying</li> </ul>
<p>Improve relationships between Children and Young People in schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote positive relationships through increased use of SEAL and praise pod</li> </ul>

Appendix 1

Budget

The majority of actions will be funded through officer time. The ensure Children and Young Peoples Services settings receive appropriate material to address bullying there needs to be in the region of £10,000 budget allocated to the anti bullying strategy.

Monitoring

The action plan will be monitored through the anti bullying strategy steering group and report back to Children and Young People cabinet member and scrutiny panel.

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<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Panel</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> January 2009</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Management of Sure Start Children’s Centres on school sites – response to questions</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young People’s Services</b>

**5. Summary:**

This briefing offers a response to questions raised, by Members, at the Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Panel held on the Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

**6. Recommendation:**

**That the briefing is received.**



## 7. Proposals and Details:

### Questions raised:

- a) *Is the existence of the Sure Start Centre acceptable to, or approved by the School Governing Body?*

Meetings have been held with each Governing Body to consult and seek approval for the development of a Children's Centre on the school site. Local, multi-agency stakeholder groups have been established and facilitated by the Local Authority to steer the development of the Children's Centre. The Headteacher reports progress to the Governing Body on a regular basis.

- b) *What is the role (if any) of the school governing body in managing the Sure Start Centre?*

The Local Authority has overall strategic responsibility for Children's Centres across the borough. A contract between the Local Authority and the Governing Body is signed by the Chair of Governors. The School Governing Body is accountable and responsible for the Children's Centre on their school site including the building, budget, staff and delivery of services. The level of budget and services varies across Children's Centres depending on the level of disadvantage within the area, the size of the reach area and the type of services offered. The Children's Centre budget is separate to the school's delegated budget.

- c) *Does the Sure Start Centre have a separate management body?*

The Governing Body provides the Children's Centre through its extended services powers. Under these circumstances it is recommended that the Governing Body expands its membership to ensure it reflects the local community and the range of services provided through the Children's Centre. Representatives from health and social care, and private, voluntary and independent sector providers could become community governors or associate members. If the governing body adds extra governor positions it must amend its instrument of government.

Depending on the size of the school and the Governing Body some schools have chosen to establish a Children's Centre Sub Committee of the Governing Body to oversee the Children's Centre and report back to the full Governing Body.

Each Children's Centre has also established a multiagency steering group to consult, plan and deliver services which meet the needs of the local community and improve outcomes for children and families.

- d) *Do the Head Teachers and/or school governors have any day-to-day responsibility for such things as resource/finance allocation and health and safety in the Sure Start Centres?*

The Headteacher and Governing Body have responsibility for the leadership and performance of the Children's Centre. As the Children's Centres are on school sites they are also responsible for the building. On a day to day basis local agreements and partnership working should be established which clearly outline individual partners, staff and service providers responsibilities.

As stated in (b) the Children's Centre budget is separate to the school's delegated budget and is "ring-fenced" to the activities of the Children's Centre.

e) *If there is a specific role, should school governors receive any specific training to be able to manage the Sure Start Centres?*

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published guidance which has been shared with Headteachers and Governing Bodies. A Children's Centre Leaders group has been established to share good practice and enhance skills and expertise. Presentations on governance have been delivered to the Children's Centres Leadership group and Governing Bodies. The Local Authority Governors section has produced guidance for Children's Centre Governing Body Committees.

Should Headteachers or Governing Bodies require further training or support please contact Paul Carney in the Governor Development Service.

#### **8. Risks and Uncertainties:**

Engagement of all partners is vital to ensure Children's Centres are successful in achieving the best outcomes for children and families. Schools are well placed to work with partners to integrate Children's Centres and Extended Services ensuring children and families are supported throughout their lives.

#### **9. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:**

The Sure Start Children's Centre strategy has a significant role to play in supporting the delivery of the Corporate Plan priorities:

Rotherham Learning:	Integrated services and family support will lead to higher standards of achievement in areas of high social and economic deprivation.
Rotherham Achieving:	The programmes focus on building the capacity of families to support themselves and to re-enter the employment market.
Rotherham Safe:	A crucial priority for the integrated services will be the safety of vulnerable children. Early identification reduces vulnerability.
Rotherham Alive:	The partnerships with the PCT promotes healthy lifestyles through early intervention.
Rotherham Proud:	The development of the Children's Centres has enhanced provision in communities.
Fairness:	The services within accessible buildings gives equality of opportunity to the communities.
Sustainable development:	Partnership working and the reshaping of present services will enable sustainable development.

#### **Background Papers and Consultation:**

Governance Guidance for Sure Start Children's Centres and extended schools (2007)

Copies can be downloaded at [www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications)

Search using ref:00356-2007BKT-EN

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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**Friday, 28th November, 2008**

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

Also in attendance were:- Mrs. Pat Wade (Aston cum Aughton Parish Council) and Mrs. L. Pitenly (guest).

Apologies were received from:- Councillors Ali, Currie, Dodson, Sharp and Sims and from co-opted members Mrs. J. Blanch-Nicholson, Mrs. D. Booth, Mr. M. Hall and Father A. Hayne.

**62.           DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor D. Hughes declared a personal interest in item number 66 (Progress on Rotherham's Sexual Health Strategy) as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the SHIELD organisation.

**63.           QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

**64.           MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE YOUTH CABINET**

The Scrutiny Panel noted the success of the Eleven Million Takeover day, on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2008, when Youth Cabinet members attended a meeting at Rotherham Town Hall with Members of the Borough Council's Cabinet and of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee.

The Youth Cabinet would also be writing to the local Members of Parliament with their views on:-

- increasing the amount of recycling of waste in schools;
- reduction in the amount of product packaging;
- reduction in the supply and use of plastic bags.

