

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

Date: Friday, 5 June 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

FOR DECISION

8. Nomination of Representatives on Panels, Groups, Other Bodies, etc. 2009 to 2010 (report attached) (Pages 1 - 3)
9. Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel - Draft Work Programme 2009/2010 (report attached) (Pages 4 - 7)
10. Scrutiny Review - Road Traffic Safety Outside Schools (report attached) (Pages 8 - 48)

FOR DISCUSSION

11. Key Stage 4 Results (GCSE) 2008 (report attached) (Pages 49 - 66)

12. Safeguarding Children Services - Overview of Activity (report attached) (Pages 67 - 70)
13. Impact Assessment of Young Runaways and Missing from Home Protocols (report attached) (Pages 71 - 78)

FOR INFORMATION

14. Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Annual Health Check 2008/2009 (report attached) (Pages 79 - 84)

MINUTES

15. Minutes of the meetings of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 3rd April, 2009 and on 15th April, 2009 (copies attached) (Pages 85 - 111)
16. Minutes of a meeting of the Children's Board held on 22nd April 2009 (copy attached) (Pages 112 - 120)
17. Minutes of meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee (copies attached) (Pages 121 - 138)

Meetings held on 27th March, 17th April and 28th April 2009

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Friday, 3 July 2009**

Membership:-

Chairman – Councillor G. A. Russell
Vice-Chairman – Councillor License
Councillors:- The Mayor (Councillor S Ali), Burton, Dodson, Donaldson, Fenoughty, Hughes, Kaye, Rushforth, Sharp and Sims

Co-optees:-

Mrs. J. Blanch-Nicholson, Mrs. T. Guest, Mrs. K. Muscroft
Mr. M. Hall (Statutory Co-optee), Father A. Hayne,
Mr. C. A. Marvin, Mrs. L. Pitchley and Mrs. P. Wade.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
2.	Date:	Friday 5th June 2009
3.	Title:	Membership of Sub-Groups, Working Parties, Panels and Representatives on Outside Bodies for the Municipal Year 2009/10
4.	Programme Area:	Chief Executive's Office

5. Summary

Nominations are required of Members to represent Children and Young People's Services on Outside Bodies and Sub-Groups, Panels etc., for the Municipal Year 2009-2010.

6. Recommendations

- (1) to confirm membership and nominations where appropriate**
- (2) to consider revised memberships where necessary**
- (3) to appoint a representative of the Council where required**

7. Proposals and Details

To consider membership of nominations to the following sub-groups, panels, forums, etc. (the present appointments are listed):-

(i) Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel

Councillors Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Austen, Dodson, Gosling, J. Hamilton, Jack, McNeely and P. A.. Russell

Meetings on Wednesday afternoons, four times per year

(ii) Sustainable Development Advisory Group

Councillor Currie

(iii) Health, Welfare and Safety Panel

One Member, Councillor G A Russell
One substitute, currently Councillor Ali
To nominate one representative and one substitute.

Meetings are held on a quarterly basis – Friday at 2.00 p.m. Quarterly visits take place on separate days (next visits are on 19th June) (meeting tends to be 2-3 weeks after visits). (Next meeting 10th July).

(iv) Visits of Inspection to Adult Services Establishments

All Members of this Scrutiny Panel are invited to attend

(v) Visits to Children's Establishments (evenings)

The Chairman or the Vice-Chairman

(vi) Members Training and Development Panel

The Chairman (Councillor G. A. Russell)

The Panel meets on the third Thursday of the month, at 2.00 p.m. It is chaired by Councillor Sharman and includes representatives from all scrutiny panels, the Executive and regulatory boards. It plans the Member Development Programme, approves attendance at Leadership Academy and monitors the quality of training through feedback.

8. Finance

No significant implications

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Memberships are required to ensure continuity of the Council's business

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Memberships are required to ensure continuity and progression of the Council's business

11. Background Papers and Consultation

None

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL
2.	Date:	Friday 5 June, 2009
3.	Title:	Draft Work Programme for 2009/10
4.	Directorate:	Chief Executive's All Wards

5. Summary

This report reminds the Panel of its terms of reference and suggests an outline work programme for the 2009/10 municipal year that includes the key matters for scrutiny known to date and incorporates those areas identified by the Panel at previous meetings.

6. Recommendations

That:

- a. The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel's Terms of Reference be noted;**
- b. The Panel discusses the draft work programme and its priorities for the coming year;**
- c. The Panel identifies areas for review to be undertaken in the 2009-2010 municipal year.**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 The work of the Panel includes scrutiny of:

- Children and Young People's Services and their governance arrangements;
- Educational and training opportunities for children and young people;
- Children and Young People's social care and health (under the powers of health scrutiny as outlined in the Health and Social Care Act 2001),
- Young People's Services;
- Early years provision; and
- Other cross-cutting services provided specifically for children and young people.

7.2 Each scrutiny panel must plan its forward work programme on an annual basis. Panel members, officers and the Youth Cabinet have been contacted for their views on issues to be discussed over the municipal year. An outline programme (attached as Appendix A) has been formulated reflecting these comments and incorporating those issues previously requested at panel meetings.

In addition to the issues raised by Members, quarterly monitoring meetings will be held to examine performance and budgetary issues relevant to the service areas. Issues emerging from inspections and monitoring of related themes in the Local Area Agreement will also be scheduled into the work programme.

Members should note that the 'Rotherham Review of Children's Services' will be presented to scrutiny in July 2009. Issues emerging from this review will need to be taken into consideration when planning the Panel's programme.

7.3 Members will also note that, responsibility for health scrutiny in relation to children and young people falls to this Panel. A number of the meetings will scrutinise the activities of health partners (for instance, measures to address teenage pregnancies). With the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel, the Panel will also contribute to the Annual Health Check; the assessment process for health trusts. Additionally, the Panel may be asked to respond to specific health consultation processes.

7.4 The following items have been suggested as possible areas for more in-depth review. Members are asked to consider these and determine whether they should form the basis for scrutiny review during this municipal year.

- Measures to improve school attendance
- Readiness for the 2012 Olympics (with a focus on sports in schools)

NB there is currently a joint review being undertaken by members of Regeneration and Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panels into the 'Provision of PE and Sport in Schools'.

7.5 The Youth Cabinet has referred the following items for the Panel to examine in greater depth:

- the effectiveness of School Councils
- how the PHSE (Personal, Health and Social Education) curriculum is delivered in school

Members may wish to consider how these issues can be built into the work programme.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However, recommendations arising from the panel may have financial implications should they be implemented.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Panel needs to be realistic in terms of its capacity to properly examine issues that come before it. Issues may be referred to the Panel which are not known about at this stage and therefore, the work programme must be flexible enough to re-schedule items as required.

At present, it is not known whether the Panel will be called upon to participate in health scrutiny consultation. To accommodate such requests, Panel Members may have to re-prioritise its work programme accordingly.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Scrutiny panels have a key role in scrutinising the effectiveness of services. The areas identified in the work programme and for future review should complement the priorities identified in the Community Strategy, Corporate Plan and Children's Single Plan.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- The Chair, Cllr Ann Russell
- Joyce Thacker, Senior Executive Director for Children and Young People's Services
- Members of Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

Contact: *Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, direct line: (01709) 822765*
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Issues to be considered - Work Programme 2009/10

Month/	Issue to be considered
June 5th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key stage 4 results • road traffic safety scrutiny review • safeguarding overview • young runaways
July 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • performance outturn • revenue/capital budget outturn • SEN provision • Aiming High for disabled children • Annual Complaints Report
August recess	
September 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation Shaun Wright – (TBC) • school attendance • future challenges: Rotherham Young People's Service • plans for 14-19 education • Transforming Rotherham Learning (update)

To be scheduled:

- ❖ The outcomes and action plan arising from the review of CYP Services
- ❖ integrating children and young people's service (education, health, social care and other partners)
- ❖ educational attainment at key stages (narrowing the gap)
- ❖ Parenting strategy
- ❖ monitoring the impact of plans and strategies : young carers, teenage pregnancies etc
- ❖ child and adolescent mental health services (incl transition and services to BME children and young people)
- ❖ childhood obesity and other health related issues
- ❖ the effectiveness of school councils
- ❖ how schools teach the personal, social, and health education curriculum and if this can be improved

Monitoring the impact of scrutiny reviews

- ❖ support for newly arrived children and young people in schools
- ❖ road traffic safety outside schools
- ❖ anti-bullying

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT

1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 5th June 2009
3.	Title:	Scrutiny Review – Road Safety outside Schools
4.	Directorate:	Chief Executive's All wards

5. Summary

The report sets out the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review into Road Safety Outside Schools. The report is attached as Appendix 1.

6. Recommendations

- a. **That members endorse the findings and recommendations of the report.**
- b. **That the report is forwarded to Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee for approval, and future submission to Cabinet.**
- c. **That the response of Cabinet to the recommendations be fed back to this panel**

7. Proposals and Details

Concerns around road traffic safety outside schools were raised by members of both the Children and Young People's (CYP) and the Regeneration Scrutiny Panels.

The scrutiny review began in January 2009 by interviewing key witnesses to gain an understanding of the main issues and possible barriers to improvement. The main concerns related primarily to issues of congestion, speed, and inappropriate parking around local schools.

The review concluded that a clearer process is needed for identifying, reporting and addressing the road safety risks outside schools. Speed limits outside schools, especially those on 40mph roads, were a significant concern and should be re-considered in light of current Government campaigns and the emerging national road safety strategy in support of 20mph limits. Progress has been made in developing and implementing School Travel Plans, and there are examples of excellent practice but their impact is not uniform across the borough.

The recommendations are detailed in section 9 of the review and include:

- Carry out a risk assessment of road safety issues at all schools, and ensure that all schools have at least a minimum standard of road safety requirements
- Support a speed limit of 20mph outside schools wherever possible and that no school has a limit of more than 30mph. Work with South Yorkshire Police to ensure that revised speed restrictions outside schools are enforceable.
- Identify a specific budget for schools road safety measures from the Highways Capital Programme.
- Work with schools to ensure that the impact of School Travel Plans is monitored.
- Ensure that the impact of the School Keep Clear Traffic Regulation Order to be rolled out to Rotherham schools is monitored and reported appropriately.
- Support the distribution of the Wentworth South Area Assembly produced Road Safety DVD to each school pupil in the borough, seeking Area Assembly support for its funding.

8. Finance

A number of the review recommendations may have financial implications if adopted. This would require further exploration by the Corporate Management Team on the cost, risks and benefits of their implementation.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The recommendations aim to make the roads outside Rotherham schools safer and minimise the risks of accidents. There is a risk that if required safety measures are not put in place, children are at greater risk of being involved in a road accident. There is also a risk to the Council's reputation if members of the public are not clear about the rationale for installing road safety measures and, if

implemented, the recommendations of this review should help to clarify the decision making process.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Improving Road Safety outside Schools fits is highlighted in several local policy objectives including RMBC Transportation unit's strategy for Rotherham, the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan, and the Safe theme of the Community Strategy which states "*A preventative approach will be taken to minimise crime, accidents and hazards; [...] and thus safeguard all Rotherham citizens.*"

Reducing the number of children travelling to school by car will also support other agendas around sustainability and health including targeting childhood obesity which is a Local Area Agreement (LAA) target for Rotherham for 2008-11.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The report has been circulated to all agencies/individuals that participated in the review for their comments and to check for factual accuracy.

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**A Scrutiny Review into
ROAD SAFETY OUTSIDE
SCHOOLS**

March 2009

Contents Page

1	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
2	ORIGINAL CONCERNS	4
3	TERMS OF REFERENCE	4
	3.1 Methodology	4
4	OVERVIEW OF POLICY FRAMEWORK	6
	4.1 National Level	6
	4.2 Local Level	7
5	SETTING THE CONTEXT	8
	5.2 Accident Statistics	10
6	WHAT ACTION IS ALREADY BEING TAKEN?	10
	6.1 School Travel Plans	10
	6.2 Road Safety Education	11
	6.3 School Crossing Patrols	12
	6.4 Speed Limits	12
	6.5 Speed bumps	13
	6.6 Road Markings	14
	6.7 Parking	14
7	FINDINGS	15
	7.2 Site Visits	15
	7.3 Rotherham Youth Cabinet	16
	7.4 Prioritising road safety interventions	17
	7.5 Reporting Road Safety concerns	17
	7.6 Planning for the future	17
	7.7 20mph speed limits	18
	7.8 Parking restrictions	18
	7.9 School Transport	18
	7.10 Budget and costs	19
	7.11 Ice cream vans	20
8	LEARNING FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES	20
9	RECOMMENDATIONS	21
10	THANKS	22
11	APPENDICES	24
	11.1 Appendix A –Summary of Site Visits	24
	11.2 Appendix B - Mick Hall’s report to Scrutiny Panel – 23/01/09	28
	11.3 Appendix C - Feedback received during consultation on Road Safety Outside Schools	33

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Concerns around road traffic safety outside schools were raised by members of both the Children and Young People's (CYP) and the Regeneration Scrutiny Panels.

The scrutiny review began in January 2009 by interviewing key witnesses to gain an understanding of the main issues and possible barriers to improvement. The main concerns related primarily to issues of congestion, speed, and inappropriate parking around local schools. An excellent response was received to the public consultation which clearly underlined this as an important issue to local people and a borough-wide concern. The group carried out site visits to four schools in March, met with Cabinet Members to discuss the emerging issues and completed the draft review in May.

The review concluded that a clearer process is needed for identifying, reporting and addressing the road safety risks outside schools. Speed limits outside schools, especially those on 40mph roads, were a significant concern and should be re-considered in light of current Government campaigns and the emerging national road safety strategy in support of 20mph limits. Progress has been made in developing and implementing School Travel Plans, and there are examples of excellent practice but their impact is not uniform across the borough.

The recommendations are detailed in section 9 of the review and include:

- Carry out a risk assessment of road safety issues at all schools, and ensure that all schools have at least a minimum standard of road safety requirements
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- Work with schools to ensure that the impact of School Travel Plans is monitored.
- Ensure that the impact of the School Keep Clear Traffic Regulation Order to be rolled out to Rotherham schools is monitored and reported appropriately.
- Support the distribution of the Wentworth South Area Assembly produced Road Safety DVD to each school pupil in the borough, seeking Area Assembly support for its funding.

2 ORIGINAL CONCERNS

Why Members wanted to look at this issue.

The issue of road traffic safety outside schools was raised on a number of occasions by members of the Children and Young People's (CYP) Scrutiny Panel. Several school governors contacted the Panel's Statutory Co-opted Parent Governor Representative with concerns and he, with other Members, asked that the panel look into these issues in more depth. The concerns related primarily to issues of congestion, speed, and inappropriate parking around local schools.

Concerns had also been raised with Regeneration Scrutiny Panel and a report was sent to the meeting of that Panel on 30th November 2007.

3 TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was agreed that the work of the group would focus on the following points:

- a) To gain an understanding of the key areas relating to road traffic safety outside of schools and the extent of the problem;
- b) To review the Authority's current procedures and actions in promoting road safety outside of schools;
- c) To establish what traffic calming/road safety measures are already in place outside of schools within Rotherham and consider their effectiveness;
- d) To consider good practice from other local authorities in relation to promoting road safety outside schools;
- e) To consider what further measures could be taken to improve road traffic safety outside schools in Rotherham.

3.1 Methodology

The Review was undertaken jointly by Members of the Children and Young People's Services and Regeneration Scrutiny Panels.

The members of the Review Group were as follows:

Cllr Barry Kaye (Chair)	CYP scrutiny panel
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Cllr Simon Currie	CYP scrutiny panel
Mick Hall	CYP scrutiny panel – Parent Governor Representative
Joan Blanch-Nicholson	CYP scrutiny panel – co-optee
Tracy Guest	CYP scrutiny panel – co-optee
Cllr Jennifer Whysall	Regeneration scrutiny panel
Cllr Ben Slade	Regeneration scrutiny panel
Cllr Alan Gosling	Regeneration scrutiny panel

3.1.1 The scrutiny review was supported by Emily Knowles, Scrutiny Officer and Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Advisor.

3.1.2 The Review Group held an initial scoping meeting on 23rd January 2009 to assess the current situation in Rotherham. The following witnesses were invited to attend and present evidence:

- Vince Boulter School Travel Plan Adviser, Transportation unit, EDS
- Craig Ruding Principal Education Transport Officer, CYPS
- Stuart Savage Senior Engineer, Transportation unit, EDS
- Sandra Crofts Road Safety Officer, Transportation unit, EDS
- Robert Walker Customer Services Officer, EDS (school crossing patrols)
- PC Stuart Williams Traffic Management, South Yorkshire Police

3.1.3 Following the meeting all schools were contacted asking for their experiences and concerns regarding road safety outside their schools. In addition, a press release was issued and an interview conducted on local radio asking members of the public for any comments about road safety outside schools or suggestions for improvements that could be made.

3.1.4 Over 120 emails and phone calls were received from schools, parents and local residents expressing concerns about road safety outside their local school.

3.1.5 The review group carried out four site visits between 23rd and 30th March to look at some of the concerns that had been raised during

the consultation. Mick Hall also visited over 30 schools across the borough at starting and finishing time to view the traffic safety issues.

3.1.6 A meeting was held on 8th April 2009 with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Services and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services to discuss the emerging issues.

3.1.7 A final meeting of the scrutiny review group took place on 12th May to agree the recommendations of the review.

4 OVERVIEW OF POLICY FRAMEWORK

4.1 National Level

4.1.1 The Department for Transport's (DfT) Tomorrow's Roads – Safer for Everyone, the national road safety strategy published in 2000, set a target to reduce by 50% the numbers of children aged 0-15 killed and seriously injured in road accidents in Great Britain, by 2010, compared with the average for 1994-98. This target is expected to be met but councillors reject the idea that even a low number of road deaths are inevitable and feel that we should be aiming for no child to be killed or injured on our roads.

4.1.2 The DfT's new national road safety strategy which was published for consultation in April 2009 entitled "A Safer Way: Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World" sets targets for the period 2010-2020. In relation to improving road safety for children and young people, the draft strategy proposes to reduce the total of road deaths and serious injuries involving this age group by 50% based on the 2004-08 average, to introduce a more co-ordinated road safety education programme, and to reduce speed limits and encourage more 20mph zones. RMBC's response to the consultation is being handled on a South Yorkshire basis through the SY Casualty Reduction Partnership.

4.1.3 There are wider initiatives to improve the health and safety of children that are linked to the aim of reducing child road accident casualties. These include the Every Child Matters initiative, the Healthy Schools programme, the Travelling to School project and Sure Start. Every Child Matters, the national strategy for radically improving services for children and young people which every local authority must implement, has "Stay Safe" as one of its five outcomes.

4.1.4 The DCSF's Staying Safe: Action Plan for 2008-11 includes a section (2.57-2.61) on road safety in which commitments are made to implement the 2007 Child Road Safety Strategy and also:

- to encourage local authorities to create more 20 mph zones (which have been shown to reduce child pedestrian deaths by 70 per cent) where appropriate; and
- to encourage local authorities to support applications for Home Zones – areas where people can share road space more safely with traffic, through traffic calming measures and redesign of communal areas.

4.1.5 According to the DCSF, 20mph zones have been shown to reduce child pedestrian deaths by 70 per cent.¹ In April 2009 the Department for Transport supported this saying they would be *"...recommending that highway authorities, over time, introduce 20 mph zones or limits into streets that are primarily residential in nature, or other areas where pedestrian and cyclist movements are high (for example around schools or markets) and which are not part of any major through route."*²

4.1.6 A new Government THINK! child road safety campaign entitled "Tales of the Road" was launched in November 2008 following research that suggested today's children needed to be educated about road safety in a bolder and more direct way. The campaign uses animated characters to warn of the dangers on the road. The campaign cost a total of £1.5 million.

4.1.7 The Government's Home Zones initiative is a move to make some residential streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists by prioritising their needs and safety rather than that of car drivers, and is based on the success of the 'Woonerf' concept pioneered in the Netherlands in the 1970s. In Home Zones, road speeds are reduced but there is a broader focus on making the streets into a more attractive public space where residents can socialise and it is safer for children to play.

4.2 Local Level

4.2.1 The 2006 Education and Inspections Act sets out a duty for local authorities to publish a Sustainable School Travel Strategy. Although focussing on sustainability issues, there are clear links between this strategy and road safety as any measures to encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school not only help to reduce congestion at schools and improve road safety but also to cut down carbon emissions from car usage.

4.2.2 RMBC's Transportation unit has published a strategy for Rotherham which has five key objectives, one of which is to improve safety on the journey to school.

¹ DCSF Staying Safe: Action Plan 2008-11 p28

² DfT "A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World" April 2009, p9.

- 4.2.3 The South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan is a five year plan setting out how the four local authorities in the sub-region will implement national and local transport policy. The Plan concentrates on four key priorities which are shared by local and national government, one of which is to create "Safer Roads".
- 4.2.4 The Safe theme of the Community Strategy states "*A preventative approach will be taken to minimise crime, accidents and hazards; [...] and thus safeguard all Rotherham citizens.*"
- 4.2.5 With regards to 20mph zones and limits, the policy of South Yorkshire Police follows that of the Association of Chief Police Officers and states that these roads will not receive specific police speed enforcement and should be self-enforcing through suitable traffic calming measures. Guidance produced by the Department for Transport suggests that the average speed on a stretch of road should already be 24mph or less before a 20mph limit enforced by signs alone could be introduced.
- 4.2.6 Reducing the number of children travelling to school by car will not only reduce traffic congestion at school gates, but also support other agendas around sustainability and health. According to statistics from 2007/8, 37% of children in Year 6 (aged 10-11) in Rotherham are overweight or obese. Targeting childhood obesity in Year 6 is a Local Area Agreement (LAA) target for Rotherham for 2008-11.

The Healthy Schools Initiative is a Government campaign which promotes the link between good health, behaviour and achievement in schools. The four core themes of the Healthy Schools initiative are: Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education; Healthy Eating; Physical Activity and Emotional Health and Wellbeing. One of the criteria that schools must meet under the theme of Physical Activity is: "Encourage children, young people, staff and parents/carers to walk or cycle to school under safer conditions, utilising the School Travel Plan".

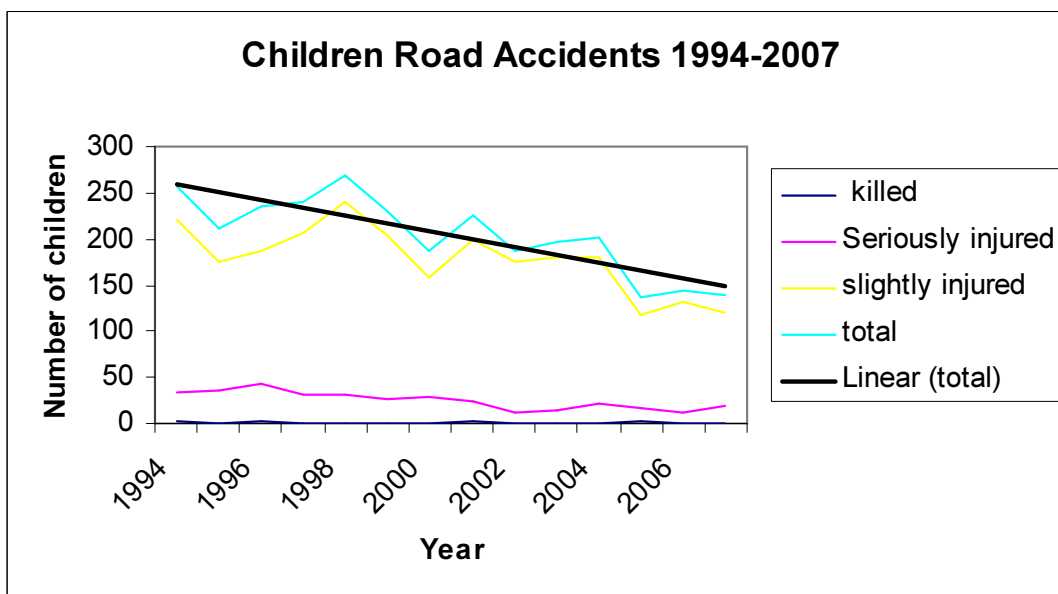
5 SETTING THE CONTEXT

- 5.1.1 Road safety outside schools is understandably an emotive issue and one which affects many people in Rotherham, either as pupils, parents, teachers, school governors or as residents living in the vicinity of one of the borough's 127 schools.
- 5.1.2 A scrutiny review into Road Safety was carried out by the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel in Rotherham in 2001. The review, led by Cllr Shaun Wright, made 15 recommendations including better monitoring of accidents, improvements in interdepartmental working, increased budget to the Road Safety Unit, attracting more school crossing wardens and giving more consideration to the criteria for

setting speed limits on local roads, placing greater emphasis on the potential for and consequences of road traffic accidents.

5.1.3 Although this review focuses on the safety of children outside their school, national research shows that the majority of road accidents involving children do not occur on the journey to and from school. Children are in fact far more likely to be involved in an accident when playing out on the streets. This is backed up by a recent report³ by the National Audit Office which found that child pedestrians are most at risk from 3pm until 7pm.

5.1.4 The number of road accidents involving children is reducing and the table below shows that the number of children killed and seriously injured (KSI) in accidents on Rotherham’s roads has fallen from 36 in 1994 to 20 in 2007 (13 in 2008). However although the reduction is positive, there was a widely held view among the review group that this figure is still too high.



5.1.5 Despite the relatively low accident statistics, the perception of risk remains very high and influences people’s decisions about how to travel to school. Many parents choose to drive their children because they feel that congestion around the school makes it unsafe for their child to walk or cycle.

5.1.6 The correlation between social deprivation and child pedestrian casualty rates is well-documented. According to Department for Transport research, the rate of pedestrian casualties in the 0-16 age

³ "Improving Road Safety for Pedestrians and Cyclists in Great Britain" May 2009.

range is four times greater in the 10 per cent most deprived wards than in the ten per cent least deprived.⁴

5.2 Accident Statistics

- 5.2.1 The police record all road accidents involving injury which enables officers to identify accident hotspots. In South Yorkshire road safety resources have been targeted to secure the maximum casualty reductions possible. This has led to a 'worst first' approach being adopted in which the locations with the poorest accident records are treated first.
- 5.2.2 A recent study carried out in Rotherham examined road accidents involving children within a 500 metre radius of each school in the Borough during the 3 years from 2005 to 2007. This found that 196 children were injured in accidents within 500 metres of a primary school of whom 37 (or 19%) were injured on their way to and from school. For comprehensive schools 55 were injured in total, with 27 (or 49 %) of these travelling to or from school.
- 5.2.3 Of the accidents occurring during school journeys, a small number took place on the road outside schools with the vast majority occurring at some other point on the journey between home and school.
- 5.2.4 There is no requirement for Police to record "near misses" and consequently these accidents are not taken into account when considering the introduction of road safety schemes.

6 WHAT ACTION IS ALREADY BEING TAKEN?

As mentioned above, the number of children involved in accidents on the roads is falling and this is due in large part to initiatives that have been taken to make the roads safer, such as the installation of traffic calming features, educational campaigns, provision of school transport and promotion of school travel plans. Detailed below are some of the actions that are already being taken in Rotherham.

6.1 School Travel Plans

- 6.1.1 School Travel Plans (STPs) aim to encourage pupils, parents and school staff to walk, cycle or use public transport to travel to and from school rather than use the car. They also intend to improve safety on the journey to school, health and fitness and reduce congestion and pollution. All schools in Rotherham now have a STP in

⁴ DfT "A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World" April 2009, p29

place but the extent to which they are being implemented varies enormously from school to school and there is no system in place to measure their impact.

- 6.1.2 A School Travel Plan Adviser, employed by RMBC and funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Transport (DfT) until 2010, visits all schools to talk to students and teachers about walking or cycling to school and offers guidance on developing safer routes to the school.
- 6.1.3 Schools receive one-off grants from the DCSF/DfT to implement their Travel Plans. Some schools in Rotherham have used this money to install safety barriers, shelters for walking parents to wait under or build bike sheds. There is currently no scrutiny of the expenditure.
- 6.1.4 Some schools have introduced Walking Buses to encourage children, particularly of primary school age, to walk to school. Children walk together in an escorted group along a set route. This not only encourages healthy activity, reduces congestion at school gates and the number of cars on the road, but also increases positive interaction between children and parents. It is very cheap to set up but does rely on having an appropriate meeting point and enough parent volunteers to escort the children. In some cases schemes have not continued due to a lack of continued support from parents or the school. Schools may need to consider how they could encourage parents to support this type of initiative. The Parent Governor Representative suggested that School Governing Bodies could take an active role to co-ordinate this activity with parents as part of the monitoring of the STP's effectiveness.

6.2 Road Safety Education

- 6.2.1 In addition to the externally funded School Travel Plan Adviser, RMBC employs the equivalent of two full-time officers who work with schools to deliver a programme of road safety education. Educational activities are often planned to complement other topics in the National Curriculum.
- 6.2.2 Recent initiatives have included the provision of road safety booklets to parents of children who started school in September, and the use of a theatre company to present a play at several comprehensive schools covering the consequences of driving whilst under the influence of drink.
- 6.2.3 Some schools have appointed Junior Road Safety Officers to promote road safety. In some schools the pupils work with Parking Services Officers and local Police Community Support Officers to talk to parents who are parking illegally or inconsiderately or to issue them with pretend parking tickets.

- 6.2.4 Rotherham Council offers free cycle training to primary and secondary pupils, equipping them with the skills and confidence to ride safely on the roads. Related to this, concerns have been raised about whether further work can be undertaken in schools to raise awareness about the use of cycle helmets and encourage more children and young people to wear them.
- 6.2.5 A new DVD about Road Safety Outside Schools has been produced by the Rawmarsh Community Learning Centre and the Wentworth South Area Assembly to raise awareness about the danger of irresponsible parking, and to encourage families to look at healthier options for travelling to school. The DVD was launched on 5th May 2009 and will be shown to all 21 primary schools in the area and a copy given to each pupil. The schools will be asked to complete an evaluation form to report whether the DVD makes any impact on driver behaviour or the numbers of pupils walking to school. It is recommended that other Area Assemblies consider rolling out the DVD across their areas.

6.3 School Crossing Patrols

- 6.3.1 School crossing patrols (SCPs) are provided to help children to cross busy roads in the safest way on their journey to and from school. They are usually provided at locations where large numbers of children cross the road. This may not necessarily be directly outside a school but could be anywhere on the route to school.
- 6.3.2 When deciding whether a crossing patrol should be provided at a certain location, an assessment is carried out which takes into account several factors including vehicle flow, speed limits, road layout and the number of children crossing. An assessment of the need for a SCP is generally only reviewed if the SCP retires or when it is thought that one may no longer be justified. In addition an assessment is sometimes requested where a patrol does not exist but children are having difficult crossing the road and other options are not suitable/feasible.
- 6.3.3 Rotherham's School Crossing Patrol Service currently operates with funding for 88 permanent posts and 13 relief posts across the Borough. In some locations, there have been difficulties recruiting to vacant positions meaning that some eligible schools do not have a patrol.

6.4 Speed Limits

- 6.4.1 One of the main areas of concerns raised during this review was speed limits outside schools. There are several schools in the borough that have a 40mph limit outside their gates and parents, teachers and governors are understandably concerned that this poses a great risk to children accessing the school. The following schools all have 40mph limits outside: Aston Fence J&I, Thorpe Hesley Junior,

Wickersley Comprehensive, Ravenfield, St Bernard's and Oakwood Comprehensive. In addition Maltby Craggs is very close to the boundary between a 30/40mph limit and the back entrance to Herringthorpe School is off Wickersley Road which has a 40mph speed limit.

6.4.2 RMBC are required by the Department for Transport to undertake a review of all speed limits on A and B class roads and implement any necessary changes by the end of 2010. This work is currently underway and will look at traffic flows, vehicle speeds and accident rates as well as the type of development along the roads to assess if the current speed limit is appropriate. The review will include a number of roads outside schools given that there are schools on A and B class roads. It has been suggested that the review could be extended to cover all roads outside schools in the borough although clearly there would be resource implications.

6.4.3 Some roads outside schools in Rotherham do have a 20mph limit; these include Clifton (back entrance) and Wales Comprehensives, Kiveton Park Meadows junior, Badsley Moor schools, St Ann's, Wentworth, back entrance to Thorpe Hesley schools and Herringthorpe schools (main entrance). Experience has shown that traffic calming features such as road humps are needed as well as 20mph signs, otherwise there is little effect on the speed of traffic and there could even be a negative effect of giving pedestrians a false sense of security.

6.5 Speed bumps

6.5.1 The Government believes that road humps are a safe and effective means of calming traffic and there is evidence to support this view. For example the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) has established that since the implementation of over 100 20mph zones in Hull (most of which use speed bumps to slow down traffic), about 200 serious injuries and 600 minor ones have been avoided.⁵

6.5.2 There are however also arguments against road humps and some Local Authorities including Sheffield, Derby and Port Talbot have removed humps after complaints from residents about damage to vehicles, noise pollution and structural damage to homes.

6.5.3 One of the main areas of concern is the impact of road humps on the emergency services in delaying their response to calls and lengthening the patient's journey to hospital. In response to these concerns, the Government published a code of practice for emergency services in 2007 which emphasises the need for local

⁵ http://www.london.gov.uk/assembly/reports/transport/speed_humps.rtf

authorities to consult with emergency services before installing road humps or other traffic calming schemes.

6.6 Road Markings

- 6.6.1 'School Keep Clear' markings (yellow zigzags) can be used at sites where parked vehicles are a hazard to children. They are usually placed near school entrances and help school crossing patrols by keeping an area clear for them to cross the children safely.
- 6.6.2 The markings are only advisory but can be made mandatory with a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in certain cases if the markings and signage meet the stipulated regulations.
- 6.6.3 The Traffic Management Act 2004 extended the scope for local authorities to take over the enforcement of traffic contraventions from the police. This included giving local authorities civil enforcement powers to issue penalty charges for parking within zigzag areas (but only if there is a TRO in place). In cases where a TRO applies, the Keep Clear markings must be accompanied by a sign clearly stating the days and times that parking restrictions apply. This has been piloted in Maltby and details are given in the Findings section.

6.7 Parking

- 6.7.1 South Yorkshire Police have said that although the parking of cars around school entrances can reduce visibility and obstruct the route for emergency vehicles, at the same time the obstruction does reduce the speed of vehicles passing through. In this way parked cars can act as a temporary traffic calming measure.
- 6.7.2 In some schools, in order to move congestion away from the school gates where it poses a hazard, arrangements have been made for parents to park in nearby car parks and walk their children the remaining short distance to school.
- 6.7.3 An additional problem for some 6th forms is the number of students driving to school and parking on roads around the school. This is likely to become a greater problem in a few years time due to the change in the school leaving age which will mean that there will be more students of driving age at school. This issue could be picked up at a later date by the CYP scrutiny panel as part of a wider consideration of the readiness of schools for the changes.
- 6.7.4 Pupils at Kilnhurst Primary School contacted a nearby community centre, working man's club and public house to gain permission for parents to park there when collecting children from school. The pupils designed leaflets to distribute to parents pointing out the dangers of inconsiderate parking and suggesting the alternative parking spots.

Although such schemes can be very successful, suitable alternative parking will not be available at all schools.

7 FINDINGS

7.1.1 At the first meeting of the review group on 23rd January, Mick Hall, Parent-Governor representative on the CYPS Scrutiny Panel, delivered a presentation which highlighted key concerns around speeding, parking and crossing patrols. His report to the Panel is attached as Appendix B. The views contained in the report are the personal views of Mr Hall. Vince Boulter gave a presentation on:

- Sustainable school travel
- School Travel Plans
- Road safety education
- Road safety engineering
- School crossing patrols
- School transport

Stuart Williams from SY Police talked about the involvement of SY Police in enforcing vehicle offences.

7.1.2 A discussion followed which raised several areas of concern, all of which were looked into in more detail during the review and are detailed below.

7.1.3 The review group invited members of the public to get in touch with their concerns about school road safety and suggestions for improvements that could be made. Over 120 emails and letters were received relating to 46 different schools across the borough which is an excellent response and demonstrates the strength of feeling on this issue. A summary of the responses is included at Appendix C.

7.1.4 Most of the responses related to the issues of speeding and parking. Several people commented that they had already raised concerns with the Council about road safety issues but had not received a satisfactory response. Many were grateful for the opportunity to express their views and felt that they did not know where else to go for help.

7.2 Site Visits

7.2.1 The scrutiny review group carried out four site visits to view some of the road safety concerns that had been raised during the consultation process. Full details of the visits are included at Appendix A but the

visits were really helpful in demonstrating some of the issues facing local schools. It was clear that each school has its own particular road safety problems and the group was very concerned by some of the issues they witnessed.

7.2.2 Aston Fence J&I School – the school has been campaigning for a long time for the 40mph limit outside school to be reduced. At school closing time parents were parked up on both sides of the road and when the bus stopped outside the school it became even more dangerous to cross the road as it blocked visibility.

7.2.3 Thrybergh Primary school - children have to walk into the road to access the school drive because of a wall which is built out across the pavement and the speed limit drops from the national speed limit to 30mph only metres from the school entrance.

- Wales High School – the school has 20mph limits and speed bumps in the roads outside the school, but its position in a cul-de-sac means that the area became very congested with parents parking which creates problems when the buses arrive to take pupils home.
- Maltby area – the TRO appeared to be working on the roads outside Maltby comprehensive as the area was remarkably clear at the time of the visit.

7.3 Rotherham Youth Cabinet

7.3.1 Members of the review group met with seven members of Rotherham's Youth Cabinet to find out their concerns relating to road safety. They all felt that road safety outside schools is an important issue for young people. No-one in the group had heard of school travel plans which raises questions about pupils' involvement in the design and implementation of the plans.

They highlighted particular concerns including:

- the location and timings of pedestrian crossings
- the road bridge outside Wickersley Comprehensive school which becomes slippery in the rain and therefore young people are often reluctant to use it, using less safe options to cross the road.
- Congestion caused by school buses trying to get in and out at the same time
- Pressure on young people to arrive at school on time which means that sometimes they take risks in getting to school or ask parents for a lift.

7.4 Prioritising road safety interventions

- 7.4.1 During the review it became clear that there is currently no agreed method for prioritising schools' needs for road safety measures. Each school is different due to its location, road layout, catchment area and existing safety initiatives and therefore has different levels of risk. Although there are criteria in place for determining whether or not a location is eligible for a school crossing patrol or pedestrian crossing, a wider system for assessing the overall risk around a school does not exist.
- 7.4.2 The limited budget available for road safety interventions means that road safety measures cannot be rolled out to all schools immediately and therefore it is important to have a transparent and fair system in place to determine which schools are in greatest need (see 7.10.1 and 7.10.3).

7.5 Reporting Road Safety concerns

- 7.5.1 During the consultation some schools and members of the public said that they had either reported road safety concerns to the Council and not had a satisfactory response or they did not know who to report concerns to.
- 7.5.2 Questions were also asked about the criteria for installing crossings and the location of school crossing patrols as some people felt that these had been installed in some locations but not in others where they actually felt had a greater need. It is suggested that consideration be given to how to improve communications with the public to ensure that decision making processes are clear and transparent.

7.6 Planning for the future

- 7.6.1 When new schools are designed and built in the borough, consideration should be given to road safety issues and ways to ensure that pupils can travel to school in a safe and sustainable way. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that this is not happening at an early enough stage and remedial and expensive work is required to rectify problems that have emerged. For example,
- one of the first PFI schools in Rotherham, Thornhill Primary school was built on a field, but there was no footway built along part of Clough Bank/Henley Rise meaning pupils would have had to walk on grass/mud to access the school from this direction. The School Travel Plan Adviser became aware of the situation and Road Safety engineers managed to build a footpath in a short time just prior to the school opening. A pedestrian barrier along Wortley Road was also needed and due to time restraints this was not erected until the pupils had started at the new school;

- at Wath Comprehensive the new build school did not include adequate provision for the large numbers of pupils catching the bus which means that there have been problems with pupils overspilling the pavement area at the bus stop. Work is now taking place to extend this area by moving back the school wall. The school has a turning area for buses which could be used to overcome some of these problems

7.7 20mph speed limits

The introduction of more 20mph limits in residential areas and around schools is currently receiving much media attention and during the consultation for this review, many people suggested more 20mph limits should be implemented in Rotherham. Emerging Government policy is recommending that local authorities create more 20mph zones and the DCSF has shown that 20mph zones reduce child pedestrian deaths by 70 per cent.⁶

7.8 Parking restrictions

7.8.1 A pilot Traffic Regulation Order was introduced outside all Maltby schools in April 2008 preventing drivers from parking or stopping to set down or pick on the School Keep Clear markings from Monday to Friday 07:30 – 17:00 during school term time. This means that during these times Rotherham's Parking Services can enforce the Keep Clear markings and issue notices to drivers that stop there, under the 'decriminalisation' legislation. Joint patrols have been carried out by the Council's Parking Services and local PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) warning drivers about parking offences and issuing tickets where appropriate. Very few tickets have been issued but the regular presence of the PCSO and the joint patrols have had a very positive effect in reducing dangerous parking.

7.8.2 As a result of the success of the trial, it was agreed⁷ by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development to make the Maltby TRO permanent and to roll out TROs covering the School Keep Clear markings across the whole borough, starting with Brampton, West Melton, Wath and Swinton.

7.9 School Transport

7.9.1 Some schools highlighted that pupils do not feel safe travelling on the school buses. There is a SAFE Working Group which meets approximately every 6 weeks and includes LA's SYPTE, SY Police and operators who discuss any issues and action to be taken. SYPTE also have a dedicated team of Travel Advisors who visit every primary

⁶ DCSF Staying Safe: Action Plan 2008-11 p28

⁷ Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Services meeting 20/4/09 minute 222

school and deal with specific issues within secondary schools and are particularly experienced in helping pupils overcome the perceived fears and worries of using public transport.

- 7.9.2 The four local authorities in South Yorkshire are involved with SYPTE in developing a Behaviour Strategy which is currently being piloted in Sheffield and aims to promote positive behaviour on public transport and set out how poor or dangerous behaviour will be addressed. The strategy is still in draft form and will be updated following consultation exercised in Sheffield.

7.10 Budget and costs

- 7.10.1 Funding for road safety measures is provided via the Local Transport Plan (LTP) settlement. The annual Local Safety Scheme programme (schemes targeted at accident hotspots) has a budget of approximately £500,000 but roads in the vicinity of schools generally have good accident records so do not often feature in this programme.

- 7.10.2 Pedestrian crossings are also funded by the LTP up to £100,000 per annum. During the last 3 to 4 years this programme has tended to focus on providing crossings on roads outside of or near to schools that meet the criteria. Examples include crossings outside Wickersley Northfield, Clifton Comprehensive and near to Wales Comprehensive. In addition, further crossings are planned outside Winterhill School, Maltby Comprehensive and St Bede's School on the A629.

- 7.10.3 However there is currently no dedicated budget for the implementation of school road safety measures. This leads to difficulties in planning work, for example one school was told by the Council that a flashing speed sign would be installed on the road outside, only to be told later that there was no money left for this to be carried out and it would be installed in the following financial year.

- 7.10.4 The approximate cost of the different road safety measures is as follows:

Zebra crossing	£25,000
Pelican/Puffin crossing	£75,000
Flashing sign	£5,000
Implementing a TRO	£1,500
Road hump	£2,000 to £10,000 depending on size and type
Speed cushion	£800

Provision of a school crossing patrol £2,500 per annum (although costs do vary from site to site)

7.11 Ice cream vans

7.11.1 Concerns were raised about ice cream vans parking outside schools as it was felt that they may cause a road safety problem by creating an obstruction or encouraging children to run out into the road. There is however currently no requirement for ice cream vans to be licensed with RMBC, and as long as the vans are not causing an obstruction, they are allowed to stop outside schools. Some schools have agreed certain conditions with ice cream van drivers such as where they will park. Specific concerns outside individual schools would be highlighted in the road safety risk assessments which are being recommended.

8 LEARNING FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES

The scrutiny review group looked at initiatives in other authorities to see if there were examples of good practice that could be considered for Rotherham.

8.1.1 In 2004 the Scottish Government issued guidance that a 20mph limit should be the norm outside all schools in Scotland. However, the guidance referred to 20mph speed limits being advisory rather than mandatory and there has been limited research carried out into the impact of the schemes.

8.1.2 Several local authorities have recently joined the "20's plenty" national campaign that supports communities wishing to implement 20 mph as the default speed limit in residential and town centre roads. The following councils have initiated a policy to introduce an authority-wide 20mph limit on all but main through roads: Portsmouth, Norwich, Oxford, Newcastle, Leicester, Warrington, Bristol and Islington. Some policies are advisory while others are backed up by a Speed Restriction Order making them enforceable.

8.1.3 Lincolnshire County Council's Road Safety Partnership has a scheme whereby parish councils can request to borrow a Speed Indicating Device (SID) which is an interactive sign that displays the speed of approaching vehicles. The device cost around £4,000 and can be loaned for up to 14 days by Councillors or volunteers willing to undertake training on how to use the equipment. They have found this to be very popular and parishes have reported that use of the device has led to reduced speeds on the road.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

The scrutiny review group makes the following recommendations:

1. That the findings and recommendations from this review be taken into consideration as part of the response to the Department for Transport consultation on "A Safer Way: Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World".
2. That a comprehensive risk assessment of road safety issues is carried out at all schools in the borough. Following this, an appropriate system for prioritising risks to identify the schools in greatest need of road safety measures and education be developed. All risk assessments to be carried out by April 2010.
3. That a minimum requirement of road markings, signing, barriers and anything else deemed appropriate for improving road safety outside schools be determined and implemented ensuring that these meet the minimum standards required for the introduction of School Keep Clear TROs.
4. That the current speed review of all A and B class roads be extended to include all roads outside schools in the borough. In line with the Government's Department for Transport's consultation paper, support should be given to a speed limit of 20mph outside schools, wherever possible. Where this cannot be implemented, the speed limit outside schools does not exceed 30mph.
5. That work is undertaken with South Yorkshire Police to ensure that revised speed restrictions outside schools are enforceable.
6. That the impact of the Traffic Regulation Order to be rolled out to Rotherham Schools is monitored and reported appropriately.
7. That the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Services identifies a specific budget for schools road safety measures from the Highways Capital Programme.
8. That the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services works with schools and school governing bodies to ensure that the impact of School Travel Plans is monitored and reviewed annually and that STPs and initiatives to improve road safety (including walking buses, safer cycling and use of cycle helmets), are promoted to each new intake of pupils and parents. The effectiveness of STPs to be reported to the appropriate Scrutiny Panel.
9. That the RMBC website be improved to provide clear and user-friendly information regarding current and planned road safety schemes, outlining the criteria by which decisions are taken.

10. That proposals are developed to ensure that road traffic safety work in schools is sustainable once DfT/DCSF funding for the School Travel Adviser post ends in 2010. This should include consideration to 'mainstream' the funding for the post as appropriate.
11. That each Area Assembly be approached to financially support the distribution of the Wentworth South Area Assembly produced Road Safety DVD to each school pupil in the borough.
12. That a progress update on the implementation of these recommendations be submitted to the CYP/Regeneration scrutiny panels as part of their planned work programme.

10 THANKS

- Cllr Gerald Smith, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Services
- Cllr Shaun Wright, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
- Graham Sinclair, Director of Resources and Access, Children and Young People's Services
- Vince Boulter, School Travel Plan Adviser, Transportation unit, EDS
- Craig Ruding, Principal Education Transport Officer, CYPS
- Stuart Savage, Senior Engineer, Transportation unit, EDS
- Andrew Lee, Assistant Engineer, Transportation unit, EDS
- Andrew Shearer, Transportation Planner, EDS
- Sandra Crofts, Road Safety Officer, Transportation unit, EDS
- Robert Walker, Customer Services Officer, EDS
- Marc Hill, Traffic Liaison Officer, Transportation unit, EDS
- PC Stuart Williams, Traffic Management, South Yorkshire Police
- Aston Fence J&I School
- Thrybergh Primary School
- Wales High School
- Kiveton Park Infants School

- Rotherham Youth Cabinet

11 APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A –Summary of Site Visits

The review group carried out four site visits in the borough to see some of the road safety issues for themselves.

Visit 1 – Aston Fence Junior & Infant School

Members of the review group met with the headteacher, chair and vice-chair of governors and a parent-governor representative at Aston Fence school on Monday 23rd March.

The school has been campaigning for a long time to reduce the speed limit on the road outside school but has repeatedly been told that the characteristics of the road fit with its 40mph limit. This is based on there being fields opposite the school, and no record of road accidents involving injury. The school is very concerned that no action will be taken until there is an accident.

A few months ago the school was promised a flashing warning sign saying "SCHOOL – SLOW" but now they have been told that there is no money for this. Stuart Savage will follow up to see if this can be sorted out ASAP.

He explained that one issue is that the Highways Capital Programme currently has no specific budget set aside for schools road safety measures.

Stuart explained that the Council is committed to a review of all speed limits on A and B class roads to be completed by 2011. The road outside school is no longer a B road as it was declassified but it makes sense to review these as well. Can this be prioritised?

Discussions took place about variable speed limits which have been used by other authorities to reduce speed outside schools during school open and closing times. It is possible that this could create a false sense of security without the 20 or 30mph limit being backed up by traffic calming.

The school did have a walking bus but this didn't continue due to the parents moving on and no other volunteers. The chair of governors agreed to look at setting one up again for the new intake of pupils in September. They have also written to parents about road safety issues such as how to cross safely.

The school bus pulls up outside the school gates which blocks the road and means that parents crossing the road to their parked cars on the other side have very limited visibility.

Visit 2 – Thrybergh Primary School

Wednesday 25th March – 9am

Members of the Road Safety review group visited Thrybergh Primary School to meet with Y6 pupils, the headteacher and lollipop lady and see some of the road safety concerns at the school.

The review group were concerned to see:

- 1) the school wall completely blocks the pavement near the school entrance meaning that pedestrians have to walk into the road to get into school.
- 2) the speed limit drops from the national speed limit to 30mph only metres from the school entrance.
- 3) the flashing "school" sign is not working. (EDS officers who were present to follow this up and agreed that it will be fixed by the Easter holidays).

The Y6 have two junior road safety officers who have helped to compile a folder of photographs and evidence about the road safety issues which they agreed to lend to the review group.

The Y6 pupils raised several concerns and solutions they would like to be implemented:

- Crash barriers to protect pedestrians
- Install speed bumps / speed camera
- Pelican crossing
- Delivery lorries parking outside the school
- Double yellow lines up the kerb
- Lower speed limits
- Traffic wardens have told them that the corner is one of the most dangerous outside schools in Rotherham.

Nearly all of the Y6 students we spoke to walked to school. Only around 5 in a class of 31 travel by car.

The EDS engineer was of the view that the 30mph zone could be introduced further from the school so drivers have longer to slow down. However, because of legal requirements, this process may take 9-12 months.

The Engineer would also examine options to change the driveway and wall to make a safer entrance.

Visit 3 – Wales High School with Kiveton Infant School

A meeting was held at Wales High School (WHS) on Wednesday 25th March with the Premises Manager of WHS and the Headteacher and a parent from Kiveton Infant School.

Wales High School

There have been several road safety measures installed around Wales High School in recent years including speed bumps and a 20mph zone following consultation with the school. The small road in front of the High School is a cul-de-sac and becomes congested at school closing time when the green double decker school buses need to enter the school yard. The bus drivers have difficulties getting in and out of the school yard due to parked cars and congestion. Around 60% of students use the green buses.

There are some parking places outside the school which can be used by parents and which 6th formers are encouraged to use. Other parking is available in the side streets. The school estimates that around 50% of 6th formers have cars.

There is a large car park at the end of Chestnut Avenue that could potentially be used as a drop off point to save cars adding to the congestion around the school.

The Premises Manager stands at the school entrance during the busy periods of the day to supervise traffic flow.

Kiveton Park Infants School, Station Road

The headteacher, Don Widdows, explained that their school crossing patrol person retired a couple of years ago and after unsuccessful attempts at recruiting to the post, were later told that they no longer meet the criteria for having a crossing patrol.