**65.           COMMUNICATIONS**

(1) Sure Start Children's Centres – reference was made to the development of Sure Start Children's Centres and their location alongside certain primary schools. Discussion took place on whether school governing bodies had responsibility for the management of these Centres. It was agreed that the appropriate officers present a report to an early meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel about this matter.

(2) Road Safety and the Levels of Motor Traffic outside Schools – Members were invited to join this Scrutiny Review Group (Councillor Kaye agreed to participate in this review).

(3) Locality Teams - Scrutiny Panel members were reminded that the visit of inspection to the newly-established Locality Teams would take place on Monday, 1st December, 2008.

**66. ROTHERHAM'S SEXUAL HEALTH STRATEGY - PROGRESS**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Mike Brown, Sexual Health Lead at NHS Rotherham, which described the progress being made with the Rotherham Sexual Health Strategy. The report stated that the rise in rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), both nationally and regionally, has been mirrored in Rotherham. The key points and issues within the report were:-

- the unequal impact of STIs and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), with the most disadvantaged groups and deprived communities having the highest levels of infection;
- high rates of unintended pregnancies, as witnessed by termination figures in women of all ages and the rates of teenage pregnancy;
- an increase in "risky" behaviour due to changes in society and the high rates of partner change; there are also relatively low levels of public awareness about risk and the consequences of unprotected sex;
- services operating often in isolation and only occasionally linking up with other sexual health services;
- demand management is often inadequate with services either overstretched or under-utilised;
- locally in Rotherham, efforts are being made to meet national targets, better assess need and to modernise services to deliver improved sexual health services for the Borough's population.

The report also referred to the draft Sexual Health Strategy (2007-2010) published by NHS Rotherham, to the Sexual Health Targets (within the Public Service Agreement and the Local Delivery Plan) and to the national Chlamydia screening programme for 15 to 24 year olds. Various graphs were distributed to Scrutiny Panel members, providing statistical information about young people's sexual health in Rotherham.

The Scrutiny Panel's discussion of these matters included reference to the following salient issues:-

- (i) the number of people visiting genito urinary medicine clinics and the use of screening programmes;
- (ii) priorities such as increasing access to and take-up of long acting reversible contraception and also an increase in HIV prevention work;

(iii) the provision of sexual health information to schools and faith schools and the restrictions to such provision;

(iv) using the principles of world class commissioning to ensure the development of high quality services;

(v) screening services provided and funded by other organisations, including charities;

(vi) obtaining screening services from pharmacies and from Internet web sites.

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

(2) That a further progress report about the Rotherham Sexual Health Strategy be submitted to a meeting of this Scrutiny Panel in twelve months' time.

(Councillor D. Hughes declared a personal interest in the above item and did not vote)

#### **67. ROTHERHAM TEENAGE PREGNANCY STRATEGY**

Further to Minutes Nos. 12 (of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2006) and 22 (of this Scrutiny Panel's meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2006), consideration was given to a report presented by Melanie Simmonds, Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Co-ordinator at NHS Rotherham, which described the progress being made with the Rotherham Teenage Pregnancy Strategy.

The report stated that the Government had launched the national Teenage Pregnancy Strategy in 1999, with the Rotherham Strategy being launched during the following year. Although the teenage pregnancy rate is reducing, England still has one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in Western Europe. As part of the Rotherham teenage Pregnancy Strategy, the following priorities for action had been identified:-

- targeted interventions with high risk young people;
- a systematic approach to comprehensive contraceptive provision;
- increasing the role of parents in improving outcomes for young people.

The report included details of the SMART action plan, which targeted interventions at young people at risk of teenage pregnancy.

Reference was made to the pilot project in Maltby which provided intensive support to young women at high risk of teenage pregnancy. The outcomes of the project were positive for teenage pregnancy and also for NEETs (not in education, employment, nor training), substance misuse and improved mental health. This project had been financed initially from

the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and would continue to be funded until 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2009. However, longer term funding sources would need to be identified to enable the project to be introduced to other parts of the Borough area.

The Scrutiny Panel's discussion of this issue included reference to the following matters:-

- (i) reduced teenage pregnancy rates amongst girls aged under 16 years;
- (ii) NHS Rotherham making significant investment to improve contraceptive services for young people;
- (iii) provision of youth clinics;
- (iv) the availability of emergency contraception; and the need to review the way young people are able to obtain emergency contraception;
- (v) a social marketing campaign (March 2009) to encourage girls, particularly 13 to 19 year olds, to use long acting reversible contraception;
- (vi) information to be sent to parents of secondary school pupils containing advice about talking to their children about sex and relationships.

Resolved:- That the report be received and the progress of the Rotherham Teenage Pregnancy Strategy be noted.

**68. NHS ROTHERHAM'S UPDATE ON CURRENT PROGRESS AGAINST 'MATERNITY MATTERS'**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Joanne Martin, Strategic Planning Manager at NHS Rotherham and Karen Norton, Head of Maternity Services at the Rotherham Foundation Trust, describing the progress being made with the 'Maternity Matters' project which aims to support new parents by helping them to provide safe and high quality care for their babies. The report included the following details:-

- Rotherham scored as 'better performing' in the Health Care Commission Review;
- the Rotherham vision to provide high quality maternity services;
- a robust needs assessment had been undertaken of Rotherham's maternity services, including a health equity audit, a self assessment, and three surveys (a national survey, one undertaken by the voluntary sector focusing on vulnerable groups, and one by an evaluation company), to gain a true picture of how the service presently functions, identifying gaps in the service and patient and staff experiences;

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- the development of an action plan, to be implemented by December 2009, with the following priorities:-

- : providing direct self-referral to a midwife;
- : enabling mothers and their partners to make informed choices;
- : supporting breast feeding and reducing smoking in pregnancy;
- : post-natal care, including maternal mental health
- : data quality, supported by robust information systems.