They have had a zebra crossing installed but would like a pelican crossing instead as drivers do not always stop. Parents have been monitoring traffic outside the school for the last month and are collating evidence.

The school feels that the road safety measures provided to the 3 primary schools on that road should be the same, and their monitoring shows that traffic flow is very similar. However one school has a crossing patrol, one has a flashing light and they have a zebra crossing.

Visit 4 - Maltby schools

On Monday 30th March members of the Road Safety review group met with the Traffic Liaison Officer, local PCSO and engineers in Maltby to find out about the impact of the Traffic Regulation Order which has been trialled in the area.

The TRO covers all the schools in Maltby and means that the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) can now enforce parking offences on the school keep clear markings (zigzags). The group walked along Lily Hall road outside Maltby Comprehensive School which has zigzag lines on one side of the road and single yellow lines on the other and the road was mostly clear of traffic at school closing time.

One resident living near the corner of Lily Hall Road and Braithwell Road raised concerns about visibility on the junction which is restricted by cars parking on the junction. Engineers agreed to look at whether double yellow lines could be put near the corner.

The PCSO patrols the area around the school every day and said they do still have a lot of problems with people causing obstructions through inconsiderate parking. There was a joint operation between the PCSOs and CEOs on 18th March to enforce parking regulations around Maltby schools and this was seen as a successful exercise and will be repeated.

The Traffic Liaison officer plans to go round door-to-door to local residents to assess whether they have noticed an improvement since the introduction of the TRO.

11.2 Appendix B - Mick Hall's report to Scrutiny Panel – 23/01/09

(note: the views contained in the report are personal to the author)

Report to Council Members

Road Safety outside Rotherham Borough Schools



1. Speed

Where we are now

Snap shot of the roads outside our schools

Schools have battled on their own for years with headteachers reluctant to engage in a conflict at the school gates and now with the new duties of promoting Community Cohesion. The headteacher's duty is to bring the school and local community together.

Other concerned people like myself and many of you are school governors and know from first hand experience the sort of conflict that can build very rapidly when you ask a parent to move their car off of the school "keep clear" markings outside of school.

I have been raising awareness of the issue of road safety outside our school for over 2 years, and during the last 6 months I have been contacted by over 50 schools right across the borough who have problems with one or more of the following:-

- Excessive speed of vehicles passing the school entrance
- 40 mph speed limits outside the school gate
- Parking on the zig zag markings
- Threatening and abuse of school crossing patrols

I have personally visited over thirty schools right across the borough and spoken to heads of schools and governors at most of the schools I visited. I witnessed first hand the speed of traffic past every school and although I'm not qualified to comment on the speed of vehicles I can assure you that at every school I attended I saw at least one instance of very excessive speed and many more of cars travelling over 30 mph in my estimation.

As well as the speed of traffic, parking outside schools exacerbates this situation by reducing the visibility especially of small children.

Government figures prove that you have a greatly increased chance of been killed or seriously injured if you are involved in a collision with a car traveling at 30 mph when compared with a car travelling at 20mph. This is beyond dispute.

What schools are looking for:-

Every school that has contacted me has asked for 20mph speed limits outside their schools. Every school wanted the speed limit to be enforced; these are preventative measures to stop deaths and serious injuries and further reduce the likelihood of these accidents happening.

If a speed limit of 20mph was introduced outside all schools across the borough and it was enforced by the Road Safety Camera Partnership, drivers would know that where there is a school sign the speed limit is 20mph. A uniform plan across the borough would ensure that we would help to prevent these serious incidents occurring within the vicinity of our schools.

Every school in Scotland has a 20mph speed limit around it and there are some schools in Rotherham where the school entrance is on a 30

or 40mph road speed limit and yet every road off the main road is in a 20 mph zone (in 20mph zones traffic calming measures need to be engineered in to slow down traffic.) These measures are usually introduced where local residents have lobbied the council or they have been introduced to slow down traffic where numbers of children are on the streets playing out.

Rotherham Borough Council has the chance to be proactive, be seen as forward thinking and caring towards its citizens making Rotherham safer and therefore a more attractive place to live. The action of developing road safety around schools would generate some very good media coverage for the council.

2. Road Markings



Question:- *By how much did this car miss this . . . child?*

Answer:- *I thought I was going to be photographing an accident.*

This is a major problem at every school that has been in contact with me and I've witnessed some shocking examples of parking right outside the school gates even to the point of parking across a zebra crossing while parents and children were on the crossing.



Road markings and signs on either side of schools leave the driver in no doubt that he is approaching a school and that he should be aware that children may be in the area.

What we are asking for is:-

- to have all schools road markings brought up to date and legally enforceable.
- set the standard, apply the standard, and keep it consistent for every school across the borough.

- the council parking officers to visit school sites to enforce the parking restrictions which are in place.

If the road markings were of a legal standard the education of parents via a £70.00 fixed penalty fine would soon stop illegal parking threatening the lives of children outside schools. Word would get round the parents of the Council's zero tolerance for illegal parking outside our schools.

One traffic warden could be allocated to a cluster of schools, for example Swinton Cluster Schools where there are 7 schools within a couple of miles radius. The warden could do random visits to each school for 30 minutes a day either in a morning or afternoon and visit all 7 schools in one week and only use 3 ½ hours of his time.

3. School Crossing Patrols

The shortage of the school crossing patrols outside schools is a real cause of concern for some schools, some have had vacancies for over a year. Another area of concern is that if a vacancy hasn't been filled after a certain period it is deemed as not required and the post is lost. So some schools who have previously had crossing patrols but have then been unable to fill the posts have lost their patrol even though previously it was agreed that a need exists.

Some crossing patrols I visited have to place traffic cones in the road to stop people parking or pulling up where they are trying to cross children to schools. They regularly suffer from abuse and threats and at least two I talked to found it a very stressful job and one was considering quitting.

One even told me that the parking was so bad outside her school with cars parked on both sides of the road that for over two hundred yards it is effectively a one-way street on a bus route and with traffic still speeding. She was knocked over recently by a car reversing into her coned off area to make way for traffic coming in the opposite direction. If an adult dressed in luminous green carrying a "Stop - children" sign can be knocked down what chance would a young child have?

4. Education

Schools acknowledge that they have a major part to play in road safety education and work within the national curriculum guidelines on road safety.

Schools also acknowledge that in the vast majority of cases the School Travel Plans have been ineffective and have not reduced by

any significant number the parents who bring their children to school by car.

Schools regularly send out newsletters to all parents about road safety and not parking outside schools and will continue to promote road safety outside schools. This is particularly the case in Primary and Junior schools, less so in Secondary schools.

5. What we want

As a result of this scoping meeting I would hope that the Council sees the benefits of having a full scrutiny review of road safety outside schools.

I would suggest that the first action of a review would be to carry out a survey of all schools with questionnaires being sent not only to the headteachers but also the governing bodies of all the schools. I have attached a draft questionnaire at Appendix A. This will provide us with an overview of the problem and we can then plan visits to schools which are badly affected by traffic problems and also schools who say that they have no problems to see what they do to stop the danger outside their schools.

Sirs I ask you to carefully consider the contents of this report. It is a broad and fair report into what I've seen travelling around the borough and have been told by headteachers and governors alike. We have a chance to be proactive in the prevention of deaths and serious accidents on the streets of Rotherham.

11.3 Appendix C - Feedback received during consultation on Road Safety Outside Schools

SCHOOL	NR OF CALLS/ EMAILS	ISSUES	SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT
Anston Brook Primary School	2	Traffic doesn't always stop at zebra crossing, vacant crossing patrol, school signs not visible enough. Contacted Council and Police asking for safety measures to be put in place but to no avail.	Pedestrian crossing. Better signage for "SCHOOL", flashing lights,
Anston Greenlands J&I School	1	Parents reversing into the hammerhead space next to the school	
Anston Park Junior School	3	Congestion and irresponsible parking. Untreated icy roads.	"Kiss and Drop" lay-by, Set up a walking bus, and encouragements for pupils that walk. Only allow children to enrol at the school if they agree to walk, except in extenuating circumstances. Block Park Avenue with bollards stopping the road being a throughway
The Arnold Centre	1	Inappropriate parking – initially better after introduction of STP, but relapsed.	
Aston Springwood J&I School	1	congestion	
Aston Comprehensive / Swallownest J&I School	1	Parked cars causing congestion.	Double yellow lines around school
Aston Fence J&I School	29	40mph speed limit and bend on road, HGVs, no parking for parents, no crossing, school bus blocks visibility. School expanding so problems will get worse.	Reduce speed limit, flashing sign, illuminated SCHOOL sign, speed camera, pedestrian crossing, island in road, make a parking bay/car park, speed bumps. .
Bramley Grange Junior and Nursery schools	1	Congestion and HGVs	Reverse the one-way system but been told this is not possible.

Brinsworth Howarth Primary School	1	Inconsiderate parking blocking driveway.	
Clifton Comprehensive	2	Children deliberately running in front of cars Children go to other part of the school which is at Cranworth (the old Spurley Hey school) for some lessons which means they have to cross Doncaster Road. There is no crossing. Head was told crossing would be moved but not happened.	Educate the young people.
Dalton Foljambe Primary School	1	Ungritted roads	
Dinnington Comprehensive School	1	Cars speeding, no controlled crossings, residents park on school frontage which forcing pedestrians between these cars and the road. Public bus causes obstruction and blocks visibility.	
East Dene Primary School	1	No crossing on Doncaster Road , dangerous parking	
Harthill Primary School	1	Congestion	Parish Council looking at setting up a walking bus.
Herringthorpe Infant School	2	No crossing on Herringthorpe Valley Road	Install pedestrian crossing near Stag roundabout
Herringthorpe Junior School	1	Speed of traffic, dangerous parking	Make the area pedestrianised.
Kiveton Park Infants	3	Speeding, no crossing patrol, vehicles not stopping at zebra crossing, parking causing obstruction	Install lights on the crossing, speed bumps, speed cameras, change colour of road before the crossing, install a pelican crossing
Kiveton Park Meadows Junior School	2	Heavy traffic and parking on footpaths and blocking driveways.	
Maltby Comprehensive	1	No consistency in presence of PCSO/traffic warden. Ice cream van causes a hazard.	
Maltby Manor Primary School	2	Dangerous parking, no crossing patrol.	PCSOs to give out more fines. Yellow lines on opposite side of the road.
Maltby Redwood J&I School	1	Cars pulling up at back gates of school, onto kerb and path.	Install a barrier or fence to stop cars pulling up onto the path.
Milton School	1	Residents park in lay-by outside the	The line may need repainting.

			school which is for buses and taxis only meaning there is no room for the buses. There is a single yellow line in the lay-by and a sign saying "Buses only".	Enforce no parking for cars in lay-by.
Our Lady & St Joseph's School		1	Building work at school means that cars are on the main road, blocking visibility and restricting traffic flow.	Identify designated car park and children and parents can walk from there to school.
Pope Pius School		1	Pedestrian crossing in line with a gate into the school yard but for the past 18 months the gate has been locked and is now overgrown. This means that children come down onto Chestnut Avenue and have to cross Sandygate	Alter bus route to drop off on the other side of Chestnut Avenue so children don't have to cross the road? Re-open the gate so children can use the crossing.
Ravenfield Primary School		2	Speed – 40mph limit – got petition with 400 signatures and support from MP but RMBC said unable to reduce speed limit, number of parents driving to school, narrow pavement.	Widen pavement and install barriers or bollards, reduce 40mph limit.
Rawmarsh Sandhill Primary School		1	Traffic speeding, used to be a speed camera there but isn't anymore	
Rudston Preparatory School		1	Speed limit on Broom Road should be reduced from 40mph to 30mph near the school	Reduce speed, restrict parking on opposite side of road to make it easier for traffic to flow.
St Ann's School	J&I	1	No major problems, signage is in place and generally respected and road humps.	
St Joseph's School	J&I	2	There is a crossing patrol but sometimes he is on holiday or off sick and there is no pedestrian crossing so it is very difficult to cross the road. Would like a pedestrian crossing installed. Parking on zig zags No traffic calming measures	Pedestrian crossing.
St Mary's School	J&I	1	Parking at both school entrances.	Erect barriers on the pavements to prevent children running out and to make parking more difficult on the yellow markings.
St Thomas' School	J&I	1	Congestion, cars parking half on pavement on a bend.	Consider double yellow lines on the bends.
Swinton Fitzwilliam School	J&I	2	Parking causes congestion. Cars not stopping at the zebra crossing, low sun.	Extend zig-zags, Pelican crossing, blackout screens behind traffic lights

Swinton Queen School	2	Parking on zebra crossing and zig zag lines and driveways. Parents don't use available car park, speeding.	A barrier from the school entrance to the zebra crossing which would guide pupils and parents to the crossing and also stop parents parking there. Speed limit reduction.
Thornhill primary school	1	Traffic congestion, parking	More police intervention, repaint zig-zag lines to make them clearer.
Thorpe Hesley Junior School	1	Double parking, speeding, traffic congestion.	Reduce limit to 30mph, speed cameras, double yellow lines where dual carriageway stops, zebra/pelican crossing.
Thrybergh Primary School	22	Cars crashed through the school wall, wall blocks pavement, 60mph limit only metres away from entrance.	Crash barrier, speed bumps, yellow lines, extend path, Speed signs further away from the bend, reduce speed limit.
Thurcroft Junior School	1	Cars parked on zig zag lines, condition of the road is very bad	More enforcement of parking laws, bollards along pavement, more power to teachers to address offenders.
Todwick School	J&I 1	Illegal parking, half on pavement, no pedestrian crossing	Extend solid white lines, introduce Double Yellow Lines, extend the bollards
Wales High School	1	Heavy traffic, cars blocking driveways.	
Wath Church of England Primary School	1	Congestion around school and speeding.	Establish a one-way system Introduce road humps
Wath Comprehensive School	1	No double yellow lines outside school, entrance to bus turning circle blocked by parked cars. Students at bus stop spill into road.	
Whiston Worrygoose J&I	1	Parents parking outside school and across school drive	
Wickersley Northfield Primary School	1	Bottleneck at Northfield Lane, parents parking on pavements.	
Wickersley Comprehensive School	1	40mph, road bridge not gritted and fights on bridge.	Pedestrian crossing to cross the road, bridge to be gritted in bad weather, flashing speed warning sign.
Wingfield	4	40mph limit, large catchment from	Install a crossing on Fenton

Comprehensive School		Munsborough on the opposite side of Fenton Road to the school, flashing warning sign damaged and never replaced/repaired.	Road.
Woodsetts Primary School	1	Congestion, traffic speeding, current lollipop lady is aged 80+ and only came back to work when a successor couldn't be found. Due to rural location, many children travel to school from neighbouring villages and have to come by car.	Install a Zebra crossing on main Dinnington/Worksop road Re-siting of speed signs Install refuges to help cross the road.

For further information about this report please contact:

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11. 4 Appendix D – Example of letters received from pupils at Thrybergh Primary School.



Thrybergh Primary School and Rainbow Centre
Oldgate Lane
Thrybergh
Rotherham
S65 4JG
School Phone 01709 850732
Rainbow Centre Phone 01709 855254
School Fax No. 01709 855385
e-mail thrybergh.primary@rotherham.gov.uk



Headteacher - Mr. R Linkens

Chair of Governors - Mrs. A Barber

Dear councillor Kaye

I am writing to complain about the dangerous road at the top of our school.

Our first problem is speed bumps. We are hoping to remove these speed bumps so that we can stop cars crashing into our wall. These bumps will also slow people down which would be a big help.

What makes it far worse is that the path runs out. This is a big danger for the school faculty and children. For instance if a child walks off the pavement a car could run him/her over.

Further more sign posts are a big problem the speed limit is 60 mph then on the bend they have to slow down to 30 mph which is a big ~~prob~~ problem.

To conclude I would like to thank you for

reading and hope you can provide us with these products.

yours sincerely
Junior road
safety officer
Craig Wainmsley
Y.6

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2	Date:	Friday 5th June 2009
3	Title:	GCSE Examination Results, 2008
4	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5 Summary:

The purpose of this report is to inform the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel of the GCSE examination results for 2008 and how they compare to previous years, to the national average and to the results of our statistical neighbours.

6 Recommendations:

That:

- **The report be received.**

7. Key Aspects of Performance

A. Overview

- i. Performance at GCSE 5+A*-C across the LA rose for the sixth consecutive year. The LA average rose 3.7% against a national average increase of 3.3%
- ii. On the now critical 5+A*-C including English and Maths indicator, the LA average rose 1.9% against a national average increase of 0.8%.
- iii. Performance at 5+A*-G including English and Maths rose 2.8% against a national average decline of 0.5%. Rotherham now exceeds national averages at 5 A*-G and 5A*-G incl English & Maths
- iv. 9 of the 16 schools matched or exceeded Fischer Family Trust "D" measures for progress from KS2-4, i.e. progress equal to that of the top 25% of students nationally.
- v. There was important improvement in key core subject departments in the Borough's most vulnerable schools, notably in English, which is helping to improve the overall performance of boys

B. Priority areas for action 2008/9

- i. The collaborative programme focussed on 5+A*-C including English and Maths performance led by a Consultant Headteacher working with senior leaders across the 16 schools has been sustained for a second year. In 2008 it promoted significant improvement in targeted schools, well above national averages
- ii. The culture of high expectations now pervasive across the secondary phase is exemplified in the aspirational targets set by schools for 2009 and 2010, which are consistently above FFT "D"
- iii. Improvement in the schools' most vulnerable schools (those with the highest proportion of children receiving Free School Meals) remains a priority and has seen significant improvement over the last 3 years
- iv. Two of the three National Challenge schools (identified by DCSF on 2007 results) performed above the 30% national threshold in 2008; one remained stable at 26%. Rotherham, therefore, has one school below the floor target, significantly fewer than other local and comparable Metropolitan Authorities.

C. Strategic focus of School Effectiveness Service

- i. Targetted support for underachievement is coordinated across the School Effectiveness Service, Consultant Headteachers and the nominated three lead consultancy schools. In 2008/9 we have further increased our consultancy resources by commissioning additional support from lead schools in English (Wath CS) and Maths (Wales HS).
- ii. The School Improvement Partner (SIP) programme has sharpened school self-evaluation, increased school leadership capacity and strengthened the focus on standards and achievement. Rotherham's practice is judged to be Outstanding by the National Strategies. The same strengths now inform our approach to the National Challenge (NC).
- iii. Programmes promoting the development of senior leadership capacity in the secondary phase are an area of excellence receiving regional and national recognition
- iv. Core subject consultancy demonstrated significant impact in underperforming departments in 2008 especially in English and Science
- v. Partnership between schools and SES is unprecedentedly close, responsive and productive. It has made the local introduction of the NC relatively straightforward and informs the ambitious vision for Transforming Rotherham Learning (TRL)

D. Background

The reporting of GCSE results is often complicated by the different ways in which the results are expressed. Local Authority (LA) results are sometimes published, by different Government departments, to include all the pupils in the cohort (i.e. all the pupils in secondary and special schools), on other occasions the results only represent pupils in mainstream secondary schools.

The results used to compare schools and LA's nationally are the DCFS validated results that cover all pupils in secondary and special schools at the end of Key Stage 4. These figures are used in this report.

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

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

a) Overall GCSE Results

Table T1: Overall 5+ A* - C GCSE Results 2003 - 2008

GCSE results	Rotherham (R) %	National (N) %	% Diff between R and N	Statistical Neighbours (SN) %	% Diff between R and SN
5+ A*-C					
2003	44.4	52.9	8.5	46.4	2.0
2004	45.9	53.7	7.8	47.0	1.1
2005	49.5	57.1	7.6	50.9	1.4
2006	52.2	59.2	7.0	53.8	1.6
2007	54.6	62.0	7.4	57.9	3.3
2008	58.3	65.3	7.0	62.8	4.5

- The percentage of pupils attending special schools in the 2008 cohort was 1.3%.
- The percentage of pupils achieving 5+GCSEs at the higher grade A*-C has increased from 54.6% in 2007 to 58.3% in 2008, against a national average of 62.0% in 2007 to 65.3% in 2008.
- This is an improvement of 3.7% for Rotherham schools (2007 to 2008), against a national improvement of 3.3%. Since 1999, the percentage achieving at 5A*-C has increased by 17.9%, 0.5% above the national average increase for that period.

Table T2: Performance at 5+ A* - C (including English and Mathematics)

GCSE results	Rotherham (R) %	National (N) %	% Diff between R and N	Statistical Neighbours (SN) %	% Diff between R and SN
5+A*-C (including English and maths)					
2006	37.5	45.8	8.3	38.8	1.3
2007	39.0	46.7	7.7	40.3	1.3
2008	40.9	47.6	6.7	42.8	1.9

- In 2006 a new performance indicator was included in the performance tables showing the proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics. This is a “harder test” and part of the Government’s drive to improve literacy and numeracy skills.
- In 2008 40.9% of Rotherham pupils achieved 5+A*-C (including English and maths), against a national average of 47.6% and a statistical neighbour average of 42.8%.
- In 2008 Rotherham reduced the gap to national averages.
- In 2008:
 - 52.1% of pupils gained A*-C in English (61.0% nationally)
 - 49.0% gained A*-C in mathematics (55.0% nationally) and
 - 41.1% gained A*-C in English and mathematics combined (48.0% nationally).

Table T3: Performance at 5+ A* - G

GCSE results	Rotherham (R) %	National (N) %	% Diff between R and N	Statistical Neighbours (SN) %	% Diff between R and SN
5+ A*-G					
2003	88.3	88.8	0.5	90.0	1.7
2004	88.1	88.8	0.4	90.0	1.9
2005	88.2	90.2	2.0	89.0	0.8
2006	88.6	90.5	1.9	89.6	1.0
2007	89.4	91.7	2.3	91.1	1.7
2008	91.8	91.6	-0.2	91.9	0.1

- The percentage of pupils achieving 5+A*-G grades has increased by 2.4% with a slight decline in the national average of -0.1%. This is an important measure of schools’ inclusiveness and provision for students across the whole ability range.
- Rotherham’s 5+A*-G performance is slightly above the national performance.
- Rotherham’s 5+A*-G performance is in line with the performance of statistical neighbours.

Table A4: Performance at 5+ A* - G (including English and mathematics)

GCSE results	Rotherham (R) %	National (N) %	% Diff between R and N	Statistical Neighbours (SN) %	% Diff between R and SN
5+A*-G (including English and maths)					
2003	85.4	86.3	0.9	N/A	N/A
2004	84.5	86.7	2.2	N/A	N/A
2005	86.5	88.0	1.5	86.9	0.4
2006	86.0	87.8	1.8	87.4	1.4
2007	87.5	87.9	0.4	88.8	1.3
2008	90.3	87.4	-2.9	89.9	-0.4

- 90.3% of Rotherham pupils gained 5+A*-G (including English and mathematics), an increase of 2.8% from 2007.
- This is against a national average of 87.4% which declined by 0.5% from 2007 and the statistical neighbour average of 89.9%.

Table T5: Performance – Any passes

GCSE results	Rotherham (R) %	National (N) %	% Diff between R and N	Statistical Neighbours (SN) %	% Diff between R and SN
Any passes					
2003	94.6	94.8	0.2	95.9	1.3
2004	95.0	95.9	0.9	95.9	0.9
2005	96.3	97.4	0.9	96.2	+0.1
2006	96.6	97.8	1.2	96.8	0.8
2007	97.0	98.9	1.9	97.6	0.6
2008	98.0	98.6	0.6	98.2	0.2

- Only 2% of pupils in Rotherham left school in 2008 with no GCSE equivalent passes. The majority of these (1.3%) children were in Special schools.

Table T6: Average Point Score (capped – i.e. results of the best 8 subjects taken)

GCSE results	Rotherham (R) %	National (N) %	% Diff between R and N	Statistical Neighbours (SN) %	% Diff between R and SN
APS (capped)					
2004	263.0	282.3	19.3	266.4	3.4
2005	270.6	291.8	21.2	273.9	3.3
2006	274.4	296.0	21.6	279.3	4.9
2007	281.5	303.1	21.6	290.2	8.7
2008	292.9	308.6	15.7	300.5	7.6

- The capped average points score is calculated from the best 8 GCSEs or equivalent.
- The average (capped) point score for pupils in Rotherham is 292.9, an increase of 11.4 in 2008 compared to a national average increase of 5.5.

b) Progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4

The system used by most schools, LAs and the DCSF to judge the progress of pupils is based on information provided by the Fischer Family Trust (FFT). This information shows the performance of pupils at the end of Key Stage 2 and provides estimates to support schools in the target setting process for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. The FFT information gives two key pieces of information based on each pupil's prior performance:

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

In 2008, 9 of the 16 secondary schools showed progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 in line with or better than the 5+A*-C FFT D estimates. Rotherham schools have ceased to use FFT "B" because of the lower level of challenge.

c) Progress across Rotherham Schools

The Council, through its Single Plan for Children and Young People, is striving to raise the attainment of pupils in all Rotherham schools. 12 secondary schools improved their 5+A*-C results in 2008 with four schools showing significantly improved results of 8% and over. 11 secondary schools improved their 5+A*-C (including English and

Mathematics) results in 2008, with four schools showing significantly improved results of 8% and over. The focus for support in 2008/9 is on those schools where the progress of pupils from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 is less than that which would be expected in similar schools nationally using the estimates provided by the Fischer Family Trust data information system.

d) Vulnerable Groups

(i) Gender

Table T7: Analysis of Performance by Gender - 5+A*-C grades

5+A*-C	Boys		Girls		Difference	
	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat
2004	42.1	46.2	49.7	56.7	7.6	10.5
2005	43.0	52.2	56.1	62.0	13.1	9.8
2006	44.3	54.6	60.3	64.0	16.0	9.4
2007	48.8	57.7	60.5	66.4	11.7	8.7
2008	54.1	60.9	62.6	69.9	8.5	7.3

- The gap between the performance of girls and boys at 5+A*-C is 8.5%, this has decreased in 2008 by 3.2%; this is due to an increase in boys' performance by 5.3%. Girls' performance improved by 2.1% between 2007/2008.
- The gap in national performance between girls and boys is 7.3%, with a decrease of 1.4% from 2007.

Table T8: Analysis of Performance by Gender - 5+A*-C grades (including English and mathematics)

5+A*-C (inc En + Ma)	Boys		Girls		Difference	
	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat
2005	30.7	40.7	42.3	49.1	11.6	8.4
2006	31.1	41.6	44.2	50.2	13.1	8.6
2007	32.7	42.4	45.5	51.2	12.8	8.8
2008	37.2	43.2	44.8	52.3	7.6	9.1

- The gap between the performance of girls and boys at 5+A*-C (including English and maths) is 7.6% with a decrease of 5.2%; this is due to an increase in boys' performance by 4.5%
- The gap in national performance between girls and boys is 9.1%, with a slight increase each year.
- The difference between boys and girls in Rotherham is less than the national difference.

Table T9: Gap between Girls' and Boys' Performance in English from 2004 - 2008

English A*-C	Boys		Girls		Boy / Girl difference	
	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat
2004	37.9	45.7	53.8	62.2	15.9	16.5
2005	39.3	50.0	57.7	65.0	18.4	15.0
2006	38.0	51.0	62.0	67.0	24.0	16.0
2007	40.9	53.0	60.6	68.0	19.7	15.0
2008	44.1	54.0	60.4	69.0	16.3	15.0

- The improvement in the performance of boys in English A*-C, is 3.2% from 2007 to 2008
- The gap between the performance of girls and boys at A*-C, in English, has decreased by 3.4% in 2008.
- The gap in the performance of boys and girls nationally, in English, has remained relatively static since 2004.

Table T10: Gap between Girls' and Boys' Performance in Mathematics from 2004 - 2008

Maths A*-C	Boys		Girls		Boy / Girl difference	
	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat
2004	40.9	45.7	42.3	48.5	1.4	2.8
2005	45.0	50.0	47.7	53.0	2.7	3.0
2006	45.0	52.0	50.0	55.0	5.0	3.0
2007	46.9	53.0	49.6	56.0	2.7	3.0
2008	48.6	54.0	49.2	57.0	0.6	3.0

- The improvement in the performance of boys in mathematics A*-C, is 1.7% from 2007 to 2008
- The gap between the performance of girls and boys at A*-C, in mathematics, has decreased by 2.1% to 0.6% in 2008.
- The gap in performance of boys and girls nationally, in mathematics, has remained relatively static since 2004.
- The gap between girls and boys in mathematics has been less than the national gap for two years.

(ii) Looked After Children

Table T11: Percentage of Looked After Children (LAC) achieving 5+ GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade A*-G (2003- 2007)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Rotherham %	28%	29%	50%	26%	47%
Rotherham LAC Cohort No.	25	30	30	23	36
National %	39.4%	40.7%	41.4%	43.1%	N/K

Table T12: Percentage of Looked After Children achieving 1+ GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade A*-G 2003-2007

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Rotherham %	40%	65%	70%	61%	78%
Rotherham LAC Cohort No.	25	30	30	23	36
National %	56.1%	60.2%	63.2%	63.7%	N/K

National Data source DCSF SFR08

- Care should be taken in comparing small numbers of pupils year on year but the outcomes reflect committed and successful work by students, school, the Get Real Team and other colleagues.

iii) Performance by Ethnicity (mainstream schools)

Table T13: Performance by Ethnicity 2004 – 2008

		Number in Group	3+ A* to A	5+ A* to C Inc Eng & Maths	5+ A* to C	5+ A* to G
2004	BME	238	10.4%	31.7%	47.1%	91.3%
	WBRI	3397	12.3%	33.6%	46.0%	89.5%
	ALL	3635	12.2%	33.5%	46.1%	89.6%
2005	BME	210	11.9%	31.9%	48.1%	90.5%
	WBRI	3355	13.3%	37.2%	50.1%	89.0%
	ALL	3565	13.2%	36.9%	50.0%	89.1%
2006	BME	250	15.5%	36.1%	51.2%	88.1%
	WBRI	3480	14.8%	38.3%	52.9%	89.7%
	ALL	3730	14.9%	38.1%	52.8%	89.6%
2007	BME	273	16.8%	39.9%	55.3%	93.0%
	WBRI	3427	14.5%	39.8%	55.4%	90.4%
	ALL	3700	14.7%	39.8%	55.4%	90.6%
2008	BME	262	14.5%	34.7%	56.9%	93.5%
	WBRI	3489	17.0%	42.0%	58.7%	92.8%
	ALL	3751	16.8%	41.5%	58.6%	92.9%

(BME) Black and Minority Ethnic background

(WBRI) White British background

- The percentage of BME pupils in the cohort has decreased slightly from 2007 (7.3%) to 2008 (7.0%).

e) Contextual Value Added (CVA)

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

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

- Prior attainment
- SEN status
- Free school meals entitlement
- Whether English is an additional language

- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Age
- Mobility
- Economic deprivation

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

The following tables provide a summary of the performance in Rotherham Key Stage 2-4 and Key Stage 3-4. This includes the overall CVA measure for each school, and core subject CVA scores relative to the national mean of 1000. Where the school value differs significantly from corresponding national value, sig+ or sig- is shown.

a) Key Stage 2-4

The total number of secondary schools in 2005 was 17. This reduced to 16 in 2006

Table E1: Overall CVA – Number of schools designated in each category

	2006	2007	2008
Significance -	4	2	2
Significance - and declining	0	2	1
Significance - and improving	0	2	0
Significance +	5	1	2
Significance + and improving	0	0	2
Significance + and declining	0	0	0
No significance	7	9	9

Minus sign (-) means below national average

Plus sign (+) means above national average

- The overall profile of Rotherham schools from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 has moved closer to the national CVA profile with the majority of schools in 2008 (9) being in line with the national profile.
- In 2008, 3 schools were significantly below the national profile
- In 2008, 4 schools were significantly above the national profile

f) LA Statistics for Individual Schools (against the year cohort)

Appendix A: Rotherham's results compared with National and Statistical Neighbour (SN) averages

- A (i) Rotherham LA, National and Statistical Neighbour averages 2008
- A (ii) Rotherham 5+A*-C results compared with Statistical Neighbour and National averages 2006-2008
- A (iii) Rotherham 5+A*-C including English and Mathematics results compared with Statistical Neighbour and National averages 2006-2008

Appendix B

Schools Results

- B (i) Percentage of Pupils achieving 5+A*-C and 5+A*-C including English and mathematics 2006-2008 calculated against the Year 11 Cohort
- B (ii) Progress from 2006-2008 in the percentage of pupils achieving 5+A*-C calculated against the Year 11 Cohort
- B (iii) Progress from 2006-2008 in the percentage of pupils achieving 5+A*-C including English and Mathematics calculated against the Year 11 Cohort
- B (iv) Percentage of pupils achieving 5+A*-C ranked in order of % eligible for FSM 2008
- B (v) Percentage of pupils achieving 5+A*-C including English and Maths ranked in order of % eligible for FSM 2008

11. Finance:

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

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

12 Risks and Uncertainties:

The level of achievement of Rotherham pupils on leaving statutory education will have a major impact on the re-generation of the area. Schools, working with the LA, are setting challenging targets and are striving to drive up the standards of attainment for all pupils.

The coherent implementation of a range of nationally funded projects will be instrumental in achieving this improvement. Failure to achieve the targets will limit the economic prospects of the young people and could put this additional funding at risk.

13 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

Any plans arising from an analysis of this report are 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:

- Learning
 - to raise the attainment for all children and young people;
 - to ensure a high quality education for all children and young people
 - to increase the number of young people in education, employment and training
- Achieving
 - to develop Rotherham as a prosperous place;
 - to minimise inequalities

14. Background Papers and Consultation:

- GCSE and 'A' Level Examination Results 2004 - Report to Education Cabinet 2005.
- GCSE Examination Results 2005 - Report to Cabinet 2006.
- GCSE Examination Results 2006 - Report to Cabinet 2007.
- GCSE Examination Results 2007 - Report to Cabinet 2008.

Contact Name:

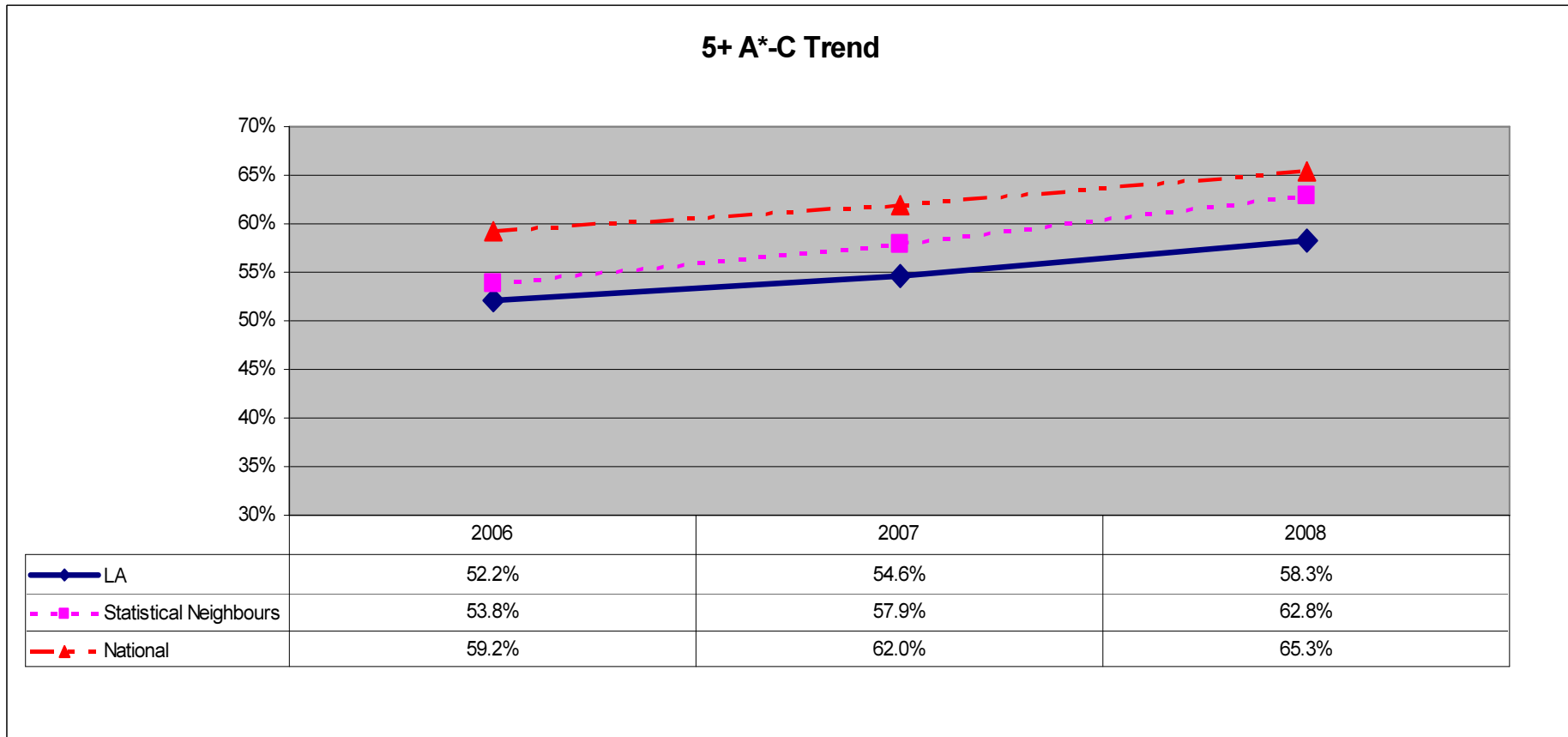
David Light Head of School Effectiveness T: 01709 82555
E: david.light@rotherham.gov.uk

Appendix A: Rotherham's results compared with National and Statistical Neighbour (SN) averages

A (i) Rotherham LA, National and Statistical Neighbour Averages 2008

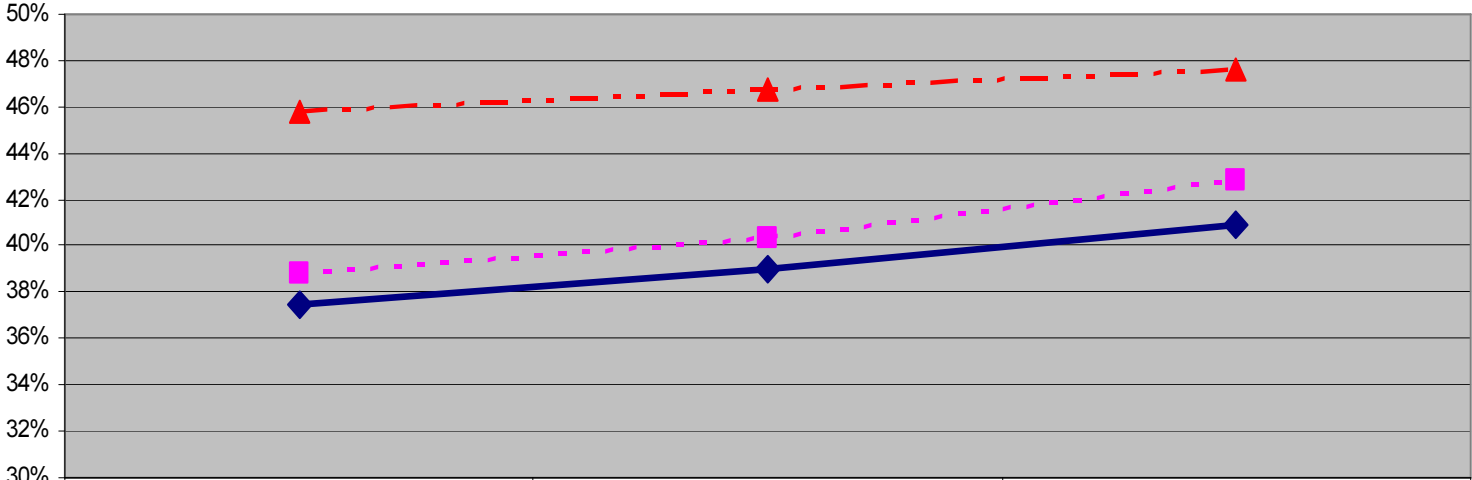
	Number of students at the end of Key Stage 4	Results of Key Stage 4 students							APS
		% of students achieving							
		5 or more grades A*-C including English and maths GCSEs	Level 2 in functional English and maths	Level 1 in functional English and maths	Level 2 (5 or more grades A*-C)	Level 1 (5 or more grades A*-G)	2 grades A*-C which cover the Key Stage 4 science programme of study	at least one qualification	
LA Average		40.9%	48.6%	93.3%	58.3%	91.8%	38.4%	98.0%	372.9
England Average		47.6%	52.0%	90.2%	65.3%	91.6%	50.3%	98.6%	390.0
Aston Comprehensive School	314	53%	66%	96%	68%	93%	48%	99%	370.6
Brinsworth Comprehensive School	265	53%	54%	97%	66%	96%	41%	99%	359.2
Clifton: A Community Arts School	279	26%	32%	93%	51%	90%	29%	99%	319
Dinnington Comprehensive School	258	33%	53%	90%	52%	90%	40%	98%	364.3
Maltby Comprehensive School	251	35%	59%	96%	48%	96%	16%	99%	340
Oakwood Technology College	220	39%	47%	94%	67%	94%	44%	97%	387.2
Rawmarsh Community School	226	34%	49%	99%	50%	93%	32%	99%	400.3
Saint Pius Catholic High School	140	39%	41%	98%	54%	96%	41%	99%	364
St Bernard's Catholic High School	128	62%	65%	98%	77%	97%	55%	100%	423.9
Swinton Community School	237	36%	38%	91%	50%	89%	24%	98%	381.4
Thrybergh Comprehensive School	126	33%	33%	90%	51%	92%	46%	98%	323.8
Wales High School	252	41%	46%	98%	65%	98%	58%	99%	436.3
Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College	286	48%	58%	97%	65%	93%	42%	99%	417.9
Wickersley School and Sports College	295	61%	62%	96%	79%	97%	71%	98%	467
Wingfield School	155	32%	39%	94%	48%	90%	11%	99%	326.1
Winterhill School	353	36%	38%	89%	50%	89%	26%	96%	338.3

A (ii) Rotherham 5+A*-C results compared with Statistical Neighbour and National Averages 2006-2008



A (iii) Rotherham 5+A*-C including English and Mathematics results compared with Statistical Neighbour and National Averages 2006-2008

5+ A*-C including English and Mathematics Trend



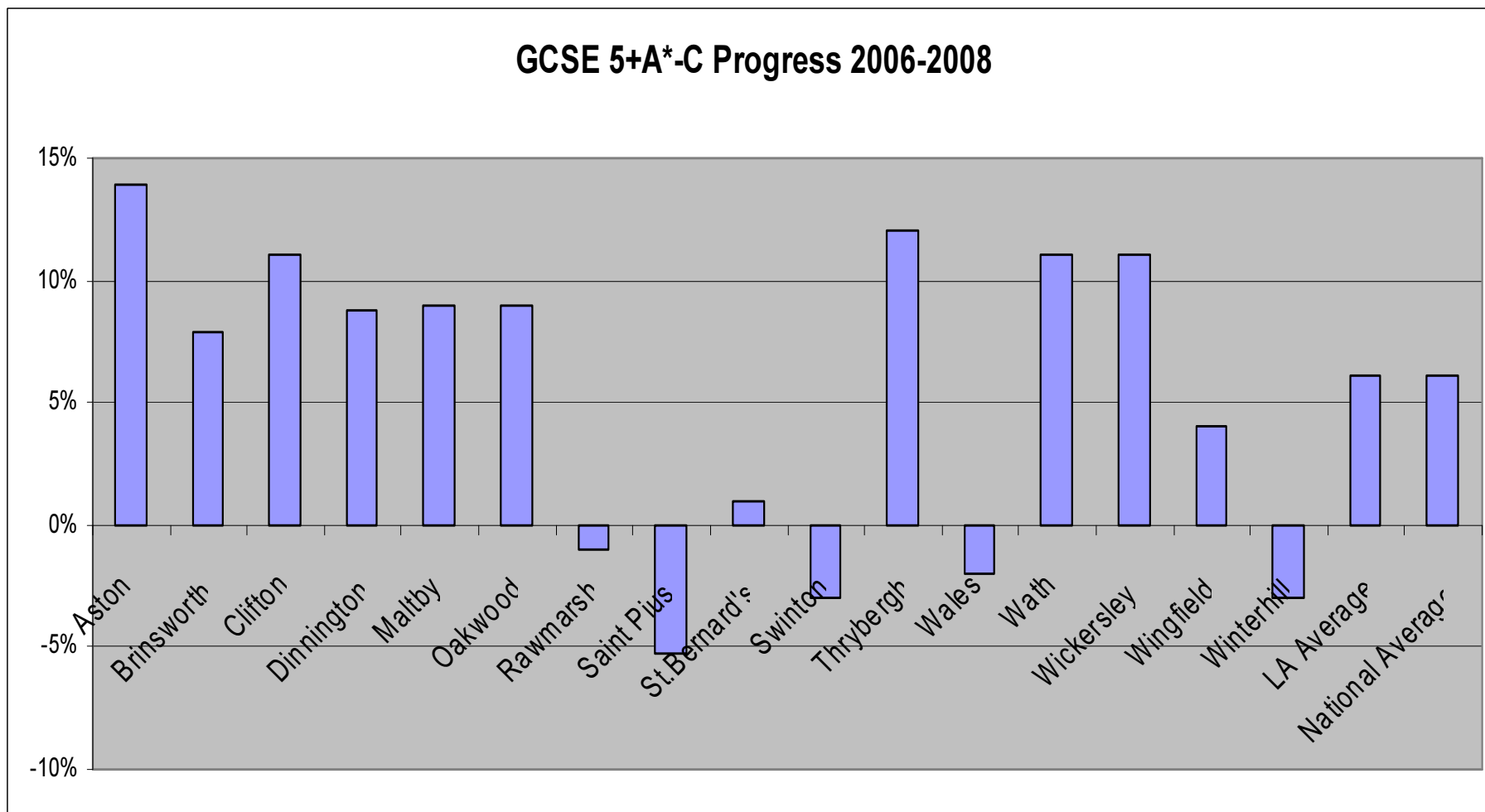
	2006	2007	2008
LA	37.5%	39.0%	40.9%
Statistical Neighbours	38.8%	40.3%	42.8%
National	45.8%	46.7%	47.6%

Appendix B Schools Results

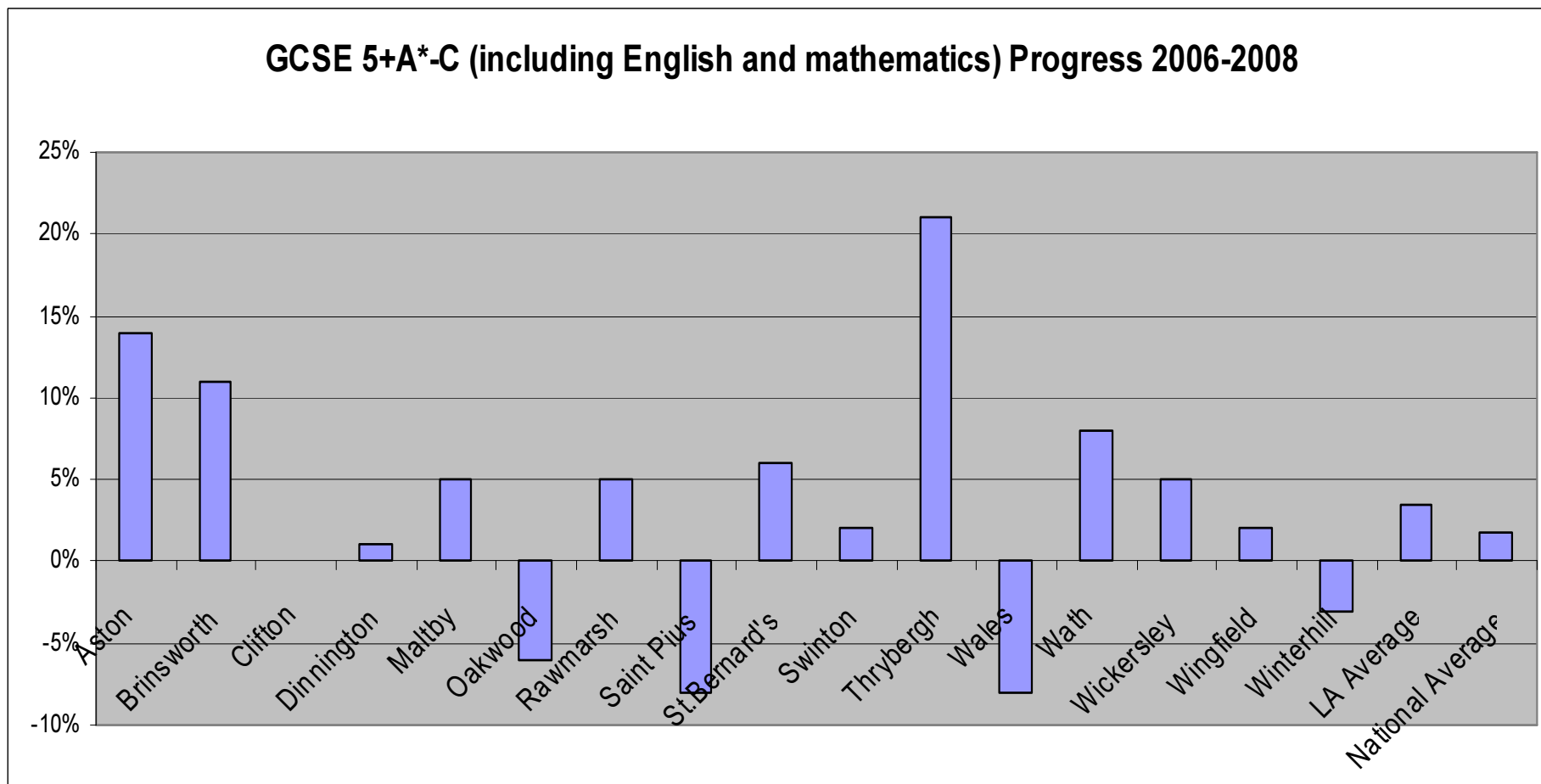
B (i) Percentage of Pupils achieving 5+A*-C and 5+A*-C including English and mathematics 2006-2008 calculated against the Year 11 Cohort

	2006	2007	2008	Progress 2006-2008	2006 (inc En & Ma)	2007 (inc En & Ma)	2008 (inc En & Ma)	Progress 2006-2008
LA Average	52.2%	54.6%	58.3%	6.1%	37.5%	39.0%	40.9%	3.4%
National Average	59.2%	62.0%	65.3%	6.1%	45.8%	46.7%	47.6%	1.8%
Aston	54.1%	66.0%	68%	13.9%	39%	51.0%	53%	14.0%
Brinsworth	58.1%	58.0%	66%	7.9%	42%	45.0%	53%	11.0%
Clifton	40.0%	41.0%	51%	11.0%	26%	26.0%	26%	0.0%
Dinnington	43.2%	54.0%	52%	8.8%	32%	37.0%	33%	1.0%
Maltby	39.0%	46.0%	48%	9.0%	30%	30.0%	35%	5.0%
Oakwood	58.0%	57.0%	67%	9.0%	45%	44.0%	39%	-6.0%
Rawmarsh	51.0%	48.0%	50%	-1.0%	29%	36.0%	34%	5.0%
Saint Pius	59.3%	58.0%	54%	-5.3%	47%	39.0%	39%	-8.0%
St Bernard's	76.0%	74.0%	77%	1.0%	56%	58.0%	62%	6.0%
Swinton	53.0%	51.0%	50%	-3.0%	34%	27.0%	36%	2.0%
Thrybergh	39.0%	50.0%	51%	12.0%	12%	24.0%	33%	21.0%
Wales	67.0%	64.0%	65%	-2.0%	49%	43.0%	41%	-8.0%
Wath	54.0%	50.0%	65%	11.0%	40%	38.0%	48%	8.0%
Wickersley	68.0%	74.0%	79%	11.0%	56%	55.0%	61%	5.0%
Wingfield	44.0%	47.0%	48%	4.0%	30%	32.0%	32%	2.0%
Winterhill	53.0%	54.0%	50%	-3.0%	39%	43.0%	36%	-3.0%