- introducing a maternity services liaison committee, organised by the voluntary sector;

- seeking UNICEF baby friendly accreditation in the community and hospital settings, by 2011.

The Scrutiny Panel's discussion of this issue included reference to the following matters:-

- (i) the benefits of direct access to the services provided by midwives;
- (ii) improvements in post-natal care and maternal mental health;
- (iii) tailoring maternity services to meet the needs of families and increasing access to services within community settings.

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

(2) That this Scrutiny Panel welcomes the work being undertaken to provide improved maternity services in the Rotherham Borough area.

**69. SMOKING IN PREGNANCY**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Khamis Al-alawy, Tobacco Control Lead at NHS Rotherham, describing the progress being made towards achieving the smoking in pregnancy prevalence (PSA 2010) target and actions required to address under-performance against that target. A principal aim was to reduce smoking in pregnancy rates to 15% by 2010.

Members noted that NHS Rotherham had commissioned Newcastle University to work jointly on social marketing to ensure that NHS Rotherham would gain key information (consumer insight) for service improvement and promotion.

The Scrutiny Panel's discussion of this subject included reference to the following salient issues:-

- (i) the prevalence of smoking in pregnancy, in Rotherham, was currently higher than the national average;



(ii) reference to the age profile of people who smoke; and the need to target 'quit smoking' campaigns at everyone who smoked, not only pregnant women;

(iii) the use of nicotine substitutes, to try and help people stop smoking, although nicotine would still enter the bloodstream;

(iv) the harmful impact of passive smoking, especially upon children;

(v) the problems of substance abuse and misuse (eg: alcohol; drugs) and the need for an integrated strategy to tackle these problems;

(vi) the implementation of the Health Equity Audit, targeting health services to areas of specific need;

(vii) quit smoking strategies in other countries (eg: USA); the need for continued support, over time, to ensure that people did not begin smoking again;

(viii) the Government would publish a new tobacco control policy during the Spring, 2009;

(ix) smoking in pregnancy rates in Rotherham were reducing over time and compared favourably to the South Yorkshire neighbouring authorities and to the regional average for Yorkshire and the Humber;

(x) rates of smoking in different parts of the Borough area and in the various ethnic communities.

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

(2) That the various actions being taken to try and prevent smoking in pregnancy, as detailed in the report now submitted, are supported by this Scrutiny Panel.

(3) That a further progress report about reducing and preventing smoking in pregnancy be submitted to a meeting of this Scrutiny Panel in twelve months' time.

## **70. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS FUNDING**

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Resources and Access, stating that Rotherham's approach to securing excellent outcomes and increased opportunities for children, young people and families is based upon the development of a network of Learning Communities incorporating integrated service provision built around local needs and aspirations. Widespread consultation has established a strategic vision which aims to transform the relationship between special schools and their partner primary and secondary schools. The aim is that special schools be re-designated as a specialist

resource for the wider schools system that will add to the broader personalisation transformation. These schools will provide capacity in each of the four specialist areas:- cognition and learning; communication and interaction; physical and sensory needs; and behavioural, emotional and social needs.

The report stated that funding for high incidence Special Educational Needs (SEN) is driven through formula factors for each school in addition to the mainstream school budget. Schools who have pupils with low incidence exceptional needs receive a top-up allocation. Some funding is retained centrally for support services and extra-district Special Educational Needs requirements. The benefits of delegating SEN funding to schools include:-

- the targeting of resources more fairly across schools in the Borough;
- greater autonomy, in line with supporting self-improving schools, to plan and manage provision efficiently and effectively;
- earlier intervention in co-operation with local authority support services and other agencies who can target their resources working proactively with children and parents and schools;
- concentrates greater emphasis on provision and monitoring for pupils with complex needs;
- reduced bureaucracy for schools and for the local authority with regard to the comprehensive and lengthy processes linked to Statutory Assessments, Statements and Annual Reviews.

The Scrutiny Panel's discussion of this matter included the following salient issues:-

- (i) comparisons of SEN funding and provision with Rotherham's statistical neighbour authorities and with upper- and lower-quartile authorities;
- (ii) the assessment process which leads to a child being statemented and the reasons why some children are not statemented; the timescale from initial referral and assessment to the issue of the statement;
- (iii) the pupil population at special schools was expected to remain fairly static in future years;
- (iv) Special Educational Needs training for school governors, within the cluster of schools arrangements;
- (v) the notional SEN funding delegated to mainstream schools (Section 52 Schools Statements and including unit allocations); funding was reviewed annually;

(vi) the roles of SEN teachers and the SEN link governors and the sharing of good practice between schools;

(vii) the support provided for pupils, in classrooms, who had low incidence needs, but were not stated;

(viii) the public consultation process about the Transforming Rotherham Learning through Building Schools for the Future strategy.

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

(2) That the Director of Resources and Access provide further information and details to Members of this Scrutiny, in response to the questions asked at this meeting.

(3) That this Scrutiny Panel continue to be informed, on a regular basis, about the Transforming Rotherham Learning strategy.

(4) That a progress report about Special Educational Needs provision and funding be submitted to a meeting of this Scrutiny Panel in six months' time.

**71. CABINET RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY REVIEW 'FUTURE CHALLENGES OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE'**

Consideration was given to a report presented jointly by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services and by Youth Officer Kerry Byrne containing the responses by Children and Young People's Services to the recommendations of the Youth Service Scrutiny Review (Minute No. B116 of the Cabinet meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 refers). The report made reference to the terms of reference for this review (legal responsibility; effectiveness of Young People's Service; Involving Young People; Financial issues) and also included the Cabinet's response to the recommendations.