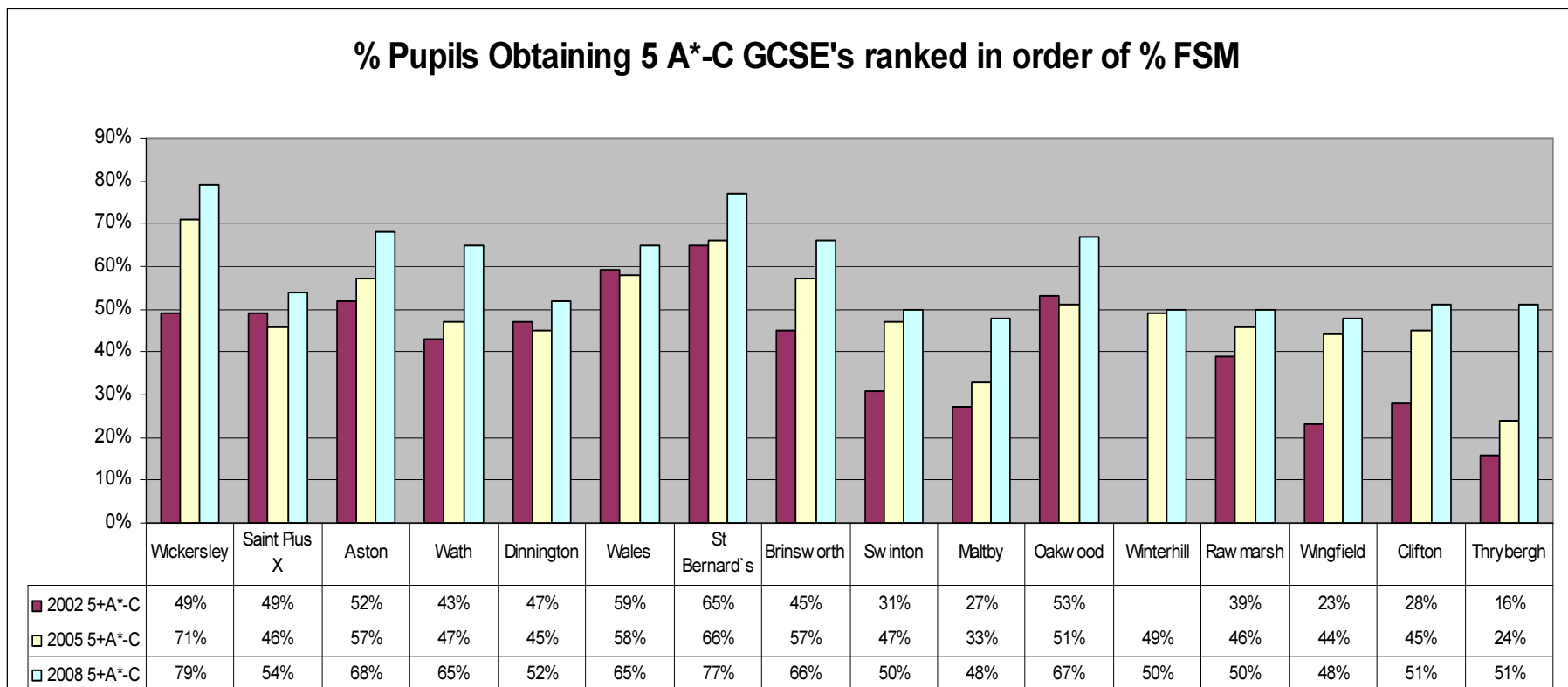
B (ii) Progress from 2006-2008 in the percentage of pupils achieving 5+A*-C calculated against the Year 11 Cohort



B (iii) Progress from 2006-2008 in the percentage of pupils achieving 5+A*-C including English and Mathematics calculated against the Year 11 Cohort

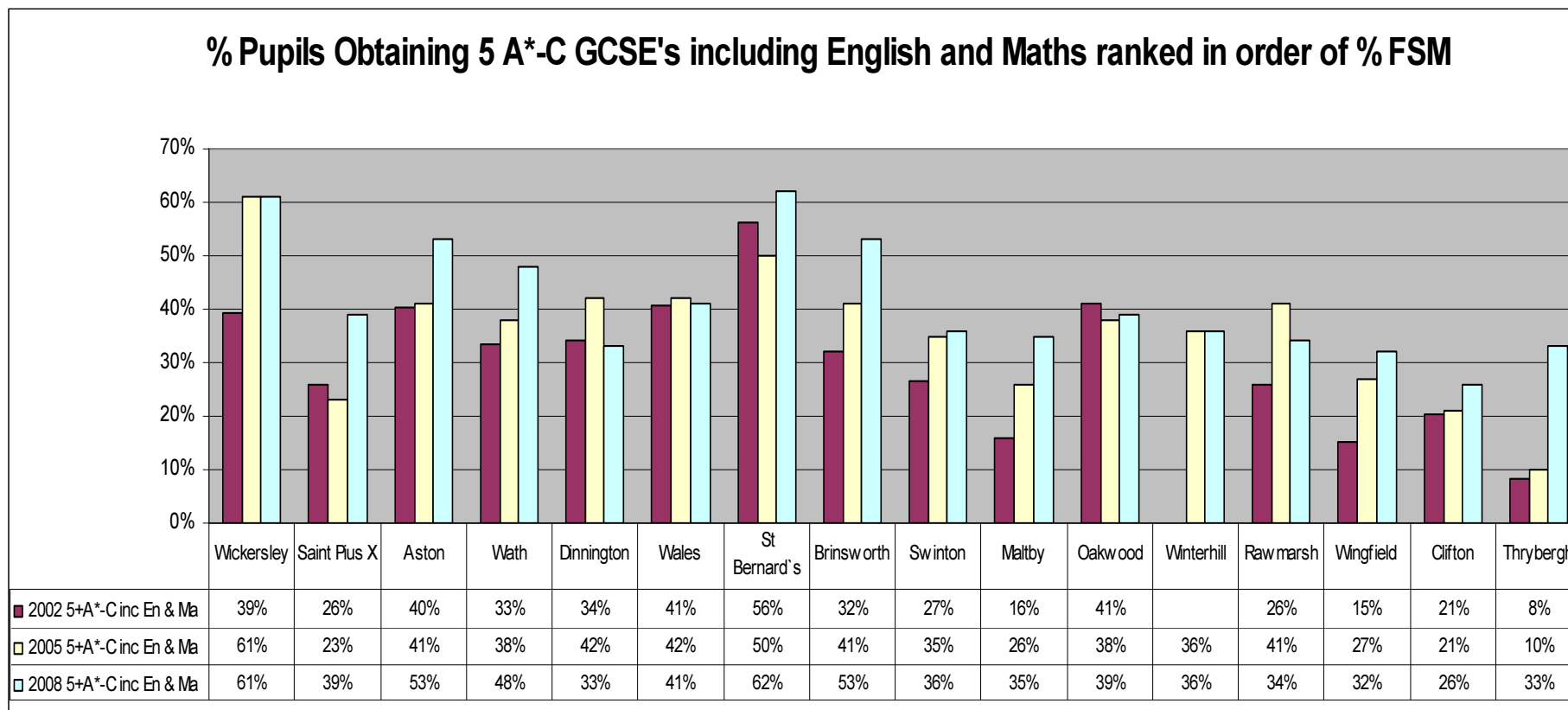


B (iv) Percentage of pupils achieving 5+A*-C ranked in order of % eligible for FSM 2008



School	Wickersley	Saint Pius X	Aston	Wath	Dinnington	Wales	St Bernard's	Brinsworth	Swinton	Maltby	Oakwood	Winterhill	Rawmarsh	Wingfield	Clifton	Thrybergh
2008 FSM	6%	8%	8%	9%	10%	11%	11%	12%	13%	13%	16%	17%	18%	18%	30%	33%
Difference 2002-2008	30%	5%	16%	22%	5%	6%	12%	21%	19%	21%	14%		11%	25%	23%	35%

B (v) Percentage of pupils achieving 5+A*-C including English and Maths ranked in order of % eligible for FSM 2008



School	Wickersley	Saint Pius X	Aston	Wath	Dinnington	Wales	St Bernard's	Brinsworth	Swinton	Maltby	Oakwood	Winterhill	Rawmarsh	Wingfield	Clifton	Thrybergh
2008 FSM	6%	8%	8%	9%	10%	11%	11%	12%	13%	13%	16%	17%	18%	18%	30%	33%
Difference 2002-2008	22%	13%	13%	15%	-1%	0%	6%	21%	9%	19%	-2%	36%	8%	17%	6%	25%

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 5th June, 2009
3.	Title:	Safeguarding Children’s Services
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary:

In March 2008, the Children and Young People’s Services Joint Leadership Team developed an Action Plan which focused on separating the strategic functions of Safeguarding services and the Operational functions of the Safeguarding Services. The move towards a multi-agency integrated Safeguarding Unit was outlined with key steps to achieve this model. In September 2008, Education Safeguarding Services were located within the Safeguarding Unit and line management responsibility was transferred there. This included Children Missing from Education. In April 2009, the Health Child Protection Unit moved from Doncaster Gate Hospital to the Operational Safeguarding Unit in Crinoline House, with aligned management structures. In addition, the Safeguarding Unit are working closely with the schools to deliver child protection conferences in a school environment. This has been very well received with early indications of a positive experience for families and children, in addition to efficiencies of professional times. The attached report outlines how the services have been separated to improve understanding of the differences between strategic responsibilities and operational responsibilities.

6. Recommendations:

That Scrutiny Panel note the changes made to the Safeguarding organisational arrangements.

7. Proposals and Details:

We currently have 280 children and young people subject to a Child Protection Plan. All cases are allocated to Locality Social Workers. The co-located teams provide a multi-agency response to the Child Protection Plan. Working within Localities has proven efficient and effective.

The Safeguarding Board is supported by the Board Manager and prime responsibilities are to take strategic responsibilities from monitoring the delivery of Safeguarding Services across all agencies and ensuring these are compliant with regulation, policy and procedure.

8. Finance

The Safeguarding Board has contributions from all agencies represented on the Board. The Operational Safeguarding Unit, staff employed by the Local Authority are part of the CYPS establishment, Health staff continue to be financed by the PCT.

9. Risk and Uncertainties

It is imperative that the Operational Safeguarding Unit discharges its responsibilities across all parts of the service. In addition to the duties outlined in Appendix 1, the Unit offers consultation, support and advice to any professionals and members of the community on Safeguarding matters. This can range from advice on individual cases and concerns through to appropriate training needs of professionals and voluntary organisations. The Safeguarding Unit Manager is managed by the Director of Locality Services and is part of the Locality Management Team. This works very well as the work of the social workers is integral to the work of the Safeguarding Unit.

The Safeguarding Board function continues to focus on the contribution of partner agencies in discharging their duties to the Safeguarding agenda within Rotherham.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

There are key performance indicators associated with the SAFE element of ECM. The successful work of the Social Workers and support staff is essential to maintaining a safe service.

An integrated Operational Safeguarding Children's Unit has been developed incorporating services from Health, Social Care and Education. This has realised efficiencies and improved service delivery to partners and children and their families.

11. Background and Consultation

Every Child Matters
Working Together to Safeguard Children
Laming Report, March 2009

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Safeguarding Update

The roles and responsibilities for the Safeguarding Agenda have now been separated into Strategic and Operational.

Catherine Hall is the Interim Strategic Board Manager and her responsibilities and duties are in the main in relation to the work of the L.S.C.B. and responsible to Strategic Director.

- Policies and Procedures.
- Serious Case Review Process/Commissioning/Action Plans/Supporting outcomes.
- Child Death Panel.
- Monitor effectiveness of L.S.C.B. Sub-Groups:-
 - Domestic Violence
 - Practice Standards
 - Policies and Procedures
 - Case Review
 - Training Group
 - Sexual Exploitation
- Lead responsibility with Ofsted.
- Multi-agency training/audit/report on activity and quality.
- Monitor Key Performance Indicators.
- Promote safeguarding within the community/campaigning publicity.

The new Nurse Consultant for Safeguarding was appointed on 3rd September, 2008. This post holder will be based with N.H.S Rotherham at Oak House, responsible to the Director of Public health. The post holder will work closely with the Strategic Manager, Safeguarding and the Operational Manager.

The post of Safeguarding Unit Operational Manager has been taken by Annie Redmond, formerly Assistant Manager, Safeguarding, responsible to the Director of Locality Services.

The roles and responsibilities are:-

- Ensuring Child Protection Meetings/Strategy Meetings are convened for allegations against staff, e.g. teachers, professionals, foster carers, adoptive carers and complex cases.

- Lead role in development and delivery of multi-agency training.
- Responsible for Performance Indicators relating to Child Protection/develop action and recovery plans.
- Advise and assist other staff on issues of child protection, e.g. schools, G.Ps.
- To lead on M.A.P.P.A. and M.A.R.A.C.
- To ensure quality of work within the unit and assist with quality across the localities.

3 Education workers have transferred to the unit. They will support schools, be involved in allegations management, deliver training and be responsible for Children Missing from Education.

Steps are to integrate the named Nurse, Child Protection and 2 Nurse Advisers (April 2009). They will join the unit in November as Doncaster Gate closes.

The unit is seeking to hold conferences within the community, i.e. schools, health centres and the specialist staff joining the unit will work with key posts to develop this.

Annie Redmond is part of the Locality Management Team.

Catherine Hall attends the Performance Meetings and the Extended Provider Services meetings.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2. Date:	Friday 5th June 2009
3. Title:	Impact assessment of young runaways and missing from home protocols.
4. Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary:

The C&YP Scrutiny Panel considered a report on young runaways in October 2008. As requested, this report updates the C&YP Scrutiny Panel on the progress made against the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board ‘*Action Plan for Services to Runaways*’ over the past six months.

Since the last report there has also been the introduction of the new National Indicator [71] concerning local provision and responses to children who run away. This report also therefore provides up to date information regarding government activity on the subject and Rotherham’s response to information required under the National Indicator 71.

6. Recommendations:

That the content of this report is noted.

7. Proposals and Details

National Developments:

The Children's Secretary has Cabinet level responsibility for runaways and, led by the Minister with the Safeguarding brief, the DCSF has taken the lead in co-ordinating policy developments across Government to ensure appropriate services are in place to respond to the needs of those who run away.

In June 2008 the Young Runaways Action Plan was published by the Government. This plan committed to updating guidance for local authorities on supporting children and young people who go missing from home or care. Key points raised in this plan include:

- LA's to provide extra support for families who are finding it hard to deal with their child's behaviour.
- To deliver more effective CAMHS services.
- To address problems at school, especially bullying.
- To educate young people about the dangers of running and encourage them to seek support rather than run away.
- To identify patterns of running in local areas.
- To improve data collection to inform service provision, driven by a new indicator in the National Indicator Set.
- To provide children with someone to turn to and somewhere safe to stay, if needed

In January 2009 a new national indicator (NI71) was introduced. The indicator is designed to support joint working between the Police and Children's Services and other relevant bodies, to support Local Strategic Partnerships and Children's Trusts in establishing the scale of running away in their local area and to put services in place to respond accordingly and effectively.

At a consultation event held in Manchester February 2009 representatives from The Department for Children, Schools and Families National (DCSF) indicated that;

- Only 12% of all local authorities have services targeted at runaways.
- Half of local authorities have no protocol for managing cases of children missing from home.
- Twice as many local authorities fail to plan for the needs of runaways as those that do.
- 40% of police forces are not able to access sufficient data to be able to provide information on levels of need.
- 10 out of 27 police forces who were questioned had had young people staying in police stations overnight due to a lack of alternative emergency accommodation.

The DCSF concluded that these findings were unacceptable and stated that in every Local Authority there is a need to ensure that local provision for young runaways is properly co-ordinated and that there must be effective joint working between children's services, the police and other local partners to ensure that necessary data about young runaways is collected, and shared between all those who have a role to play in protecting these vulnerable young people.

In May 2009, as indicated in the Young Runaways Action Plan, revised draft 'Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Children Missing from Home or Care' was published. The new guidance aims:

- to place more emphasis on roles and responsibilities within local areas
- to explain the need for local and regional protocols to be in place – especially for out of hours referrals
- to put more emphasis on the importance of a return interview and full needs assessment using the CAF where appropriate
- to explain the need for data on missing and runaway children to be collected and used to inform service provision - to help meet the requirements of NI 71

National Indicator 71 is a local authority self-assessment of their response to young runaways. The indicator asks local areas to assess whether appropriate systems, procedures and protocols are in place to identify the levels of running in their area, and whether the response to instances of running is appropriate to the needs of young people who run away. Local Authority Children's Services are asked to co-ordinate the response on behalf of the local area and are asked to assess and score their performance (score 0-3) against five key elements of service planning/provision, namely:

- Whether local information about running away is gathered.
- Whether a local needs analysis, based on gathered information is in place.
- Whether Local procedures to meet the needs of runaways are agreed.
- Protocols for responding to urgent and out-of-hours referrals from the police of other agencies are in place.
- Whether local procedures include effective needs assessment protocols, to support effective prevention and intervention work.

Rotherham Developments:

Rotherham's self-assessment is a score of 14 out of a possible 15. To arrive at this score the key organisations, Children and Young People's Services, South Yorkshire Police, Local Children's Safeguard Board, and Safe@last considered the criteria and matched this against current service provision. Initially there was a degree of concern amongst partners that our self-assessment score was so high, even though close attention was given by all partners to the criteria, not least because the DCSF stated at the launch of the indicator –

Scoring highly on this indicator will not be easy, and we envisage that very few local authorities will score a "3" on more than one element of the self assessment straight away. We wanted to provide 'stretch' for those local authorities who already have good provision in place, but could go further in some areas. Instead, a "3" is something that we would like to see most local authorities working towards by the end of the lifetime of this indicator set (so Spring 2011).

However the information above from the February DCSF event would confirm that Rotherham's practice and development has been considerably 'ahead of the game', and as such gives credence to the self-assessment. This is primarily due to the proactive response to draft indicators and guidance, which resulted in two key local documents relating to the provision of services for young people who run away:

- The South Yorkshire Runaways Joint Protocol – Running Away from Care and Home, was written in June 2005, and was updated in April 2008. The Strategic Director for C&YPS is a signatory to this overarching Protocol.
- Rotherham's response to the protocol, under the direction of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, is an Action Plan for Services to Runaways, originally drafted in April 2006 and updated in June 2008. This is the key document for a review of local provision and response.

These are the two documents considered at the October 2008 Scrutiny Panel, and in particular the Action Plan, which has a number of aims and actions which fall into the following six areas:

1. Putting someone in charge

The lead person for the LA remains the Operations Manager, Looked After Children's Resources. At a meeting of the Local Children's Safeguarding Board on 25th February 2009 it was resolved that this should remain so. The South Yorkshire Police Lead person changed in March 2009. The new officer remains based within the PPU and has many years of child protection experience. The lead individual with our voluntary agency partner (Safe@Last) remains the same.

2. Preventing running away

One of the underlying principles of the Government's Children's Plan published in December 2007 is that it is better to prevent failure than to tackle a crisis later. The same may be applied to the issue of young runaways. Prevention begins at an early stage and should take place in the family home and backed up through the education system. The Government's action plan indicates that Local Authorities should provide extra support for families who are finding it hard to deal with their child's behaviour. In Rotherham, a Multi-Agency Parenting Strategy has been developed which ensures that services to parents are seamless and delivered according to need and subject to assessment including those families where there is a risk of running away. Safe@Last have a role in the delivery of this programme and are engaged with the new Family Intervention Project with whom they exchange information as appropriate.

Safe@Last have secured funding from Rotherham Children's Fund, for a Runaways Education Officer. This work commenced in June 2008 since when more than 6000 young people have been in receipt of workshops or assemblies or Crucial Crew sessions explaining the dangers of running away. One of the results of this work is increased referrals to Safe@Last from schools regarding young people at risk of running away. The aim of this work is to introduce to young people the idea of finding someone they trust to talk to about their problems or issues and also understand the risks involved in being away from home. The Runaways Education Officers will have contact with all years 6 & 7 and 50% of year 8 in 2009/10 and all of years 6, 7 and 8 in 2010/11 through 'Crucial Crew'.

Safe@Last run a freephone helpline and text service. The freephone is available for 24 hours a day being answered between 9am and 9pm at the office in Dinnington and by the National Runaways helpline between 9pm and 9am. The text service is only available during working hours. The aim of the helpline and text service is to give children and young people direct access to the help and

information they need. The helpline is also the self-referral route for the Children's Refuge.

Although the SY Protocol was redrafted in 2008 and is available in all children's homes and known to the foster and locality teams, it was never actually officially launched. There are plans to address this before the end of this year. Training programmes are available and can be delivered jointly by SY Police and Safe@Last; there is also an 'on line' interactive package that residential staff and foster carers can access.

A measure of the progress on the prevention of young people running away could be to consider the numbers of young people who have come into contact with Safe@Last through the work in schools, in the community, via the help line, etc and the numbers of these young people who have subsequently run off. It would not be an exact science but a relatively honest indicator of the numbers who have talked of running away but decided against it following the intervention of S@L or the Police. There has been approx 100 calls and texts from children and young people in Rotherham asking for help, information and refuge of which only 4 resulted in Refuge with Safe@Last, the remaining young people finding other options to running away as a result of the hard work of the staff.

NB Police data on young runaways is currently being verified and will be tabled at Scrutiny.

3. Ensuring immediate safety

Risk assessments are in place for every looked after person in residential and foster care. These currently give a low, medium or high rating to the risk of a young person 'running off'. Managers in residential homes are currently training in a new risk assessment management protocol. Once all are fully trained a new risk assessment will be implemented which will give a more accurate rating of risk that does not, for example, simply focus on the risk of the young person running off but will now also assess the risks of harm as a result of the running off activity. The new risk assessment record will be discussed with the Fostering Team with a view to its implementation later in the year.

For those young people known to be at high risk, information, communication systems and intervention strategies between the three main agencies are continuing to develop. An example of a new planned intervention is members of staff from children's homes accompanying the lead person from SY Police on some missing person investigation/ searches.

The refuge operated by Safe@Last is a critical provision in ensuring immediate safety for young people who may have run away from home and cannot return. It has been used by 10 Rotherham young people since April 2008, the needs of two of the young people being met in partnership working between Safe@Last and RMBC.

Silverwood Children's Home is the Local Authority's provision to provide respite or short term / immediate accommodation for young people in crisis and/or at risk, including from running away. Staff work closely with the young people and their families to address and resolve any issues which are increasing risks of running away.

4. Providing longer-term support

Running away can be a relatively common response to trauma, crisis or difficulty in a young person's life. The risk of this is fully considered in all assessments. When a young person has actually run away it is very important that a full interview upon their return is undertaken to assess what factors are at play and causing or contributing to that risk. In the action plan it is noted that Safe@Last are providing 100% service with regard to return interviews. It also indicates that Police are making progress but there continue to be difficulties regarding capacity. New reporting systems are in a development stage which will ensure that all young people are offered an interview on their return and additionally record which agency has provided the interview.

Both Silverwood Children's Home and Safe@Last deliver outreach work with children and young people who have been referred to them and who continue to be a risk of running away.

The Looked After and Adopted Support Team provide a short term (Tier 1 – 2) service of support to Looked After children, their carers, their workers, and adoptive families in Rotherham. The aim of this work is to enhance understanding of early life trauma, abuse and neglect upon children's physical and emotional wellbeing, and to support and develop skills. Each children's home has a link worker from this team and they meet on a weekly basis.

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

Action for Children were recently awarded the tender for managing the 16+ services for all Looked after Children. Included in their strategy is a commitment to provide increased supported accommodation within the borough. In the past year Rotherham has increased this provision by over 60% with properties available in East Herringthorpe, Kimberworth and the town centre.

The officer from the homeless section continues to be a key member of the Runaway Action Group and has been able to arrange meetings with accommodation providers for a number of young runaways.

6. Making things change

The remit of the Runaway Action Group is to ensure that provision for missing person from home and/or care is managed at an operations level. The strategic lead is managed through the Local Children's Safeguard Board. A significant development in the past few months is the frequency of reporting to Safeguarding Board, which has increased to quarterly from annually.

At both a local and national level there is a better understanding and acknowledgement that the causes of young people that are reported missing are not always associated with significant problems at home. For some young people it is a 'testing of boundaries'.

In the coming months there will be changes in the risk assessment process and also in the way that information is collected and recorded. These changes will ensure that in Rotherham we will continue to develop our knowledge of missing person activity and be better placed to respond.

The local action plan was reviewed in February 2009 by the key individuals from the Local Authority, South Yorkshire Police and Safe@Last. The outcome of this review was that the Action plan remains relevant and is on track to deliver the key outcomes.

8. Finance

South Yorkshire Police have estimated that it costs approximately £1000 each time a young person is reported as missing. This is the basic cost of processing a missing person report and conducting standard enquiries, investigations, etc. For more complex cases, (every case is risk assessed) this cost could well be multiplied with costs associated with extra staff time, additional police vehicles, air searches, etc.

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

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

9. Risk and Uncertainties

Young Runaways or young people missing from home and care, present significant concern for everyone involved with them, most obviously for the health and welfare of the young person. We know from research that running away is a dangerous activity and there are clear connections with a spiral into a life of crime, prostitution and substance misuse. Issues identified by organisations working with young runaways include the need for improved inter-agency co-operation, better information of what support is around and an increase in emergency accommodation.

Safe@Last is a small and highly specialist organisation and predominantly relies on donations and grant applications to maintain its existence. Sustainability could prove to be difficult. Rotherham have committed to a further years funding for 2009. An evaluation of Safe@Last has been commissioned by them, from an international organisation who are leaders in the field of working with runaways, The Railway Children. Research, data collection and analysis will be concluded by June 2009, with an Evaluation Report to be published in the Autumn of 2009.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Government has a particular responsibility to safeguard the young and vulnerable. Chapter 2 of the Children's Plan – Safe and Sound – sets out the vision for making children's safety everyone's responsibility. One of the key principles underpinning the Children's Plan is that local services need to be shaped by and responsive to children, young people and families, not designed around professionals. This is of vital importance when it comes to supporting children and young people who go missing or decide to runaway.