There was particular mention of the recommendation for the commissioning of a strategy to modernise the youth service facilities in the Borough, reflecting the need to provide facilities across each locality.

The Scrutiny Panel's discussion of this matter included the following salient issues:-

(i) funding issues for young people's and youth services, including the Youth Capital Fund;

(ii) youth club provision in areas of need and the 'locality' approach to service delivery;

(iii) the provision of activities and events to try and curb or prevent youth nuisance.

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

(2) That a further report about the commissioning of a strategy to modernise the youth service facilities be submitted to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Panel.

(3) That a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Youth Service Scrutiny Review be submitted to a meeting of this Scrutiny Panel in six months' time.

(The Mayor (Councillor G. A. Russell) left the meeting during the Scrutiny Panel's consideration of this item; the Vice-Chair, Councillor J. Burton, assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting)

**72. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 31ST OCTOBER, 2008**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel held on 31st October, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

**73. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 24TH OCTOBER, 2008 AND 7TH NOVEMBER, 2008**

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 24th October, 2008 and on 7th November, 2008 be noted.

**LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SCRUTINY SUB-PANEL**  
**Wednesday, 10th December, 2008**

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

Also in attendance were:- Terry Crookall, Phil Owen and Ann Roche.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Anna Lidster and David Trickett.

**8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

**9. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2008**

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel, held on 24th September, 2008, be approved as a correct record.

With regard to Minute No. 3.3 the Chairman confirmed that a meeting was to be arranged shortly.

It was also confirmed that with regard to Minute No. 6 the Fostering Inspectorate was to revisit Rotherham on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2009. An update report on the inspection was to be presented to the next meeting in March, 2009.

**10. PERCENTAGE OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN LOOKED AFTER CONTINUOUSLY FOR TWELVE MONTHS AND WHO HAVE MISSED 25 DAYS OR MORE OF SCHOOLING IN 2007/2008**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Martin Smith, Manager of the Get Real Team, which detailed the focus of the Get Real Team in raising the attainment, achievement and aspirations of young people in care in Rotherham, mainly via short term intervention work, in addition to monitoring and supporting attendance at school across all key stages.

One of the performance indicators for the Get Real Team was to support the raising of attainment of looked after children.

The report set out in detail:-

- The percentage numbers of children who had been looked after continuing for twelve months who had missed twenty-five days or more school for any reason during 2007/08.

- Current procedure for school attendance monitoring of looked after children by the Get Real Team.
- What additional short, mid and long term action and improvements have and would be taken and their expected outcome.
- Recent performance clinic outcomes for September, 2008

Discussion ensued and the following issues were raised and subsequently clarified for the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Group Members:-

- Whether the current procedures for recording children's absence was adequate in school.
- Predominant numbers of children in secondary school missing education.
- Implications of a part-time timetable for young people and the recording of absence.
- Sharing of information between designated teachers and governors and ensuring that they were aware of the role of the Get Real Team.
- Personal Education Plans for every looked after child and the importance of ensuring this was carried out.
- Explanation on the impact on absence figures with the new legislation on exclusions.
- Offsite timetables and their purpose.
- Recording of absence in schools and the need for this to be consistent across the borough.
- Links with family support.

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

(2) That further training be provided for the designated teachers and governors with responsibility for looked after children be arranged.

(3) That an update on progress be provided for the next meeting in March, 2009.

(4) That action be taken on measures to improve absence figure reporting throughout schools in the borough.

(5) That steps be taken to ensure all looked after children are issued with a Personal Education Plan and any changes in circumstances recorded.

## **11. EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN 2007/2008**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Martin Smith, Manager of the Get Real Team, which detailed the focus of the Get Real Team in raising the attainment, achievement and aspirations of young people in

care in Rotherham, mainly via short term intervention work.

The report set out in detail the support by the Get Real Team and the interventions to raise the attainment of looked after children across all key stages, what action was being taken, the links with Sheffield and Hallam Universities, RBT and BT and the celebration events that had taken place. In addition, the Get Real Team also provided a variety of specialist training for stakeholders involved in raising attainment.

Further information was provided on the results for looked after children at the different stages 2007/08, GCSE results 2007/08 and case studies of success for some looked after children

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

- Impact on care services with the school leaving age being raised for Year 7's for this academic school year.
- Attendance versus results and the need for targeted action for achievement.
- Support by Elected Members and Designated Governors in their role as Corporate Parents.
- The value of additional support.

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

(2) That an all Members' Seminar be arranged on the educational achievement of looked after children.

## **12. CARE MATTERS UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Simon Perry, Director of Targeted Support Services, which provided details on the Care Matters agenda.

This report followed a full review of the Care Matters agenda and gap analysis of service provision within Rotherham. This agenda had implications for Directorates across Children and Young People's Services.

On the whole service provision was good and many aspects of the proposed legislation were incorporated within existing practice. Where gaps have been identified, action plans were being developed to ensure compliance.

An all Member Seminar on Care Matters "Time for Change" (Looked After Children) was scheduled for Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2009.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families action log had been used as a basis for a full scale review of service provision and gap

analysis against the Government agenda involving input from across all Directorates within Children and Young People's Services. Much of the planning concerns detailed aspects of service provision and work would continue to ensure that we responded appropriately to all aspects of the agenda.

A brief summary of key aspects of the changed agenda and our response to date was set out in detail as part of the report.

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

- Attendance and achievement priorities for children placed at home and the status in the gap analysis.
- Need for careful monitoring of the gap analysis action plan.
- Resource implications for meeting the action plan.
- Involvement of the independent and voluntary sector and implications from the credit crunch.
- Colour coding of the action plan to show status of actions.
- Family and parenting support.
- Physical education provision for all students.