As noted throughout this report Rotherham are well placed to meet the criteria set out in The National Indicator (71) introduced January 2009. However, in collating the information for the return assessment in January and April it is evident that areas could be strengthened and made more robust. Work has commenced on this both at a local and regional level.

11. Background and Consultation

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

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1. Meeting:	Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel
2. Date:	Friday 5 June 2009
3. Title:	Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Annual Health Check 2008/09
4. Programme Area:	Chief Executive's

5. Summary

This report gives the South Yorkshire Joint Health Scrutiny Committee's response to the Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's declaration (attached as Appendix A).

6. Recommendations : That Members note the attached response.**7. Proposals and Details**

- 7.1 The Annual Health Check is a system is based upon measuring performance within a framework of national standards and targets set by Government. It was previously run by the Healthcare Commission, but responsibility for it has recently been transferred to the new Care Quality Commission (CQC).
- 7.2 In May 2009, each health trust is required to provide a declaration of its compliance (or otherwise) against the Department of Health's 24 core standards. Overview and scrutiny committees are invited to make comments the declarations. Their comments should be based on the evidence they have gained through their health scrutiny work and, if possible, cross-referenced against the relevant core standard.
- 7.3 The trusts are required to submit overview and scrutiny comments, unedited, with their declarations. The CQC will take these comments into account when assessing the trusts and awarding them an overall rating.
- 7.4 As in previous years, the four South Yorkshire local authorities have worked together on producing comments for Sheffield Children's Hospital Foundation Trust (along with other sub-regional or regional Trusts). This was done through the South Yorkshire Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, membership of which is the chair or vice-chair of each Scrutiny Committee, plus up to two others, from each of the four councils. Cllr Jo Burton and Cllr Barry Kaye represented the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel on the joint health scrutiny body. This meeting was held on Friday 27 March 2009.

Because of the timescales, this is the first opportunity for the Panel to consider the comments on the Trust's performance. The commentary is attached as Appendix A. To summarise, in general, Members were confident that the Trust was compliant with the standards discussed and were pleased with the co-ordinated work throughout South Yorkshire.

7.5 The trust was provided with a brief against which it was asked to provide a presentation to the working group, focusing on its compliance with the following core standards and answering members' questions:

- C4 (Infection Control)
- C6 (Cooperate to meet patient needs)
- C7 (Sound Governance)
- C13 (Dignity)
- C14 (Information and Complaints)
- C16 (Information on Services)
- C17 (Obtaining Patient Views)
- C18 (Equal Access to Services)
- C22 (Reducing Health Inequalities)
- C2 (Child Protection)

8. Finance

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Although participation in the AHC process is not mandatory, failure of Overview and Scrutiny to make informed comment on Trust's performance may undermine health scrutiny's overall influence and future contribution to the health improvement agenda.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Contributing towards the Annual Health Check process is part of the Panel's health scrutiny remit.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Criteria for assessing core standards in 2008/09 – Healthcare Commission, December 2008.

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SHEFFIELD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUSTANNUAL HEALTH CHECK 2008/09COMMENTS OF SYJHSC

Core Standard	Comment
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, Members were confident that the Trust was compliant with the standards discussed and were pleased with the co-ordinated work throughout South Yorkshire. • Members recognised the difficulties experienced by the Trust as a tertiary body and were concerned that the Primary Care Trusts should remain fully engaged in assisting the work of the Trust.
4 (Infection Control)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee welcomed improvements made following the two minor breaches of code highlighted following the unannounced inspection in December 2008. • Members acknowledged the good work done in respect of MSRA and C Difficile which resulted in the rates being amongst the lowest in the country. • Concerns were raised that children may misuse the alcohol gel provided for cleaning hands, although it was recognised that every step was being taken to prevent this. • Staff were well trained to follow the cleaning procedures and a yellow card policy was in place for those that did not follow the correct procedures.
6 (Cooperate to meet patient needs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal in relation to the clinical work with Bluebell Wood hospice which catered for sick children to encourage greater cooperation was supported. • The commitment to cooperative working in relation to safeguarding children was particularly welcomed and the Committee supported the policy of a child's safety taking priority over issues of confidentiality. • It was recognised that the Trust had an equalities scheme which was reviewed annually and the Committee noted that discussions are taking place with the Primary Care Trust in relation to the recent increase in the patient levels of families from Eastern Europe. • Clinical staff were aware of the key issues in relation to childhood obesity and Members commented on the link with type two diabetes. The Trust favoured a cooperative preventative approach to try and reduce the problem. • The Committee were satisfied with the work undertaken by the Trust to ensure the smooth transition of children at age

	<p>16 to adult services and welcomed comments from the Trust that there was no definitive cut off at age 16 and everything was done to ensure the transfer took place when the child was ready.</p>
7 (Sound Governance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members noted the commitment to an effective equality scheme and effective clinical governance and risk management policies. • All the NHS Performance Measures had been achieved as well as the financial duties and the Committee noted how this highlighted the effectiveness of governance at the Trust. • The Trust was working on a daily basis to improve their understanding of how to deal with emergency situations and had received confirmation that they had achieved compliance in respect of this. • The Committee requested further information be provided on the key lines of inquiry resulting from the Financial Annual Audit Inspection.
13 (Dignity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trust had ambitious plans for a 70% single bedroom facility (the level currently was 25%) to allow parents to sleep in with their children and care for them. Although an ambitious target, the Committee saw no reason why this could not be achieved. • Plans for a new Patient Hotel were also supported by the Committee. • Members acknowledged the importance of an active Patient Liaison Service (PALS) at the Trust and the role this played in highlighting issues which arose and putting things right. • The work of 50 specialist outreach nurses treating children at their home was especially important in ensuring a child's dignity was maintained. • Following questions from Members, the Trust commented that staff were not as equipped to treat children with specialist needs as they should be. Key Members of staff undertook Disability Awareness Training and work was ongoing in respect of this.
14 (Information and Complaints)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trust had a very low level of complaints – only around 60 per year - and these were all responded to within national deadlines • The standard of food was a regular complaint. To try and address this rather than a set menu staff took a tray with a variety of choices to the child for them to decide what they would like to eat and how much of it. • Members suspected that the level of complaints and the feedback reported differed from long term and short term patients. The Trust commented that this was indeed the case and complaints differed in terms of severity. All complaints were always referred to the Chief Executive. • The Trust attempted to pre-empt any complaints by reporting potential issues through the Patient and Care Group.
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on services was communicated in a number of

(Information on Services)	<p>different ways such as the Trust Website and Patient Leaflets. An interpreter service was also provided for those who required it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information was communicated to the child's GP and parents were kept informed of what information was being forwarded. The Trust recognised that there were issues related to this in respect of single parent families and attempts were made not to get involved in a 'tug of war'.
17 (Obtaining Patient Views)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee acknowledged that the Trust undertook a number of different ways of obtaining patient views such as the Picker International Parent Survey and Comments and Suggestion Cards. • Every attempt was made to make the surveys as easy to understand as possible for parents and children such as taking the surveys through the Plain English Campaign. • Although the Trust enjoyed a very good reputation, both locally and nationally, this could often work against them as patients often expected a very high standard of care and in reality, the facilities may not match this high expectation.
18 (Equal Access to Services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact Assessments were undertaken on all policy changes and service developments. • Members agreed with the view of the Trust that parking problems were a barrier to expansion. The Trust were working with Sheffield University to develop a joint proposal to improve parking at the Children's Hospital. • Work was undertaken with the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Royal National Institute for the Deaf to ensure that services catered for deaf and blind patients
22 (Reducing Health Inequalities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many initiatives had been undertaken to attempt to reduce health inequalities in accordance with the national agenda, in particular improvements to Oncology Services, Intensive Care Facilities and Retrieval Services. • The Committee was pleased with the Partnership working undertaken by the Trust to work to reduce health inequalities. • Although Members commented that locally and nationally successes in reducing health inequalities were few and far between, the Committee concluded that the Trust was doing all it could in this area.
2 (Child Protection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In view of the national agenda the Committee were keen that the Trust had sufficient resources and funds in place to ensure the safeguarding of children. • The Committee believed that a good indication of the Trust's performance in respect of this was that following Serious Case Reviews the Trust had been given relatively few improvements to make as they had taken a proactive approach to the safeguarding of children. • The Trust had a Multi-Agency Child Assessment Unit where all agencies worked together and ensured that nothing slipped through the net. • A bid had been submitted to the Primary Care Trust to

	<p>strengthen the Child Protection Team at the Trust highlighting the Trust's recognition of the importance of child protection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Committee commented that stronger links could be made with other South Yorkshire Safeguarding Boards although it was recognised that the Trust worked with agencies throughout South Yorkshire.
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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
Friday, 3rd April, 2009

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

Also in attendance were co-opted members:- Mr. M. Hall (Community Representative), Father A. Hayne (Diocese of Hallam) and Mrs P. Wade (Aston cum Aughton Parish Council), Ms. T. Guest, Mrs. K. Muscroft, Mrs. L. Pitchley and Mr. A. Marvin (Parent-Governors).

Apologies were received from:- Councillors Ali, Dodson, Donaldson, Sharp and Sims and from Mrs. J. Blanch-Nicholson.

113. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

114. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

115. MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE YOUTH CABINET

The Scrutiny Panel noted that the Youth Cabinet had suggested the following subject areas for possible inclusion in the 2009/2010 work programme of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel:-

- road safety outside schools;
- the effectiveness of school councils;
- Personal Health and Social Education curriculum in schools.

A further report on the work programme would be submitted to the first meeting of the Municipal Year.

116. COMMUNICATIONS

The Annual Health Check of the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust 2008/2009 was now taking place, jointly involving Members of both this Scrutiny Panel and of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel.

117. CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS) - STRATEGY DEVELOPMENTS JULY 2008 TO MARCH 2009

Further to Minute No. 78 of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 8th February, 2008, consideration was given to a report presented by Ian Atkinson, Kevin Stevens and Tom Whyman (NHS Rotherham) containing a summary of the developments and investments made across Child and Adolescent Mental Health

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - 03/04/09 2C

Services (CAMHS) provision during the last twelve months, in line with the 2008 – 2011 CAMHS Strategy. The report included details of:-

- i) the ten key priorities for development within the CAMHS strategy;
- ii) the substantial joint NHS Rotherham (£325,000) and Borough Council (£103,000) investment (£428 000 in total) into local CAMHS provision across all tiers of service, in an attempt to meet some key priority areas highlighted within the CAMHS strategy;
- iii) the role of the CAMHS partnership group and the emphasis upon joint working;
- iv) further developments to meet the requirements of the CAMHS strategy, proposed for 2009/2010, which are subject to approval of the necessary funding;
- v) one of the proposed further developments is the identification and provision of a CAMHS specific building to allow for the co-location of all CAMHS commissioned services;
- vi) there is to be investment within the Tier 3 Specialist Support service to extend the service to see all young people up to the age of 18, enhance transition and reduce waiting times for access from receiving referral from the Single Point of Access team.

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

- ensuring service provision for young people up to the age of 18 and through the transition to adulthood;
- mental health service provision by organisations such as Rotherham MIND (a visit to one of these organisations was suggested);
- staff training;
- waiting times for children and young people referred to CAMHS services;
- service budgets and the differences between the separate tiers of service provision;
- the importance of joint working and the possibility of the co-location of CAMHS services;
- some children and young people are 'repeat users' and have to access CAMHS services at several stages in their lives;
- CAMHS service provision for the black and minority ethnic communities (and the role of community development workers);

- the absence of specific 'out-of-hours' CAMHS services, although 'out-of-hours' referrals to CAMHS services were usually received from General Practitioners and/or the hospitals' accident and emergency departments;

- the importance of counselling and of crisis services provided by organisations such as R-DASH.

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

(2) That this Scrutiny Panel acknowledges the developments being undertaken locally within Rotherham CAMHS and welcomes the continued work programme for future development.

(3) That a further progress report be submitted to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Panel, with specific reference to (a) the provision of 'out-of-hours' CAMHS services; (b) service provision affecting transition to adulthood; and (c) service provision for the black and minority ethnic communities.

(4) That arrangements be made for Members of this Scrutiny Panel to make a visit of inspection to local mental health services for children and young people.

118. ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE STRATEGY - UPDATE AND KEY FOCUS AREAS

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Commissioning Officer, Children and Young People's Services concerning the key findings from the recently undertaken alcohol and substance misuse needs assessment, how services are currently delivered and the key strategic priorities for 2009/10. It was noted that these key priorities are fully outlined in the attached Young People's Substance Misuse Treatment Plan and that the Alcohol and Substance Misuse Strategy should endeavour to reflect national and local strategic direction in terms of children and young people's services. The report outlined:-

i) the Alcohol and Substance Misuse Strategy proposal and details - overall direction and purpose of the strategy;

ii) profile of young people accessing treatment and changing trends;

iii) the way in which the alcohol and substance misuse treatment system is functioning;

iv) the likely demand for specialist substance misuse treatment interventions for young people;

v) the prevalence of unmet need and of vulnerable groups of young people;

vi) the key development areas in relation to alcohol and substance misuse;

vii) Early intervention teams working in each of the Borough's locality areas;

viii) the key priorities identified within the partnership strategy; the current needs assessment and the desired treatment outcomes;

ix) funding for alcohol and substance misuse services – primarily Government allocations via the Area Based Grant.

A copy of the young people's specialist substance treatment plan 2009/2010 planning grids was included with the report.

The following issues were raised during discussion of the report:-

- the proportion of young offenders accessing the service;
- the reasons why alcohol and substance misuse occurs;
- residential care provision (only two specialist residential treatment homes in England) – treatment is provided in local areas, with out-of-area placements/treatment being extremely rare;
- the role of the Early Intervention Teams and the need for proactive work;
- acknowledgement of alcohol and substance misuse as a high profile, costly national problem;
- parental responsibility for children and the Borough Council's own corporate parenting responsibility;
- the incidence of steroid abuse;
- the limitations of the funding for service provision;
- the quality of information and services provided by organisations such as Know the Score; the national guidance for the provision of a needle exchange service and the issuing of clean needles to people who take substances.

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

(2) That further consideration be given to the impact of alcohol and substance misuse by young people in this Scrutiny Panel's 2009/10 work programme.

119. AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Principal

Educational Psychologist describing the work of the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Strategy Group in Rotherham Children and Young People's Services and reflecting the Services' commitment to:-

- recognise the complexity of the autism spectrum;
- develop the services that work to help young people with ASD to gain support to remain within or close to their families and local community;
- develop resource and provision to meet the needs of children and young people who experience ASD;
- develop the understanding of 'Personalisation, Pupil Progress and mainstreaming';
- engage with families and children with ASD as final determinates of both quality and outcomes reflecting the Corporate Area Assessment agenda; and
- develop monitoring and quality control mechanisms;
- and, subsequently, to raise the attainment of all Rotherham's children and young people.

The report stated that, often described as the invisible disability, autism is a complex lifelong developmental impairment. The range of autistic conditions is diverse and remains largely misunderstood. There has been some excellent work in Rotherham on the inclusion of children with ASD in their local mainstream school. The Autism Strategy Group defines its work in four broad areas of activity:-

- Services and Provision around ASD
- Continued Professional Development
- Diagnosis and Assessment Procedures
- Involvement and Parents/Childs Voice and Influence

The purpose of this work is to raise the attainment and improve life long experiences of children and young people with ASD. The terms of reference of the Autism Strategy Group were appended to the report submitted.

The following issues were raised during discussion of the report:-

- the increasing number of children and young people with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder;
- spending on ASD during the current financial year; and awaiting the outcome of a bid for additional funding;
- service provision both pre- and post-diagnosis of ASD; the process of a

child or young person being diagnosed with the condition and being statemented;

- the duty of care and the risk assessments of pupils in school - and the role of teachers and school governors;

- support for the parents/carers of children and young people with ASD;

- the challenge of co-ordinating service provision and all activity supporting children and families with ASD;

- the maintenance of confidence and trust at phase transition (ie; age post-16, further education provision and adult service care);

- developing a greater understanding of ASD and also the development of 'autism friendly schools';

- extension of services and short break, extended services;

- the continued refinement of assessment and diagnosis leading to improved intervention;

- the incidence of ASD in the black and minority ethnic communities.

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

(2) That further consideration should be given to the following issues:-

(a) provision of services and support for children and young people in the black and minority ethnic communities who are diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder;

(b) increasing the resources available for pre- and post-diagnosis support for parents and carers; and

(c) asking school governing bodies to review the role and training of link governors who have responsibility for pupils suffering ASD.

120. ARE WE THERE YET? AUDIT COMMISSION STUDY OF CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS - UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services stating that, during 2008, the Borough Council and NHS Rotherham commissioned a study to be conducted in Rotherham and undertaken by the Audit Commission to assess readiness for integration. The key lines of enquiry used were those that the Audit Commission had used earlier in 2008 when conducting a national study. The report outlined the main conclusions and the recommendations of the Audit Commission's study. A copy of the final draft study report and action plan were appended to the report submitted.

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

(2) That a progress report be submitted to a future meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel, after the current review of Children and Young People's Services has been concluded.

121. SCRUTINY REVIEW - SUPPORT FOR NEWLY ARRIVED CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS

Further to Minute No. 96 of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 7th March, 2008, consideration was given to a report presented by Review Group Chairman, Councillor Neil License, setting out the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review into support for newly arrived children in schools. A copy the full report of this scrutiny review was attached as an appendix.

This scrutiny review had specifically examined:-

- support currently available in Rotherham schools for newly arrived children and young people;
- examples of good practice, both locally and elsewhere;
- the way in which existing resources can be best utilised; and
- the measures which should be taken in the long term to improve both the Borough Council's and partners' responses and the support available to newly arrived children and young people.

Resolved:- (1) That this Scrutiny Panel endorses the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review report into support for newly arrived children in schools.

(2) That the report be forwarded to Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee for approval, and future submission to Cabinet.

(3) That the response of Cabinet to the recommendations of this scrutiny review be reported to a future meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel.

122. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - FORWARD PLAN MARCH TO JUNE 2009

The Scrutiny Panel noted the contents of the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for Children and Young People's Services, for the four months' period 1st March, 2009 to 30th June, 2009.

123. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 6TH MARCH, 2009

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 6th March, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

124. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S BOARD HELD ON 18TH FEBRUARY 2009

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Children's Board held on 18th February, 2009, be noted.

125. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 27TH FEBRUARY 2009 AND ON 13TH MARCH 2009

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 27th February, 2009 and on 13th March, 2009, be noted.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

Wednesday, 15th April, 2009

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

Also in attendance were:- Mr. M. Hall (Community Representative), Father A. Hayne (Diocese of Hallam), Mrs. J. Blanch-Nicholson and Mrs. L. Pitchley, with Councillor A. Rushforth (Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning) and Councillor S. Wright (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services)

The Councillors making the call in request and present at this meeting:- Councillors Cutts, Gilding, Mannion, Parker, Thirlwall and Turner.

Apologies were received from:- Councillors Fenoughty, Sharp and Sims and from Mr. C. A. Marvin and Parish Councillor Mrs. P. Wade.

126. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Several Members of the Scrutiny Panel, and other Councillors who were attending this meeting to support the call-in of the decisions listed below, referred to their membership of primary school and secondary school governing bodies, both in the Maltby and Wickersley area and in other areas of the Rotherham Borough.

It was confirmed that any interests these Councillors may have were personal interests only and would not therefore prevent their participation in the items included on the agenda for this Scrutiny Panel meeting.

Only one Councillor in attendance, Councillor Rushforth, was a member of the School Governing Body of the Maltby Community (secondary) School and, having declared that personal interest, Councillor Rushforth did not participate in the debate at this meeting.

Councillor S. Wright, as Cabinet Member, declared his prejudicial interests in the subjects of Minutes Nos. 129 and 130 (below) and left the meeting at the conclusion of his explanation of those decisions and prior to the Scrutiny Panel's deliberation and decisions on both of those matters.

127. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

128. INFORMATION NOTE ABOUT THE CALL IN PROCEDURE

For the information and guidance of Members of this Scrutiny Panel, a copy of the call-in procedure note was included with the agenda for this meeting.

129. PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE MALTBY COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND REPLACE IT BY OPENING A NEW ACADEMY ON THE SCHOOL SITE

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief explanation of the Scrutiny procedure (contained in the Borough Council's Constitution) for the call-in of Executive decisions. The matters within the agenda for today's meeting had been referred to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel, instead of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee, because they related to education issues.

At the beginning of the proceedings, Councillor Thirlwall questioned the procedure and order of speaking. He stated that there did not appear to be a definitive order of procedure for a Scrutiny Panel's consideration of a call in request. In the absence of such a procedure, Councillor Thirlwall therefore requested that the Cabinet Member should speak first, to explain the reasons for making the decision the subject of this call in request, with himself (Councillor Thirlwall) and the other Councillors supporting the call in request, being allowed to speak later and to ask questions of the Cabinet Member. Councillor Thirlwall explained that he was merely seeking to correct a procedural matter (order of speaking) which he considered to be incorrect and to remove an apparent unfairness in the call in procedure which placed those Members who submit the call in request at a disadvantage. He later referred again to feeling at a disadvantage because he was not provided with Officer support to make the call in request and research relevant material and documents, whereas by comparison the Executive Cabinet Member was able to receive considerable support from the most senior officials of the Borough Council.

After consideration of Councillor Thirlwall's views about the order of Members speaking, The Mayor determined that this Scrutiny Panel meeting shall proceed with the Councillors making the call in request first explaining the reasons why they have decided to call in this decision; later in the meeting, after hearing those reasons, the Cabinet Member would be required to respond to the call in request, answer questions from the Scrutiny Panel and explain the decision made.

The Scrutiny Panel considered Minute No. 145 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on Wednesday, 25th March, 2009 concerning the proposal to close the Maltby Community (secondary) School and to replace it by opening a new Academy on the School site.

The report considered by the Cabinet Member, in respect of Minute No. 145, was included on the agenda for this Scrutiny Panel meeting.

(i) Councillor Thirlwall, supported by Councillors Cutts, Gilding, Mannion, Parker, Slade (not present) and Turner, explained the reasons for calling-in this decision of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services:-

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - 15/04/09 3C

- Councillor Thirlwall expressed disappointment that other Ward Councillors for Maltby had not supported this call in request;
- surprised at having to call in this matter as he understood that the Borough Council (and majority party) policy was not to be in favour of the development of an Academy;
- further surprise that the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel itself had not given more detailed consideration to the Academy proposal; Scrutiny Panel Members were not required to adhere to a political party whip;
- although an Academy, in Councillor Thirlwall's view, was a reference to a 'quality school', this proposal was for the establishment of an Academy Trust, which would remove the school/academy from the direct control of the Borough Council;
- the principal reason for the call in of this decision was the concern about the inadequate consultation about the Academy proposal; neither pupils, nor parents, nor school staff, nor the local community had been properly consulted nor given the opportunity to respond to the proposal;
- there was concern about the co-location of the Special School and about the apparent intention to 'shoe-horn' two schools onto one site;
- there was a contradiction because the Borough Council had not provided a detailed site plan of the proposal for inspection by local people; however, the Borough Council had already sent a site plan as part of the submission of this proposal to the Government Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF);
- there is no evidence to suggest that the creation of an Academy is a way of improving a school;
- the existing Maltby Community (secondary) School has already been acknowledged as an improving school, with a relatively new and very effective head teacher and has shown a marked improvement during the last three years in the number of pupils achieving A* to C subject grades at GCSE level;
- the most recent report by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) commends this secondary school for its rate of improvement and congratulates the pupils and staff for that improvement;
- the existing secondary school is therefore providing for the educational needs of the children and young people of Maltby – "if it ain't broke, don't fix it";

4C CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - 15/04/09

- the lead sponsor of the proposed Academy (the private Company entitled U-Xplore) is not investing substantial funds in this proposal; the Company owner simply wishes to use this school as a testing ground for his business plan to sell educational/computer materials and dvds to schools;
- there are other ways of raising funds for the school, instead of ceding control to a private company;
- U-Xplore (formerly known as 'Jive Bunny') is a very small Company (employing some 20 to 25 people) and is merely a supplier of ICT/computer and educational products; the Company has no direct experience or expertise in the operation and management of a large school;
- what would happen to the proposed Academy if this Company went into receivership? would the Borough Council be left with the problem of raising finance and finding another private sector sponsor, perhaps one with its own agenda?;
- it is not clear whether the allocation of Government funding for the whole of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) project is heavily dependent upon the Borough Council including the establishment of an Academy within its BSF proposals;
- other local authorities have previously rejected the idea of establishing an Academy (two examples being Derby City Council and Sheffield City Council);
- another Council (at Carlisle) has previously established an Academy, but has become dissatisfied with it and is now endeavouring to return the school to direct local authority control;
- let us all reject the Academy proposal and thereby satisfy the true policy of this Borough Council's ruling political majority;
- the Borough Council is making the decision to establish an Academy before the Government has allocated any funding; given the current state of economic downturn in this country, is there a real possibility that the Government will decide not to allocate any funding for the Academy? If that did happen, how could this proposal continue without Government funding?
- the Cabinet Member had attended a meeting with staff of the existing Maltby Community (secondary) School, in February 2008, at which he stated that the Borough Council 'did not want' an Academy; why is the Borough Council now wanting an Academy? is it simply a means of getting money to spend on schools elsewhere in the Borough area, then leaving Maltby to 'go to the dogs';

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - 15/04/09 5C

- the site at Maltby is on one extreme edge of the Borough area, which contradicts the stated objectives of providing diverse and inclusive education; is the Academy being provided for pupils from all over the Borough area, or only those who live in Maltby? this Academy is being put in the wrong place;
- is it more costly to operate an Academy than a secondary school? if the Borough Council itself has to invest as much as £500,000 in the Academy, which service budget will fund that investment? will the budgets of other Borough Council services have to suffer reductions as a consequence?
- the removal of the school/Academy from the direct control of the local authority will consequently remove the protection provided by a succession of legislation about Education passed by Parliament, affecting such important issues as the admission of pupils to school and appeals procedures;
- the Academy Board of Governors (or Trustees) will be appointed by the private sector lead sponsor, not by the local authority;
- the existing school will be lost forever; the end product may eventually be an Academy, but not any new school buildings;
- the Borough Council has undertaken a flawed process of public consultation about the Academy proposal and has merely undertaken the bare minimum consultation required by legislation;
- the Borough Council has in place a well established procedure and protocol for consulting with the community (used, for example, for consultation with the public about possible changes to the Bramley traffic management scheme); yet, for some reason, Children and Young People's Services have chosen not to follow these excellent, 'second-to-none' methods of consulting with the public;
- Councillor Thirlwall distributed pamphlets about the proposed Academy, to Members of the Scrutiny Panel, as evidence of his criticism of the Borough Council's flawed consultation, undertaken during November and December 2008) which he referred to as 'a sham';
- reference was made to various, poorly-attended public meetings and the distribution of leaflets and the issuing of press releases, which Councillor Thirlwall insisted were inadequate means of public consultation; he mentioned specifically the publication of leaflets which did not include any description nor explanation of the Academy and press statements issued but not published on the Borough Council's Internet web site (thereby denying the public the opportunity to read them);

6C CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - 15/04/09

- the required statutory notice for the establishment of the proposed Academy had been published in the Rotherham Advertiser newspaper during January 2009; however, the Borough Council had not seen fit to issue a more informative press release in support of that official notice;
- the Borough Council and Children and Young People's Services ought to have arranged and attended many more public meetings and provided much more information about the Academy proposal;
- it required the Trades Unions to make a complaint about the inadequate consultation process before the Borough Council eventually decided to increase by one calendar month the period in which representations could be made about the Academy proposal; yet, this extension of time was not properly advertised, therefore the majority of people would continue to be unaware; this extension of time for making representations only became apparent when the Wentworth Valley Area Assembly received a presentation from Children and Young People's Services' staff, about the proposed Academy, at its meeting held on 5th March, 2009;
- Councillor Turner confirmed that he had made the request for the presentation about the proposed Academy to be made to the meeting the Wentworth Valley Area Assembly;
- during the extension of time period, there had been leaflets issued (eg: one entitled 'Transforming Maltby Learning') and officials had attended meetings with the Maltby Community Forum, with the Maltby Town Council and at primary schools (eg: Maltby Craggs; Maltby Manor); however, all of this consultation was occurring far too late in the process, with people being left with an insufficient amount of time in which to make representations;
- the Borough Council had even distributed a further information leaflet in March 2009, five days after the period for receipt of representations about the Academy proposal had ended;
- there ought to have been much wider public consultation, throughout the Rotherham Borough area, given the Borough Council's stated desire for diverse and inclusive education provision for the benefit of all pupils;
- the Government Secretary of State for Children's Services, the Rt. Hon. Ed Balls M.P., had even made an announcement in Parliament that Rotherham would be granted the Academy status for this school, before the Borough Council had made its decision about the submission of the proposal;
- the Cabinet Member had himself placed on record his appreciation of the public consultation undertaken by Children and Young People's Services;

- Councillor Thirlwall invited the Scrutiny Panel Members not to follow slavishly the requirements of the Borough Council's ruling political majority but to reject the Academy proposal; to do otherwise would, in his opinion, constitute a grave injustice.