Agreed:- (1) That the contents of the report be noted and the proposals contained within this report endorsed.

(2) That a cross directorate task and finish group be established to undertake preparation work to ensure the service met expectations within this agenda.

(3) That a report be submitted on progress in June, 2009.

### **13. WORK PLACEMENT AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Simon Cooper, Human Resources Manager, which detailed how the Officers of the Get Real Team, the Bridges Team and Strategic Human Resources had continued to work together to offer meaningful work placements for looked after children within the Council. The work placements have helped to prepare the young people for the world of work and to develop skills, knowledge and experience which may place them in a better position to apply for and gain mainstream employment either within or external to the Council.

Further developments included the possibility of placements within NHS Rotherham and British Telecommunications.

From those who applied for work placements, two had been placed in construction with 2010 Rotherham, one in Streetpride, one caring placement at the Millenium Centre, which continued after the initial thirty days, for one day per week whilst she attended college on an Access to Nursing course and one placement in childcare at Rawmarsh Childrens



Centre – the young person was now at college studying a Childcare course. In addition, one placement was offered at the International Centre, but was awaiting a satisfactory CRB check.

The greatest success this year had been the placement of a young woman in Business Administration within Environment and Development Services over the summer holidays. She had intended to register at college, but found that she enjoyed this type of work so much that she applied for and was successful in gaining a Business Administration Apprenticeship in the same Directorate.

Success within this scheme was welcomed and would positively impact on those leaving care. All Directorates of the Council were on board with this scheme and it was important to ensure that work placements remained high on the agenda.

Discussion ensued on the work placement opportunities in other organisations and whether partner agencies could sign up to this scheme.

Feedback from the young people involved with the scheme was very positive and the support and opportunities provided were welcomed.

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

(2) That an update on progress of this scheme be presented to this Sub-Group in twelve months time.

(3) That work placement for looked after children be discussed with the Local Strategic Partnership and other partner agencies on how the scheme could be taken forward.

#### **14. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S COUNCIL - UPDATE AND MINUTES**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Simon Perry, Director of Targeted Support Services, which detailed how the Looked after Children's Council was developed in response to the Care Matters agenda.

The Looked After Children's Council comprised a group of twelve young people aged between eleven and seventeen years who have been working together to represent the voice of the Looked after Child in Rotherham. They had their first meeting with Elected Members and Children and Young People's Service Directors on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2008.

The meeting was chaired by a member of the Looked After Children Council and commenced with introductions. A brief presentation was provided on their work to date including initial work on their proposals to the Directors and Elected Members on the contents of the Corporate Parenting promise to them as Looked after Children.

The Council represented the views of Looked after Children. They voiced their wishes and actions they wanted to see change and these were set out in detail as part of the report.

All comments and actions suggested would be considered and a response made to the Looked After Children Council in due course.

Discussion ensued on the selection process for the Looked After Children Council and the allowances provided for children who were looked after by the Local Authority.

Agreed:- That the contents of the report be noted and the work of the Looked After Children Council be endorsed.

(2) That consideration be given to the incorporation of the Looked After Children Council details and their comments in the Rights to Rights Newsletter.

#### **15. 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 Paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended (information likely to reveal the identity of an individual).

#### **16. OFFENDING BY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Paul Grimwood, Senior Operations Manager, which provided information on the concerns that children and young people who were looked after were at greater risk of offending than the general population with those individuals cared for within residential children's homes representing the higher percentage of children who were involved in offending behaviour.

Previous reports have shown a decline in offences by young people in residential care and the report continued to follow that trend. However, offending by young people subject to Care Orders and those placed at home remained static.

The current figures related to those young people aged ten or over who had, on 30th September, 2008 been looked after children for at least twelve months. Similarly any reference to offending also related to the period from 1st October, 2007 to 30th September, 2008. This brought reporting in line with reporting to the Department of Children Schools and Families. It was acknowledged that previous reports have included offences committed by the entire looked after children population and not just those who had been looked after children for in excess of twelve

months.

Previous reports have provided figures for calendar years and although there was nothing to suggest that there would be any significantly different pattern it was obviously pertinent that different periods were being compared.

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

- Support packages for children placed at home.
- Work of the Early Intervention Team.
- Correlation of offending patterns and children placed at home.
- Issue of new guidelines regarding prosecution of young offenders.

Agreed:- (1) That the contents of this report be noted and support given for the actions outlined to further reduce offending by looked after children.

(2) That a further report be submitted, as part of the Care Matters Agenda, detailing what support packages were currently available for looked after children placed at home.

(3) That an update on the offending by looked after children be submitted in six months.

#### **17. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PROFILES AND UPDATE ON REGULATION 33 VISITS**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Simon Perry, Director of Targeted Support Services, which detailed the quarterly report for looked after children and the profile of numbers of looked after children.

The report confirmed that there were currently 387 looked after children, 27 of whom were open to the Children's Disability Team and the numbers increased from 353 in June, 2008.

Particular reference was made to:-

- Care Type.
- Age Band by Care Type.
- Young people with 25 or above days absence- Term 1 08/09 Academic year.

The report also provided information on issues arising from Regulation 33 reports on Children's Homes, with particular reference to the statements that had been agreed in three of the four children's homes and the level of access through the SWIFT system.

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

- Children in foster care placed outside of Rotherham.
- Retention and recruitment of foster carers in Rotherham.
- Status of independent fostering agencies.
- Allowances payable to foster carers.
- Recruitment campaign and numbers of interested parties.
- Adoption procedure and delays in the process.

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

(2) That further information be provided on the foster carer recruitment drive and a report submitted to the next meeting in March, 2009.

**18. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Agreed:- That the next meeting take place on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

**PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**Friday, 21st November, 2008**

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

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

**119.       DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

**120.       QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

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

**121.       UPDATE ON PLAIN ENGLISH**

Tracy Holmes, Head of Corporate Communications and Marketing, gave a short presentation on the use of Plain English in the Council.

The presentation drew specific attention to:-

- The Task that had been identified
- The current position.
- The Plain English Campaign and associated costs
- Support already available for Members and Staff.
- Work that could take place within existing resources to raise the profile of the issue
- The need to change behaviour, and the work that may require additional resources

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

- Education of managers and report authors to use plain English.
- Improvement in the use of the English language and appropriate electronic communication.
- Guidelines for the audience being targeted and use of appropriate language.
- Proof reading reports and letters before they are distributed.
- Use of abbreviations and the formulation of a glossary of terms.
- Raising the profile of the use of plain English.
- Training programme for staff.
- Government initiative "Skills for Life".

Resolved:- (1) That Tracy Holmes be thanked for her informative presentation.

(2) That the use of plain English be referred to the Members' Training

and Development Panel for consideration.

## 122. MEASURING AND REPORTING EFFICIENCY AND VALUE FOR MONEY GAINS

Rob Houghton, Principal Officer - Review and Inspection, introduced the submitted report which set out details of the efficiency savings achieved in the 2007/08 financial year that were reported in the Annual Efficiency Statement (AES) Backward Look Return to the DCLG in August this year. As well as details of the efficiency gains achieved in the last financial year the report set out the Council's efficiency performance under the Gershon regime for the period covered by the 2004 Comprehensive Spending Review. The requirements of the new efficiency regime based on NI 179 were outlined as were the continuing arrangements for monitoring efficiency gains and details of the mid year return (the first under the new system) being considered.

The report set out in detail:-

- 2007/08 Annual Efficiency Statement (AES) Backward Look.
- National Indicator 179 (NI 179) - Value for Money.
- Performance in 2008/09 onwards.

The delivery of ongoing efficiency savings was essential to achieving the Council's financial plans as ongoing cashable savings have been integrated within revenue budgets and the identification and delivery of further cashable gains comprised part of the Council's strategy for delivery of its revenue budget in 2009/10 and beyond.

Failure to meet targets in respect of NI 179 could have an adverse impact on the Council's performance as assessed by external regulators.

A full explanation of the Gershon savings, as well as those that were cashable and non-cashable, the definition of National Indicator 179 and its proposed 2008/09 forecast was provided.

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

- Predicted savings and their relationship with service overspends.
- The monitoring of efficiency gains and the descriptions in Appendix A.
- Process driven savings.
- Performance identified in Adult Social Services.
- Drive to achieve savings, i.e. G.I.P.S.
- Delivery of efficiencies through Base Budget Reviews.
- Clarity of the Comprehensive Spending Reviews.
- Use of abbreviations.

Resolved:- (1) That the efficiency savings achieved in 2007/08 reported in the Annual Efficiency Statement backward look return be noted.

(2) That the total efficiency savings recorded in the period covered by the 2004 Comprehensive Spending Review be noted.

(3) That the definition of the new national indicator 179 value for money be noted.

(4) That the continuation of the Council's existing framework for monitoring delivery of efficiencies be noted.

(5) That the mid year return submitted to the DCLG this month be noted.

### **123. LOCAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE - SAFEGUARDS POLICY**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Ian West, Revenues and Benefits Client Manager, which detailed the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) which was introduced nationally from 7th April, 2008 as part of Central Government's programme of reform for Housing Benefit. One of the key strands of the LHA scheme, which would eventually affect all tenants who lived in privately rented accommodation, was that payments should be made directly to claimants rather than their landlords as was most often the case previously. In order to protect those claimants who would otherwise have to receive Housing Benefit payments themselves, but may be unable to manage their own affairs, Councils were strongly advised by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to develop a 'Safeguards Policy' which could be utilised to prevent vulnerable customers from getting into financial difficulty.

The report set out the number of LHA claims active in Rotherham and the number of applications for payment direct to landlord received under the 'Safeguarding Policy' at the end of October, 2008.

There was no definitive data available on any possible impact of LHA on the number of evictions taking place in Rotherham, but anecdotal evidence from the Housing Choices Service in Neighbourhoods and Adult Services suggested that some customers have been confused by the receipt of payments direct to themselves and in some instances have failed to pay the rent to the landlord. A review of some of the cases highlighted was to be undertaken to ensure that everything possible was being done to avoid such problems occurring, particularly given more use was being made of private sector providers in meeting the housing needs of homeless customers.

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

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- General circulation of the Local Housing Allowance Safeguards Policy.
- Confusions over the allowance and whether it supported claims for Council Tax.
- What difference had the Safeguards Policy made in terms of evictions and those in arrears.
- Impact on arrear accrual through payments direct to claimants.
- Impact on homelessness figures.
- Roll out of LHA to Housing Association and Council Tenancies.
- Areas of Rotherham covered by LHA Rates for Sheffield.
- The method of assessing benefits in respect of a Council property.

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

(2) That this report be submitted to the next meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel for their consideration.

(3) That the Local Housing Allowance Briefing for Councillors be re-issued to all Members.

**124. YOUTH SERVICE SCRUTINY REVIEW - FEEDBACK FROM CABINET**

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny and Member Support, gave an update on the Youth Service Scrutiny Review, which was presented to Cabinet on the 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2008.

The Officer response to the recommendations was approved with a suggestion that the level of service be maintained to both targeted and more general youth service with a 70:30 split.