The Mayor invited the other Councillors supporting the call in request to make comments.

(ii) Councillor Cutts commented that Councillor Thirlwall had explained the reasons for the call in admirably and had properly highlighted that the Borough Council had not undertaken a true, effective consultation.

(iii) Councillor Parker stated that it was annoying to read the misinformation in the reports and documents included on the agenda for this Scrutiny Panel meeting. There were statements that teachers and school governors were apparently happy with the Academy proposal. This was not the case, many teachers and school governors were decidedly unhappy about it.

(iv) Councillor Turner referred to:-

- the lack of publicity about the Academy proposal and questioned whether the current head teacher and staff at the school actually wanted the Academy at all; he mentioned the inexperience of U-Xplore in managing an education establishment, its small size as a company and the pressure it would be under to appoint a Board of governors/Trustees in a relatively short period of time;
- the closure of the Barnsley College and the halt of the proposal to develop and build a new College within the Rotherham town centre; how could the Academy proposal continue in the light of these setbacks in education locally?
- Councillor Turner read out the statement of support for the proposed Academy, issued by one of the partner organisations, the Sheffield Hallam University; he speculated whether the statement constituted a real commitment, or mere platitudes.
- Sheffield City Council was currently reviewing its own contract with U-Xplore – could this review be interpreted as an expression of the City Council's dissatisfaction with the Company?
- Councillor Turner concluded that, after making his own independent analysis of the Academy proposal, he would urge the Borough Council to take care not to make a mistake.

(v) Councillor Gilding commented that the Academies are exempt from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. He also expressed doubts about the capabilities of the U-Xplore Company to manage an educational

establishment and criticised the absence of adequate public consultation, which ought to have included the whole of the Rotherham Borough area.

(vi) Councillor Mannion referred to these reasons for supporting the call in of the Cabinet Member's decision:-

- his doubts about the intentions of the U-Xplore Company; is its involvement simply a business practice to sell educational products to schools?
- what will be the long-term effects upon the pay and conditions of school staff? will their pay and conditions alter when the Academy is in operation?
- what will happen if the Government funding is withdrawn?
- how does the Borough Council intend to fund its own contribution of £500,000 and how will other budgets suffer as a consequence?
- Councillor Mannion criticised the Government policy of creating specialist schools (eg: for the arts, sports, technology) – does this mean that pupils have to travel long distances to join the specialist school of preference? will pupils in the future be required to travel long distances to attend the new Academy at Maltby?
- was there to be a profit-sharing arrangement between the various sponsor, support and partner organisations involved with the proposed Academy?
- if the Borough Council's ruling political majority is opposed to the idea of an Academy, why not defer a decision and wait until after the next General Election?
- Councillor Mannion criticised the policy of allowing schools to be used by the wider community, which sometimes resulted in premises suffering vandalism.
- the Academy proposal was no more than political spin, simply involving a change of the school name;
- Councillor Mannion concluded by repeating the criticisms, made earlier by other Councillors, of the public consultation process.

The Mayor invited Councillor S. Wright to respond to the call-in and objections to this decision. Councillor S. Wright responded as follows:-

(a) The proposed Academy is part of broader proposals for Transforming Rotherham Learning through Building Schools for the Future. The intention of the Academy is to provide a modern, inclusive learning campus which will facilitate the provision of a high standard of education

enabling pupils to fulfil their potential. This new provision is no more than pupils and staff deserve and is a further development of the Borough Council's long term commitment to improve education which has other examples in the PFI provision at other schools in the Borough area (and locally at Wickersley).

(b) The Cabinet Member asked the Director of Resources and Access (Children and Young People's Services) to explain the contents of the report (originally considered by the Cabinet Member on 25th March 2009 and also submitted to this Scrutiny Panel meeting) which had resulted in the decision being made to establish the Academy at Maltby.

The Director of Resources and Access duly explained the contents of the report submitted, making reference to:-

- the decision to modify the proposed date of opening of the Academy to January 2010;
- the aim of improving educational standards throughout the Rotherham Borough area and across primary, secondary and special schools; creating more diversity and being more progressive in education provision;
- the significant level of investment in the school/Academy site at Maltby;
- the involvement of U-Xplore as lead sponsor of the Academy and the provision and of the most modern, up-to-date cutting edge technology and its benefits for education provision;
- the role of the partner organisations and sponsors in the Academy;
- U-Xplore is party to an agreement which states that the Company will not make nor take any profit from the investment of public funds in the Academy (there would be no selling of DVDs to schools);
- the U-Xplore Company was chosen to be the lead sponsor after a rigorous process of selection; the Company clearly meets the criteria for the role of lead sponsor, with the added advantage of being well established locally in Rotherham; the Company will provide goods and services to the Academy, consistent with the provision of a high standard of education for pupils; it was not the Company's sole intention just to invest cash into the project;
- the Academy proposal has received Government approval and adheres to the principles of the Every Child Matters agenda;
- the 10 principles of the Academy are appended to the report submitted with today's meeting agenda;

**10C CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL -
15/04/09**

- there is an established timetable of further work to be completed in readiness for the opening of the Academy in January 2010;
- demographic projections of future pupil numbers had resulted in the Academy containing fewer pupil places than the existing secondary school;
- the Academy includes the provision of a Sixth Form;
- the Director clarified the views expressed by the Schools Minister (Jim Knight M.P.) about whether funding was dependent upon a local authority's proposal including an Academy; essentially, the withdrawal of the Academy could result in significant delays in the provision of the BSF funding as the Council must prove that it has a school system of choice and diversity. Derby Council already has seven Foundation Schools which were independent Trusts. The provision of the £80 millions funding for Building Schools for the Future in Rotherham was not in danger of being withdrawn by the Government, but delay was a significant risk to the whole programme;
- the report confirmed that school staff pay and conditions would remain the same with the Academy;
- the majority of school staff had already indicated that they did not oppose the establishment of the Academy; however, contained with the report were letters received from some Trades Unions, representing some of the school's staff, which did express opposition to the Academy;
- the Governing Body of the new Academy would comprise 13 people:-
 - 4 governors appointed by the lead sponsor, U-Xplore
 - 1 representative of Sheffield Hallam University
 - 2 local authority representatives
 - 2 community representatives (probably from the existing School Governors)
 - 2 members of the school staff
 - 2 parent governors
- the letter dated 6th February 2009 (included with the report) and signed jointly by the Chief Executive of U-Xplore and the Borough Council's Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, clarified the proposals about the Maltby Academy;
- it was clarified that the plan submitted to the DCSF was a basic plan of the site of the existing secondary school at Maltby; detailed site plans showing the development of the new Academy had not yet been prepared;
- the Director referred to the various letters of objection and concern

received (including a late letter received) and also the letters of support for the development of the Academy.

- the Borough Council will retain the freehold ownership of the site of the proposed Academy, the land being subject to a leasehold agreement with the Academy.

(Prior to the Director's contribution to the meeting, Councillor Thirlwall again complained that the Cabinet Member was able to receive Officer support, but that Councillors making the call in request could not be afforded such support)

(c) Councillor S. Wright resumed his explanation of the decision to open the proposed Academy, concentrating upon the criticism of the consultation process:-

- Councillor S. Wright did not recognise nor did he concur with the order of consultation about the Academy, as presented to this Scrutiny Panel meeting by Councillor Thirlwall. Councillor S. Wright stated that the consultation process had been carried out in accordance with Section 16 of the Education Inspection Act 2006, which detailed the requirements of a thorough consultation process;
- the Borough Council was required to and did supply sufficient information about the Academy proposal and allowed sufficient time for representations to be made; there was an explanation of the way in which people were entitled to make their views known and the way in which the Borough Council would respond to the different views expressed by the public and interested parties;
- Councillor S. Wright referred to the majority party debate about the Academy, at three separate meetings during 2007 and 2008, at a time when Councillor Thirlwall was a member of the majority party;
- Councillor S. Wright distributed to Members of the Scrutiny Panel a report listing the details of the many formal meetings which had taken place throughout 2008 and into 2009, within and outside the Borough Council, at which there had been considerable discussion about the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) proposals and about the Academy itself;
- the distributed report also contained details of the media coverage of the BSF and Academy proposals, in the Borough Council's Rotherham News publication (delivered to all households) and in local newspapers with circulation in the Rotherham Borough area, together with other consultation meetings held (at primary schools, with school governors, staff, pupils and parents), the distribution of information leaflets and the Statutory Notice consultation;
- there had been a detailed presentation to the meeting of this Scrutiny

**12C CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL -
15/04/09**

Panel held on 3rd October 2008, about the BSF and Academy proposals, yet no objections had been made by Elected Members at that time;

- the BSF and Academy proposals had been discussed in detail at a meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Governing Bodies of all Rotherham schools, on 30th September 2008; again, no objections were made to the proposals;
- importantly, at a meeting of education stakeholders, held at the Magna Centre on 7th July 2008, the BSF and Academy proposals had once again been discussed and no objections made; 250 people had attended that meeting, including many young people;
- the Borough Council had therefore fulfilled its obligation to bring the BSF and Academy proposals to the attention of a wider audience through the Rotherham area and there had been a significant level of media coverage of the proposals;
- the consultation process had lasted some 19 weeks, far in excess of the period suggested by Government guidance;
- the extensive newspaper coverage and other articles issued from the Borough Council's Press Office, together with information available at schools and in local libraries, meant that it was difficult to believe that people could have been unaware of the proposals;
- parents of pupils of the Hilltop Special School had been consulted on an individual basis;
- there had been specific consultation with school governors, with local Members of Parliament and with Ward Councillors about the Statutory Notice; this process had included notification of Doncaster Borough Council, some of whose residents were pupils of schools in the Rotherham Borough area;
- it was acknowledged that one leaflet had been issued to parents in the period immediately preceding Christmas 2008, although replies had been requested to be made in January 2009;
- an attempt had been made to report the BSF and Academy proposals to an earlier meeting of the Wentworth Valley Area Assembly; however, the Area Assembly itself had delayed that process of reporting until a later meeting, because of the other business the Area Assembly was dealing with;
- there were very few objections being made to the proposals given the large number of interested parties and the local community in general who had received information and had been invited to make representations;

- the first phase of the BSF proposals would include the provision of £80 millions to be spent for the benefit of the education of pupils in Rotherham;
- the Borough Council was confident that the Articles of Association of the Academy would protect the pay and terms and conditions of staff employed there.

The Elected Members responsible for the call in were invited to ask questions of the Cabinet Member, as listed below:-

(A) The Cabinet Member had not responded to the concerns about the lack of consultation with the general public; the vast majority of meetings had been internal within the Borough Council and the consultation had been with school staff and governors. There had been very few objections from the general public because hardly anyone in the community had received information about the Academy proposal.

Cabinet Member reply: Unsure of the exact meaning of 'community consultation', as used today by the Councillors making the call in request. The document distributed at this meeting includes a full account of the consultation process. One of the Councillors supporting the call in request is a member of both the Maltby Town Council and a school governing body in Maltby – yet there have been no objections received from those organisations. The many and varied Borough Council meetings are open for the general public to attend and the minutes of these Borough Council meetings are provided for all Borough Councillors. Thus, there have been many opportunities for Borough Councillors to raise objections prior to this call in request.

(B) The BSF Project Board meeting, another group comprising Borough Councillors and Borough Council officials, had noted, at its meeting on 3rd February 2009, a statement from the Schools Minister that the receipt of BSF funding would not be dependent upon the inclusion of the Academy proposal.

Cabinet Member reply: The minute of the BSF Project Board meeting needed to be read in its correct context. As a consequence of the situation affecting Derby City Council and its Academy proposals, Rotherham Borough Council had written to the DCSF in order to clarify Rotherham's position in respect of the provision of funding and the inclusion of an Academy in the BSF scheme. There was little or no point in trying to compare Rotherham's position with that of Derby City Council, which were very different from each other.

(C) How many organisations had applied to be the lead sponsor and how many applicants originated from the Rotherham area? There was more concern about the involvement of U-Xplore and the limited funding the Company would commit to the project, when compared to the gains which

the Company would make. The involvement of this Company was criticised as being morally wrong.

Cabinet Member (Director of Resources and Access) reply: Explained that other Companies were assessed for the role of lead sponsor, as well as two high-performing secondary schools from a different part of Yorkshire. After the assessment process, the Borough Council selected the local Company U-Xplore as lead sponsor.

(D) Was the information about the Academy issued to parents by post? How many parents had attended the public meetings about the Academy?

Cabinet Member (Director of Resources and Access) reply: Information was issued to parents by 'pupil post' (ie: pupils taking the leaflets home from school to give to their parents). Between 10 and 20 parents had attended the meetings.

(E) How many of the existing governors of Maltby Community (secondary) School objected to the Academy proposal?

Cabinet Member (Director of Resources and Access) reply: 13 of the Governors supported the proposal, with one objection from a teacher representative on the governing body. Two of the governors had abstained from voting.

The next section of the Scrutiny Panel meeting included further questions to the Cabinet Member and to the Councillors making the call in request and also a general debate and consideration of the call in of the Academy proposal by Members of the Scrutiny Panel. Issues raised and discussed and further comments made were:-

1. The letter received from the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) and included as Annex B to the report submitted to this meeting had been received during February 2009.

2. The consultation meetings held on 17 and 26 November 2008 had been poorly advertised – who were the selected groups of people invited to these meetings? Parents and pupils were specifically invited to the meetings.

3. Has there been formal and informal consultation with the Governing Body of the existing Maltby Community (secondary) school? A formal sub-group of the Governing Body had been established to consider the Academy proposal in detail and report back to the full Governing Body. Many meetings had taken place with the School's Governors.

4. What were the differences between the statutory consultation process and the Borough Council's own policies on consulting the public? Although the Borough Council's policies are very clear, the statutory process must always take precedence. Whilst the Borough council has

undertaken extensive consultation about the Academy proposal, it is acknowledged that the scheduling of the consultation could have been better, for example: attending a much earlier meeting of the Wentworth Valley Area Assembly.

5. Further criticism of the consultation process, comparing the statutory process of consultation (eg: for road closures/traffic regulation orders), with the Borough Council's own policies which required the completion of forms at the outset of the consultation and a further form to provide feedback at the end of the process. There was no evidence of these forms having been used or completed in respect of the Maltby Academy proposal.

6. Although some of the parents of existing school pupils will have received information about the Academy proposal, the failure to consult effectively with the wider local community means that people who may eventually be the parents of pupils attending the school/Academy in the future, have been denied the opportunity of commenting on the proposal.

7. 'Pupil post' was not an effective means of ensuring that information being sent from school to parents would ultimately be received by them.

8. Members of the Scrutiny Panel acknowledged that this decision was a very difficult one for the Cabinet Member to have made. The current premises of the Maltby Community (secondary) School were in need of attention and something had to be done to effect improvements.

9. The Government had previously said that there would be funding to improve all school premises during the next fifteen years. There was still criticism that Maltby was being 'thrown to the dogs' and the BSF funding would be used for the benefit of other schools in the Rotherham Borough area.

10. The Elected Members making the call in request had not had sight of the letter from the Schools Minister which apparently stated that the BSF funding would not be allocated unless an Academy was included in the BSF proposals.

11. Has the voice and influence of young people been heard in this consultation process? Yes, as previously stated, young people were involved at the meeting of education stakeholders, held at the Magna Centre on 7th July 2008. In the future, Rotherham school pupils would have further opportunities to influence the BSF proposals, with meetings being arranged with the Sorrell Foundation.

12. One Councillor reported that he had delivered many leaflets to households about the Academy proposal. People have received the information and if they have concerns, they will respond.

13. Further comments about engaging with the local community; the terms

and conditions and possible changing roles of school staff when the new Academy opens. Did the consultation process take account of holiday periods (Christmas/New Year), were late representations considered and was the Borough Council certain that the majority of existing school staff at Maltby were in favour of the Academy proposal? The Cabinet Member considered that these issues had all been answered in sufficient detail earlier in the meeting. There were no means available to offer staff inordinately high salaries and bonuses.

14. It was confirmed that the current head teacher of the Maltby Community (secondary) School would become the head teacher of the new Academy.

15. One Councillor referred to a clandestine meeting of teachers of the Maltby Community (secondary) School, at which they had expressed their objections to the Academy proposal; however, they were fearful of expressing their concerns directly to the Borough Council.

16. As the proposed Academy will be a smaller school than the existing one, with fewer pupil places, is this Academy to be open only for Maltby pupils, or will other pupils from around the whole Rotherham Borough area and from neighbouring authorities, also be allocated places? Would Maltby pupils then have to travel to other areas in order to go to school?

17. The Borough Council's Children and Young People's Services had been very slow to respond to the list of issues and concerns raised by staff of the existing secondary school. It was explained that the teachers had submitted the list of issues to the Borough Council during the week before Christmas 2008 and the reply had been issued as soon as possible early in the New Year. Information was also supplied to the teachers' trades unions. A further letter issued to the teachers during February 2009 had included clear details about the pay and conditions with the new Academy. The Borough Council had maintained a very good dialogue with school staff all the way through the process.

18. The existing Maltby Community (secondary) School was continuing to improve. Another nearby school, the Wickersley School and Sports College, was one of Rotherham's best performing secondary schools. Should the Borough Council not continue to support the existing successful provision of education? Why is there the need to change to the new Academy method of provision?

19. It was acknowledged that the raising of educational standards lies at the very heart of the BSF and Academy proposals. The raising of standards will of course be helped by the substantial investment of funding.

20. Will there be any direct links/consultation between the new Academy and other existing primary and secondary schools in the Rotherham Borough area? Is it anticipated that the new Academy will assist other

schools to raise their educational standards?

21. Criticisms made earlier in this meeting were now repeated: that the existing Maltby Community (secondary) School was already improving and its direction of travel, in terms of educational standards, was good. Therefore, why was this Academy needed at all, especially at a time when the Academy idea was being rejected by other local authorities nationwide?

22. Again, the point was reiterated that the removal of the school/Academy from the direct control of the local authority will remove the protection provided by a succession of legislation about Education passed by Parliament.

23. The Cabinet Member emphasised the benefits of the Academy proposal, which would provide much needed investment to this school site. The existing School must be applauded for the improvements already made. As the Academy proposal is developed, there will be further consultation with all stakeholders and the new Academy will have to adhere to the 10 principles previously agreed and also being reported to this Scrutiny Panel meeting.

After consideration of and discussion about the call-in of the decision of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, the Scrutiny Panel:-

Resolved:- That the call-in request in respect of Minute No. 145 (25th March, 2009) is not supported.

(Councillor S. Wright declared a prejudicial interest in the above matter and left the meeting at the conclusion of the questioning from the Scrutiny Panel and prior to the Scrutiny Panel's deliberation and decision on the matter)

130. PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE MALTBY HALL INFANT SCHOOL AND LILLY HALL, MALTBY, JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Mayor, when introducing this item, gave a further brief explanation of the Scrutiny procedure for the call-in of a decision made by the Borough Council's Executive.

The Scrutiny Panel considered Minute No. 146 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on Wednesday, 25th March, 2009 concerning the proposal to amalgamate Maltby Hall Infant School and Lilly Hall, Maltby, Junior School.

The report considered by the Cabinet Member, in respect of Minute No. 146, was included on the agenda for this Scrutiny Panel meeting.

Councillor Thirlwall, supported by Councillors Cutts, Gilding, Mannion, Parker, Slade (not present) and Turner, explained the reasons for calling-in this decision of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services:-

(i) the Borough Council had not undertaken a sufficient amount of consultation, about this proposal, with the local community around these two Schools and in the wider township of Maltby; as with the Academy proposal (above), a particular fault lay in the fact that a detailed site plan of the proposals had not been available for local people to inspect; however, the Borough Council had already sent a site plan as part of the submission of this proposal to the Government Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF);

(ii) the research undertaken by Councillor Thirlwall and other supporters of this call-in indicated that local residents were concerned about the impact of the scale of this local development upon the community, especially issues such as vehicle parking being likely to cause traffic congestion in the roads near the School site, with a detrimental impact upon the safety of all road users;

(iii) there are objections to the proposed co-location of a Special School with the amalgamated Primary School;

(iv) there are concerns about the impact of the development of the amalgamated Primary School upon the local environment; currently, the two Primary Schools are separated by substantial woodlands and these concerns are that part of this woodland would be removed or destroyed during construction of the new School buildings.

The other Councillors supporting the call-in of this decision declined the invitation from The Mayor to add further comment to the above reasons for calling in the Cabinet Member's decision.

Councillor S. Wright responded to the call-in and objections to this decision as follows:-

(a) the proposal was in accordance with the Borough Council's policy to provide continuous, through primary schools, which was more inclusive and helped to remove the need for pupils to transfer to a different school during their lives at school;

(b) the proposal facilitated the development of a continuous learning environment for pupils from birth to age 19 years and would help to improve educational standards;

(c) there would be further opportunities for local residents to become involved in the process for the detailed design and construction of the new amalgamated Primary School, for example: considering the type of building materials to be used and the protection of trees on the site;

(d) the impact of the proposal upon the local environment, including the area of woodland, would be considered further by the Borough Council (as Local Planning Authority) upon submission of the application for planning permission for the new amalgamated Primary School.

There were no questions put to the Cabinet Member, in response to his explanation of this decision.

After consideration of and discussion about the call-in of the decision of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, the Scrutiny Panel:-

Resolved:- That the call-in request in respect of Minute No. 146 (25th March, 2009) is not supported.

(Councillor S. Wright declared a prejudicial interest in the above matter and left the meeting at the conclusion of his explanation of this decision and prior to the Scrutiny Panel's deliberation and decision on the matter)

**CHILDREN'S BOARD
WEDNESDAY, 22nd APRIL, 2009**

Present:- Councillor S. Wright (in the Chair); Andy Buck, Mike Cuff, Matt Jukes, Ann Lawrence and Janet Wheatley.

Also in attendance:- Pam Allen and Sue Wilson

187. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Joyce Thacker.

188. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S BOARD HELD ON 18TH FEBRUARY, 2009

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th February, 2009 were received as a correct record.

189. MATTERS ARISING

The Board noted action being taken on the various decisions.

190. QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY UPDATE

Sue Wilson, Performance and Quality Manager, attended the meeting and presented a report on Quarter 3 Performance and Teenage Pregnancy Update.

- (a) Quarter 3 Performance – At the end of the 3rd quarter 2008/09 against targets with comparisons against 2007/08 actuals and 2006/07 top quartile

This is the third performance report since the introduction of the new national indicator framework, focusing on National Indicators (NI), stretch Local Area Agreement indicators (LAA) and Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI).

Where sufficient information is available, judgements have been made regarding whether indicators are on target and their direction of travel since last quarter.

Appendix A detailed performance at the end of the 3rd quarter 2008/09 against targets with comparisons against 2007/08 actuals and 2006/07 top quartile.

The Board reviewed the report section by section and noted both successes and under achievements.

The Chairman reported that he regularly reviewed all performance matters at his delegated powers matters meeting. He issued an invitation to

Board Members to attend and participate in relevant Performance Clinics which were held to review poor performance and secure improvements.

It was noted that recovery activity is in place to maximise performance for the forthcoming Year End Outturn. Performance Clinics had taken place on 31st March, 2009 and a verbal report on the outcome of the Clinics was given at the meeting.

There are no financial implications contained within the report submitted.