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

(2) That the response of Cabinet be forwarded to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel for information.

**125. RBT QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

Mark Gannon, Transformation and Strategic Partnerships Manager, presented the submitted report summarising the performance of RBT against contractual measures and key service delivery issues for the second quarter of the current financial year across the areas of Customer Access, Human Resources and Payroll, ICT, Procurement and Revenues and Benefits.

Work had continued during Quarter 2 to implement the new suite of measures, however, new reporting mechanisms have required development and implementation and in some cases changes to ways of working. The majority of measures were now being reported, but work was ongoing on the remainder. Full details of performance against operational measures for all workstreams were set out in detail as part of



the report.

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

- Expansion of the "Tell Us Once" Scheme.
- Accreditation of the Customer Service Excellent Standard.
- Anti-virus software failure and the increase in receipt of inappropriate e-mails.
- The prevention of sending and receiving of photographs.
- Training of staff and the recruitment of agency staff.
- Reasons for not reporting on specific performance measures.
- Performance on the payment of invoices.
- Teething problems for the opening of the Maltby Service Centre.

Resolved:- That RBT's performance against contractual measures and key service delivery issues for July, August and September 2008 be noted.

## **126. MINUTES**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

With regard to Minute No. 109 (2), clarification was requested on when to invite Cabinet Members and Strategic Directors when Directorates fell below expected standards for the former BVPI 8.

With regards to the 11 Million Takeover Day, the Chairman reported that the activities and meeting were well received and the whole experience very rewarding.

Discussion ensued on the ways in which the Youth Cabinet (Minute No. 117(8)) could become involved in the democratic process and the support they required to input into meetings, with attention drawn to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel standing agenda item.

## **127. WORK IN PROGRESS**

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

- (a) Councillor Austen reported on the possibility of a further Scrutiny Review looking at debt recovery, along with having a participatory budgeting item on the January agenda.
- (b) Councillor Swift reported on the sport development in schools and a report would be coming forward shortly.
- (c) Councillor Jack indicated the possibility of some work taking place on

supporting people on incapacity benefit in getting back to work and supporting the independence of people living at home.

Whilst it was noted that the Alliance for Regional Aid had incapacity benefit on their agenda, further information would also be sought from Doncaster on their scrutiny review process taking place over two to three days.

Members of the Committee were also reminded that it was Domestic Violence Awareness Week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2008, and there would be bag packing at Morrisons and information outside the market area.

- (d) Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny and Member Support, reported on the twelve month secondment of Sioned-Mair Richards. Agreement had been reached that Sioned would not be replaced, but that two junior officers would support the Scrutiny Team in their roles.

With regards to Member Training, this role would remain the responsibility of Cath Saltis.

With regards to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel, the lead officer would be Caroline Webb.

**128. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no formal call-in requests.

**129. 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 I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relates to finance and business affairs).

**130. RBT QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE UPDATE ADDITIONAL**

Mark Gannon, Transformation and Strategic Partnerships Manager, presented the submitted report summarising RBT's performance in respect of Procurement Savings achieved and in respect of the Revenues and Benefits Service and was taken in conjunction with Minute No. 125 above.

Particular reference was made to:-

- Savings Performance
- Addressable Spend Tracking.

- Council Tax and Debt Recovery.
- NNDR.
- Other Service Measures.

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

- 2010's internal payment.
- Payment of business rates by direct debit.
- Debt recovery and the assertiveness of the debt collectors.
- Debt recovery arrangements.
- Reporting of specific incidents.

Resolved:- That RBT's performance against contractual measures and key service delivery issues for July, August and September 2008 be noted.

**PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**5th December, 2008**

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Burton, Gilding, J. Hamilton, Jack, McNeely, P. A. Russell and Swift.

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor G. A. Russell), Barron and Boyes.

**131.       DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**132.       QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

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

**133.       LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008-2011**

Further to Minute No. 100 of the meeting of this Committee held on 24th October, 2008, David Walmsley, Improvement and Efficiency Project Manager, Rotherham Partnership, presented the submitted report summarising the current position regarding the progress so far in delivering Rotherham's Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (LAA) and the process for further development of the LAA.

Highlighted were :-

- member involvement
- current position review/refresh process 2008/09
- key deadlines
- partnership performance report
- refresh
- improvement and efficiency planning

Submitted as appendices were :-

- performance under the current LAA
- initial views on the targets to be discussed as part of the process
- draft target improvement plans

It was noted that a key event was scheduled for 15th January, 2009 regarding target negotiation.

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

- membership of Borough Improvement Group and possible involvement of elected Members

- arrangements to ensure priorities set out in the Area Plans were reflected fully in the refreshed LAA
- dealing with areas of concern
- number of drug users recorded as being in effective treatment
- availability of data regarding NI20 (assault with injury crime rate) and NI136 (people supported to live independently through social services)
- target setting for NI167 (Congestion – average journey time per mile during the morning peak)
- future discussions with Government Office
- need to utilise scrutiny reviews such as breastfeeding and participation in sport
- employment rate comparisons
- possible attendance of Matt Jukes at a future meeting to consider the overview position regarding crime
- potential benefit of elected Member presence at the key event on 15th January, 2009

Resolved:- (1) That the current position regarding the performance under Rotherham's LAA be noted.

(2) That the process for further development of the LAA be noted.

(3) That Cath Saltis invite Matt Jukes to attend a future meeting of this Committee.

#### **134. PROCUREMENT LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Further to Minute No. 68 of the meeting of this Committee held on 12th September, 2008, Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report setting out the details of the indicators developed to date, targets and performance for the first and second quarters of the current year.

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

- five were status amber with performance on target
- two were status red
- five were annual indicators with reporting due later in the year
- one had been superseded by changing legislation

- two were still under development
- two were for information/monitoring only without targets
- one had reporting yet to commence

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

- increase percentage spend with BME organisations
- percentage of timber to be procured from sustainable sources that are accredited through a recognised scheme i.e. FSC certification
- action regarding 15 (overall percentage of recycled materials used) and 16 (overall percentage of excavated materials diverted away from landfill)
- waste diverted from landfill through the procurement of recycled content products
- CO<sub>2</sub> saving through the procurement of recycled content products

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

### **135. RAY BUY RECYCLED PROJECT**

Further to Minute No. 112 of the meeting of this Committee held on 7th November, 2008, Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented for information the submitted case study relating to the above.

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

- plans for the stockpiling of recycled products
- passive recreation
- textual amendments

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

(2) That the case study be referred for consideration and information to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel and the Youth Cabinet.

### **136. CREDIT CRUNCH**

Further to Minute No. B121(4) of Cabinet held on 26th November, 2008, Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, presented briefly the submitted report relating to the above. On 29th September, 2008, John Healey, M.P.

and Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement, chaired jointly a workshop at the Magna Centre on the credit crunch and implications for businesses and individuals.

The report set out the concerns arising from the economic downturn in America, prices for everyday commodities, the meeting of financial liabilities and the help and assistance that may be on offer.

The report was accompanied by :

- 29th September, 2008 Workshop Outcomes: "Local Solutions to the Credit Crunch"
- Summary of Current and Possible Support to Manage the Impact of the Credit Crunch
- Potential Ways of Providing Financial Support for People at Risk of Repossession

The report summarised the information contained in the appendices and signposted the information provided.

There would be potentially significant financial implications of pursuing any of the options for providing direct financial support to those most in need. A full assessment would be needed of any options explored further.

It was noted that a further event was taking place today at the Magna Centre and Andrew Bedford, Strategic Director of Finance, would be attending the next meeting to give a full update on the position.

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

- Magna event attendance
- impact of reduced oil prices
- concerns that some people may be too embarrassed to ask for help
- need to publicise whatever help may be available

Resolved:- (1) That the implications be noted regarding :

(a) outcomes of the workshop, subsequent work within the Council to consolidate and highlight support already provided and review possible options for the provision of financial support to those in greatest need, (b) further action being taken to work with partners to provide a co-ordinated response and (c) further exploration of possible options for the provision of financial support to people at risk of repossession.

(2) That further reports be submitted as appropriate.

**137. CREDIT CRUNCH - IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Steve Turnbull, Head of Public Health, presented briefly the submitted report which detailed how the credit crunch potentially would impact on many different areas of the Council's business. The report attempted to provide an initial indication of how services provided by the Council were being affected by the credit crunch. It also outlined the proposed way forward for assessing and tackling future implications.

The initial impact of the credit crunch, and the likelihood of an extended period of recovery, required the Council Managers to rethink spending plans and service delivery priorities in the short and longer term.

There was a need to think through the issues raised by these economic changes and their likely social effects. That would help inform how public funds were invested over the next few years and ensure that funding was being applied relative to need.

The report drew attention to an impact assessment matrix and immediate issues outlined against the priority themes. Further work would be undertaken to assess what pressures were put on Council budgets.

Whilst there was still uncertainty about the full impact of the credit crunch, feedback from within the Council was that a significant number of Council services would require a review of current risk registers to ensure that they reflected the potential impact on resources (staff and budgets).

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

- size of the problem
- impact on health and mental health
- perception versus reality
- keeping members informed

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

(2) That the work of the Credit Crunch Recovery Group be monitored and reports be submitted, on a quarterly basis, on the effects of the credit crunch and action that the Council was taking.

(3) That a summary note be prepared for all Members of the Council.

**138. QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE**



Further to Minute No. 64 of the meeting of this Committee held on 12th September, 2008, Lorna Kelly, Corporate Improvement Manager, presented the submitted report relating to the above which focused on the new national indicator set and key local indicators.

The report addressed the main areas of performance across the Council and examined issues relating to the Local Area Agreement (LAA), Corporate Plan and Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Service Block scores.

The report covered:-

- LAA
- Corporate Plan performance
- Direction of Travel (DoT)
- Performance Clinics
- Data Quality
- CPA

Lorna also gave a presentation which covered:-

- Key Performance Indicators (Corporate)
- Strong improvement
- CPA Direction of Travel
- CPA Block Scores
- CPA Risks
- Data Quality
- Performance Clinics

It was noted that there were still over half of the Corporate Plan indicators that could not be reported upon at this stage.

Resolved:- That the overall position and direction of travel in relation to both overall performance and to the Audit Commission's CPA Direction of Travel Indicators performance be noted.

### **139. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF AREA ASSEMBLIES - FEEDBACK FROM CABINET**

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, reported that the Scrutiny Review of Area Assemblies had been considered further by Cabinet at its meeting on 26th November, 2008 and the response had been very positive with support for the recommendations.

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

- area assemblies : devolution and delegated powers

- NAG meeting terms of reference

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

**140. MINUTES**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

**141. WORK IN PROGRESS**

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor McNeely reported receipt of correspondence from Post Office Ltd in response to her query as to grounds why a post office in Sheffield had been withdrawn from the closure programme but none so in Rotherham. The question had, however, not been answered.

(b) Councillor Austen reported

- that the parish review part two had been considered yesterday by the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel and would be submitted shortly to this Committee
- that a debt recovery review group had been established

(c) Councillor Jack reported that the latest meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel had considered issues relating to older people, joint disability equality scheme and the draft carer's strategy

(d) Councillor Burton reported that the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel had considered maternity services including teenage pregnancies.

**142. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no formal call-in requests.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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