The risks of underperformance related to the impact on the Annual Performance Assessment and the potential for data to trigger unannounced inspections as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

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

(2) That Board Members be invited to attend relevant Performance Clinics.

(b) Teenage Pregnancy Update

The spreadsheet includes the latest 2007 conception data for LAs and updated the spreadsheet produced by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit in April, 2008.

The information set out:-

- Conception rate trends plus trajectory required to reach 2010 reduction targets
- Comparisons of under-18 conception rates between statistical neighbours (1998-2007 data)

Agreed:- That the Teenage Pregnancy update report be noted.

191. THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN ENGLAND: A PROGRESS REPORT - THE LORD LAMING

Pam Allen, Director of Locality Services, attended the meeting and presented a progress report containing details of a series of responses from Children's Services, and social work leaders, to 58 recommendations made by Lord Laming in The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report on 12th March, 2009.

Lord Laming produced his original report following his inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié, in 2003. This resulted in a raft of legislative change contained in the Children Act 2004 and saw the onset of the Every Child Matters regime. The recent tragic death of "Baby P" has sparked further interest in the protection of children and a further inquiry was commissioned by the Government to assess the progress made.

Lord Laming published his report about the progress on 12th March 2009. Detailed analysis is taking place about the findings and the impact this will have. A further report will be presented to the next Children and Young People's Board.

Attached at Appendix A of the report submitted were the recommendations from Lord Laming's report.

Following the publication of the report on 12th March, professional organisations have commented on his findings and recommendations. A selection of comments from a range of professions were attached at Appendix B.

It is a sad fact that no matter how hard professionals try, they cannot remove all the risks to children and young people and there will always be people whose intent it is to cause them harm. Nevertheless, professionals must resolve to do everything within their gift to prevent such tragedies from occurring.

Failure to address the recommendations would put children and young people at unnecessary risk.

Agreed:- (1) That the main recommendations from Lord Laming's report be noted.

(2) That a list of priority actions be developed and implemented.

(3) That an update report be submitted to the next meeting.

192. CHILDREN'S SERVICES REVIEW

Mike reported that the Review Report would be available shortly and the position would be reported to this Board in due course.

Agreed:- That the position be noted.

193. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT 2008 AND ACTION PLAN

Sue Wilson, Performance and Quality Manager, attended the meeting and presented a report, together with an Action Plan, following the report submitted in January, 2009, regarding the 2008 APA.

Following the report submitted in January, 2009 regarding the 2008 APA result, the Action Plan is now finalised. The Action Plan is appended for reference.

In January, 2009 the results of the 2008 APA were formally reported to Members. The latest update of the AP is appended to the report now submitted.

Pam gave a detailed update on Fostering issues and activity.

Whilst there are no financial implications in connection with this report, some of the activity contained in the action plan may have financial implications. Where this is the case, this will be reported separately.

The risks associated with delivery are managed through the Council's risk management system. Specifically these are increased pressures due to rising numbers of looked after children and continued emphasis on local government to deliver more with diminishing resources.

The report set out a number of areas for improvement, together with actions/milestones/outcomes of these areas of work, and a target date for completion of actions.

Sue Wilson gave an update on work in place and future actions.

The risks associated with delivery are managed through the Council's risk management system. Specifically they are increased pressures due to rising numbers of looked after children and continued emphasis on local government to deliver more with diminishing resources.

Agreed:- (1) That the action plan, as submitted, be noted.

(2) That an updated and clearer action plan be submitted to this Board shortly.

(3) That a progress update against the areas for improvement be made in three months time.

(4) That consideration be given to ways of improving success levels at Key Stages 1 and 2 and that these be reported to this Board.

(5) That the actions being taken to prepare for the Fostering Inspection be noted.

(6) That all agencies pay attention to the provision of detailed information needed prior to the Inspection in June 2009.

194. AREA WE THERE YET? AUDIT COMMISSION STUDY OF CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS - UPDATE

Pam Allen, Director of Locality Services, attended the meeting and presented the submitted report on progress to date in relation to the Audit Commission study of Children's Trust Arrangements.

During 2008 the Council and NHS Rotherham commissioned a study to be conducted in Rotherham and undertaken by the Audit Commission. This was to assess the Authority's readiness for integration. The key lines of enquiry used were those that the Audit Commission used earlier in

2008 when they conducted a National Study.

Risks in Rotherham are considered to be low. We have continued to demonstrate that we are ahead of many other local authorities, in the development of children's trust arrangements. The report provides a timely opportunity to examine governance and resource management, over and above the key judgements assessed in the Annual Performance Assessment and it will be helpful to see this alongside the independent review being conducted by Children First.

A number of risk registers are used to monitor the key risks for the Children and Young People's Service, using the RisGen system.

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

(2) That the outcome of the review of Children's Services be awaited.

195. COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND ADULT LEARNING

Pam Allen, Director of Locality Services, presented the submitted report on Comprehensive Area Assessment for Children's Services and Adult Learning.

The Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) is a new joint inspectorate framework for assessing whether local public services are meeting the needs of their citizens. The CAA will cover two key areas:

- **Area Assessment** – looking at how well local public services are delivering better outcomes and how they are likely to improve in the future
- **Organisational Assessment** - looking at the overall effectiveness of public bodies, such as Councils, in managing performance and using resources

The CAA replaces the Comprehensive Performance Assessment from 1st April, 2009. Guidance was only published in February 2009, and some elements are still awaited, which are only expected to be released around 31st March, 2009.

One of the organisational assessments that feeds into the CAA, is the Ofsted Annual Rating of Children's Services.

- Whilst there remains a requirement to self assess against revised grade descriptors and criteria that is not yet released, there are significant changes from the previous regime of Annual Performance Assessment.

The report set out some of the key changes from the previous regime of

Annual Performance Assessment.

Pam gave an update on information known and activity taking place. It was acknowledged that the Inspection Process would be challenging.

There are no overt financial implications but there is bound to be an impact on resources in relation to responding to unannounced inspections and in preparing staff for further significant changes to inspection regimes for the third time in recent years.

Risks are mitigated as far as possible, but they have increased significantly as part of this new regime for inspection. Short notice and unannounced inspections can cause major disruption, and although Ofsted are likely to want senior staff to be available, it will be extremely hard to manage the most relevant staff being available at such short notice.

Further risks that should be considered include the move towards vulnerable groups and there is a need to take care not to lose sight of most of the children who receive universal services as their needs are also important.

Agreed:- That the report and the significance of this regime be noted.

196. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN GUIDANCE 2009

Pam Allen, Director of Locality Services, presented the submitted report which gave a summary of the new guidance which has recently been issued by the Department for Children, School and Families (DCSF) in relation to developing a new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).

The Authority is required to have a joint CYPP prepared and owned by the Children's Trust Board by April, 2011*. The Authority's existing CYPP runs to June 2010 so the proposal is that Rotherham's new CYPP is developed by January 2010 for full approval by June 2010.

*The proposed changes to give the Children's Trust Board responsibility for the CYPP is subject to three elements of legislation being approved by Parliament.

These are:-

- (i) Extending the Children's trust duty to co-operate in making the arrangements under S10 of the Children Act 2004 to maintained schools (and Academies), Sixth Forms and Further Education Colleges and Jobcentre Plus;
- (ii) Requiring all areas to have a Children's Trust Board; and
- (iii) Extending the ownership of the CYPP to all statutory partners by

placing the duty to produce the CYPP on the Children's Trust Board.

The report set out what the guidance for the CYPP states in relation to the contents of the plan, and, in stating the Authority's improvements in relation to these five outcome areas, there must be reference made to:-

- The integration of services provided by the local authority and relevant partners to improve the well-being of children and young people;
- Arrangements that will be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- Arrangements for early intervention and prevention action.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and the new guidance for the CYPP be noted.

(2) The Board noted that it would be the role of this Board to lead and guide the Children and Young People's Plan 2009.

197. HEALTHY LIVES, BRIGHTER FUTURE STRATEGY

Andy Buck presented the submitted report informing of a new National publication, the Strategy for Children and Young People 'Healthy lives, brighter futures'.

The strategy sets out how to build on progress through the achievement of:

- World-class health outcomes
- Services of the highest quality
- Excellent experiences in using services
- Minimising health inequalities

It sets out the principles of the relationship between parents and services, and details what parents and their children can expect from their services. These principles are that:

- Mothers and fathers are provided with the information they need to help their children lead healthy lives
- Public sector settings provide healthy environments and encourage children and young people to make healthy choices
- The right services are in place to meet the specific health needs and expectations of children and their families
- Extra support is provided for those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds

These principles complement the standards and ambitions set through the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services and the Every Child Matters programme for improving outcomes

for children.

The report outlined what the strategy sets out in terms of planning for universal, targeted and specialist support across three life stages –

- Early years and pregnancy
- School-age children and
- Young people

as well as the additional support for children and young people in need of acute or ongoing healthcare.

The Board welcomed the good practice being adopted to promote referrals of pregnant mothers to the Smoking Cessation Clinic.

Agreed:- That the recommendations within the strategy be noted.

198. MINUTES OF SMOKING IN PREGNANCY STRATEGIC GROUP HELD ON 22ND JANUARY, 2009

The meeting considered the contents of the minutes of Smoking in Pregnancy Strategic Group held on 22nd January, 2009 and discussed key issues and action taken.

199. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD HELD ON 6TH FEBRUARY, 2009

Key issues and concerns from the minutes of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board held on 6th February, 2009 were discussed.

200. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Safeguarding Manager

Pam Allen gave an update on the present position and action being taken to fill the post temporarily.

Agreed:- That the position be noted.

(b) Serious Case Reviews

Pam Allen gave information on the various cases and outstanding issues.

Agreed:- That the position be noted.

(c) Sexual Exploitation

Matt Jukes gave an update on Operation Central and the action being taken by the Police.

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

(2) That thanks be forwarded to everyone involved from all the Agencies in the organisation of this operation and the protection given to many young women.

(d) Safeguarding Issues

Matt Jukes asked for priority to be given to the importance of good communication on safeguarding issues.

Agreed:- That good communications and exchange of information be pursued as a matter of course.

201. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Children's Board be held on Wednesday, 10th June, 2009 at 4.30 p.m.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
27th March, 2009

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Jack, McNeely and Swift.

Also in attendance for Item 207 below (Scrutiny Work Programme) were:-

Councillor Stone	Leader
Councillor Akhtar	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
Councillor Smith	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development
Councillor Wyatt	Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Innovation

Councillor Wyatt also attended for Item 205 below (ICT Strategy).

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor G. A. Russell) and Councillors Boyes, Burton, J. Hamilton, P. A. Russell and S. Wright (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services)

203. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

204. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

205. ICT STRATEGY

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Wyatt, Mark Gannon (Transformation and Strategic Partnerships Manager) and Richard Copley (ICT Strategy and Client Co-ordinator).

After a brief introduction from Councillor Wyatt, Richard Copley gave a presentation of the ICT Strategy which covered:-

- The Seven Themes
- Achievements to date
- Information Management (Theme 1)
 - Government Connect
 - EDRMS
 - CRM/Revenues and Benefits Integration
 - VOIP Telephony
- Customer Focus (Theme 2)

- CMS – new website
- SMS – texting
- eForm fault logging
- New JSCs and Children’s Centres
- Area Based Profiling

- Member Focus (Theme 3)
 - Laptops
 - Broadband
 - Remote Access (VPN)
 - eCasework – trial underway

- Staff Focus (Theme 4)
 - WorkSmart
 - Identity Lifecycle Management
 - Deskless Workers

- Partnership Focus (Theme 5)
 - RMBC staff co-located in offices with NHS staff
 - ‘Intelligent Network’ in place in Maltby

- Business Continuity through Information Assurance (Theme 6)
 - Expert BCP Consultancy
 - Tape backups – relocation
 - Permanent generator at (current) Civic Building
 - Digital Region- South Yorkshire network
 - Data Centre Consultancy complete
 - Cloud computing – system migration is underway
 - WorkSmart – giving more people remote access

- Learning Development and Training (Theme 7)
 - eLearning solution in place – more than 2000 staff have taken courses via eLearning
 - New Training Module in HR System

- Funding Sources 2006 – 2011

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

- use of consultants regarding EDRMS
- VOIP telephony costings
- elected Member linkage to VOIP telephony

- security password systems regarding laptops
- IT systems communicating with each other, internal and partner wise
- Rotherham Information Governance Group

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

206. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

207. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor McNeely reported that the review of choice based lettings had been completed and was in the process of being written up.

(b) Councillor Austen reported that the debt recovery review was progressing well and three sessions had been held. It was anticipated that interviews would be completed by the end of April with a report drafted by June.

(c) Councillor Jack reported:-

(i) the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel had considered

- potential for a review of the ambulance service
- issues regarding discharge policies and delays in patients leaving hospitals
- results of the consultation on the modernisation of mental health services

(ii) the next meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel was to consider:-

- presentation on domestic violence to which all Members were welcome to attend
- presentation on Age Concern

(d) Councillor Swift reported that the scrutiny review of road traffic safety around schools was progressing well and teams were beginning to go out to schools

(e) On behalf of the Mayor, it was reported that the scrutiny review report regarding support for newly arrived children in schools would be submitted to the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel on

3rd April, 2009

(f) Cath Saltis reported that the report of the review of community use of school buildings was to be submitted to Cabinet at the end of April.

208. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.

209. SCRUTINY SELF ASSESSMENT

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, introduced briefly the submitted Centre for Public Scrutiny document – Self Evaluation Framework for overview and scrutiny in local government which covered:-

- provide 'critical friend' challenge
- reflect the voice and concerns of the public and its communities
- take the lead and own the scrutiny process
- make an impact on service delivery
- other assessment tools and methodologies
- examples of performance indicators for scrutiny
- other useful websites

Tim Littlewood, Performance and Quality Manager, elaborated on the documentation and promoted discussion with the aid of a presentation which covered:-

- aim of self assessment
- what should scrutiny achieve
- success of scrutiny
- areas for improvement
- support for scrutiny

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

- how public engagement in scrutiny could be improved
- the level of interest and engagement in reviews compared with

scrutiny meetings

- timing of work and timeliness of reports
- engagement of young people
- attendance at, and commitment shown to, scrutiny meetings
- regional select committees
- relationship between local and regional scrutiny

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

(2) That further work/discussions be undertaken with partners and Tim Littlewood report to a future meeting of this Committee as appropriate.

210. SCRUTINY FORWARD PROGRAMME

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, introduced briefly a discussion on the forward programme of work referring to the national and local perspective, policy review and development, performance monitoring overall and finance and resources.

Particular reference was made to the submitted report advising of the Government's intention to commence Sections 19-21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 by 30th April, 2009 and highlighting the implications for scrutiny in Rotherham.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- need for a committee/panel to review and scrutinise the crime and disorder function
- need for specific terms of reference regarding the crime and disorder function
- workload of scrutiny panels
- terms of reference of scrutiny panels
- scrutiny panel alignment with Cabinet portfolios

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

(2) That the commencement date for, and implications of, Sections 19-21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 be noted.

(3) That a working group, comprising Councillors Austen, Boyes, Swift and Whelbourn, be established to consider the terms of reference of the

respective scrutiny panels, including the ownership of, and terms of reference for, the review and scrutiny arrangements in respect of the crime and disorder function.

(4) That a report of the Working Group findings be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

211. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairmen welcomed members of the Cabinet and joint discussions ensued on the future work of scrutiny and working arrangements between scrutiny and the Cabinet.

The following issues were covered:-

- current arrangements between scrutiny and respective Cabinet Members
- pre-decision scrutiny
- attendance of respective scrutiny chair and vice-chair at Cabinet Member meetings
- potential for briefing scrutiny chairs and vice-chairs prior to Cabinet Member meetings
- Cabinet Member attendance at scrutiny panel meetings
- scrutiny panel chairs and vice-chairs receiving Cabinet Member meeting agendas
- potential for inviting respective scrutiny panel chair or vice-chair to future Leader's Meeting/Strategic Director briefing sessions
- joint meetings between Cabinet and Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee

In concluding the discussion, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

Resolved:- That the issues now raised be pursued and considered by the Working Group established at Minute No. 210 above and a report be submitted to this Committee in due course.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
17th April, 2009

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Barron, Burton, Jack, McNeely and Swift.

Also in attendance was Councillor License for item 217 below (Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel Review of Support for Newly Arrived Children in Schools)

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

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Councillor ??? Fortune and ??? (guest observers from Hambleton District Council)

212. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

213. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

214. PAYMENT OF INVOICES WITHIN THIRTY DAYS- FORMERLY BVPI 8

Further to Minute No. 182 of the meeting of this Committee held on 27th February, 2009, Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report which detailed BVPI 8 and how it measured the payment of undisputed invoices within thirty days.

The report provided specific information on how each directorate performed against the indicator during the month of February, 2009.

The report covered:-

- number of late transactions per directorate
- total late transactions by directorate as a percentage of the directorate's total invoices
- total invoices by directorate
- percentage of late transactions by directorate

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

- 2010 invoices

- outturn position
- use of procurement cards
- work of procurement champions
- need to question directorate representatives regarding issues in their respective programme areas

Resolved:- (1) That the directorate performance against former BVPI 8 be noted.

(2) That directorates be requested, in turn, to attend future meetings of this Committee to explain issues within their respective programme areas. Such representation to include Councillor Wyatt and the respective directorate procurement champion and cabinet member, commencing with Environment and Development Services in June, 2009.

215. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA) 2008 - 2011 REFRESH

Julie Slatter, Head of Policy and Performance, presented the submitted report which confirmed the outcome of the 2009 refresh of the Local Area Agreement 2008-11 highlighting areas where targets, baselines and trajectories had been re-negotiated or updated.

The Government Office annual review set the context for the refresh process which had now concluded.

The LAA refresh process focused on a small number of indicators within the Local Area Agreement and fell into a number of categories outlined:-

- Indicators affected by the Economic Downturn.
- Survey Based Indicators.
- Changes in definitions/baselines.
- Vital Signs.

In addition to these amendments negotiations with GO had concluded with an inclusion of a new local indicator relating to Childcare uptake – NI 118.

Reward Grant for meeting Local Area Agreement targets was available and detailed guidance on how this would be calculated had now been published. The removal of the lock down on targets affected by the downturn had been helpful in maintaining the likelihood of achieving success in the Local Area Agreement and associated reward grant.

A number of Local Area Agreement indicators across all themes would be stretching to achieve. Tight performance management frameworks and improvement plans were in place across the partnership to address any

particular performance issues.

There was currently uncertainty around the economic downturn and its implications for Local Area Agreement indicators focusing on housing and employment issues in particular. The 2010 refresh process would be critical in determining the targets for these indicators.

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

- promoting business start ups, growth and inward investment and impact on base target
- LSC over commitment and impact on targets
- implications of not accepting a target
- management of different partner priorities
- membership of Borough Improvement Group
- acquisitive crime survey findings
- need for availability of information regarding ward by ward breakdown of problems
- clarification of baseline years/figures
- monitoring arrangements for Comprehensive Area Assessment
- this Committee's legislative responsibilities for the overview of the Local Area Agreement

Resolved:- (1) That the refreshed LAA 2008-11 be noted.

(2) That the Government Office LAA annual review for Rotherham 2008/09 be noted.

216. NEW SCRUTINY FUNCTIONS AND REGULATIONS

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, presented the submitted report indicating that Sections 119 to 128 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (C.28) and Sections 19 to 21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 (C.48) made new provisions for the function of overview and scrutiny in local authorities. The provisions of the 2007 Act, with the exception of matters relating to crime and disorder, had now all been brought into effect. The Home Office had indicated that the provisions relating to crime and disorder in both the 2006 and 2007 Acts would commence on 30th April, 2009.

The report focused on community call for action (CCFA) and crime and disorder and provided the up to date position in respect of the above.

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

- co-optees now required to have voting rights
- need for a threshold/criteria regarding local attempts to solve a CCFA
- need to embed in members their responsibility to try and solve issues locally
- need for training for members and scrutiny officers
- written procedures required
- need to differentiate between issues and processes

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

217. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL REVIEW OF SUPPORT FOR NEWLY ARRIVED CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS

Councillor Neil License, review group Chairman, presented the submitted report setting out the findings and recommendations of the review group. The review document was submitted and had been endorsed by the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 3rd April, 2009. Highlighted were the background to and rationale for the review, membership, scope, terms of reference, summary of findings and key recommendations.

The review examined the following areas:-

- what was available currently in Rotherham schools to support newly arrived children and young people
- examples of good practice locally and elsewhere
- how existing resources could best be utilised
- what measures should be taken in the long term to improve the Council and partners' responses and the support available to newly arrived children and young people

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

- migratory/settling patterns of the European Roma communities and impact on the placement of children in schools
- devolution of the Welcome Centre
- issues relating to funding based on 'census' day
- problems of non attendance (often due to Roma communities moving away for work) still counting against targets
- potential for a central register
- sharing experiences and best practice with other schools

- representations to Central Government regarding the issues/problems

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

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

(3) That everyone involved in the review be thanked for their time, effort, contribution and commitment

218. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th March, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

219. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor McNeely reported that the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel had yesterday received a progress report in respect of the scrutiny review of voids turnaround times. The small steering group, set up to highlight issues for further discussion, had met twice already and would meet again in the new municipal year.

(b) Councillor Austen reported (i) that the latest meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel had received a presentation on equalities and (ii) that the debt recovery review was progressing.

(c) Councillor Jack reported that the latest meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel had received a presentation on domestic violence.

(d) Councillor Burton reported (i) that the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel, at its meeting on 3rd April, 2009, had considered:-

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services – Strategy Developments July, 2008 to March, 2009
- Alcohol and Substance Misuse Strategy – Update and Key Focus Areas
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Audit Commission – study of Children's Trust Arrangements update
- Scrutiny Review – Support for Newly Arrived Children in Schools
- Children and Young People's Services Forward Plan

(ii) that the breastfeeding review was continuing.

(iii) that the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel, at a special meeting on 15th April, 2009, had considered the call ins regarding the proposed Maltby Academy and amalgamation of schools.

(e) Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, reported that the Centre for Public Scrutiny Annual Conference was to be held in Nottingham on 9th June, 2009.

Resolved:- That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, or substitutes, be authorised to attend.

220. CALL-IN ISSUES

Cath Saltis reported that the call ins regarding Maltby Academy and amalgamation of schools, heard by the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel on 15th April, 2009, had not been upheld.

It was also noted that the call in regarding the Bramley Traffic Management Scheme was to be heard by this Committee on 28th April, 2009.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
28th April, 2009

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

Also in attendance were Councillors Cutts, Mannion, Parker, Smith, Thirlwall and Turner.

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

221. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Smith declared a prejudicial interest in item 223 below, being the Cabinet Member taking the decision called in and only remained in the room to answer questions and explain the reasons for the decision.

222. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

223. CALL - IN - RESULTS OF THE BRAMLEY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME CONSULTATION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and the process was explained. Following procedural questions from Councillor Thirlwall, the order of proceedings was clarified and confirmed.

The Committee considered Minute No. 216 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Services held on 30th March, 2009 regarding the results of consultation undertaken towards the end of November, 2008 to gauge opinion on two proposed options to amend the current Bramley Traffic Management Scheme and the resultant decision to approve Option 1. Also considered was the report that was submitted to the above meeting.

Councillor Thirlwall, supported by Councillors Cutts, Gilding, Mannion, Parker and Turner presented the objections to the proposal covering the following issues and views:-

- there were no advisers, strategic director or directors present at the meeting when Councillor Smith made the decision
- the decision was made against the recommendations by officers
- the Chief Executive and Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services indicated they thought that Option 2 would be the preferred option at a meeting with businesses a

few days prior to the decision being made

- the Leader had also indicated it would be considered “daft” not to go for Option 2
- Councillor Smith arrived at the decision as he had a vendetta against the people of Bramley
- it was the overwhelming view of the community that Option 2 was the preferred option and it was a surprise when the recommendation for such was overturned
- at a previous consultation event public meeting, only 39 people were in support of the decision to implement the scheme in situ
- the scheme installed in 2005/06 was a disaster and no one believed how bad the scheme would be until it was completed
- a 3000 plus signature petition had been submitted and the latest period of consultation saw over 7500 households consulted at a cost of £30,000. 87% of those consulted were not in favour of a one way system
- the consultation covered the three ward areas and others who drove through Bramley
- a consultant, recruited to look at the system, concluded:-
 - (a) the slip road was too short
 - (b) parking on Cross Street had been installed against best practice
 - (c) parking was in the wrong place
 - (d) existing parking on Cross Street was illegal
 - (e) junction of Cross Street with the A631 would not support a return to two way traffic
- in December, 2007 consideration was given by Councillor Smith to alterations to the original scheme, incorporating the comments from the consultant. The meeting was not to reverse the scheme but to consider the cost implications of suggested amendments. The decision was called in.
- mistakes to the scheme were brought to Councillor Smith's attention, but he ignored them

- Councillor Smith misled Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee (PSOC) in respect of the cost of reversing the scheme and claiming it was safer for a one way system. PSOC did not support the call in.
- it appeared the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on Main Street was illegal and publicity attracted significant opposition to the one way traffic scheme
- Councillor Smith, on 29th September, 2008 decided whether to consult, who with and how and an event was held in November, 2008 attended by 500 people
- 92% of those who attended supported Option 2 and only 2% supported Option 1
- conclusions from the consultations were reported by officers to Councillor Smith on 30th March, 2009
- South Yorkshire Police had indicated Option 1 could not be supported
- Councillor Smith made a mistake by agreeing to go out to consultation again
- the decision (Minute No. 216) was based on the issue of traffic management and road safety with little evidence to support Option 1
- the decision was flawed using flawed logic
- problems were anticipated in the future with the need to apply for a temporary TRO to replace the illegal one, which could take approximately 18 months
- there would be a massive objection to the TRO should consultation take place
- the matter should be referred to full Council for determination
- people consulted were being failed in that they were not being given a reversal to a two way system of traffic flow for which there was overwhelming support
- on this occasion, the Council was not listening to the people as it claims it does
- public confidence was undermined in that the consulted people of Bramley were given two options and the impression of a real

choice

- reasons for Option 1 were invalid
- the democratic process was flawed

Councillor Smith, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Services, responded as follows:-

- he did not hold any vendettas against the people of Bramley
- the decision in 1999 was not taken alone but with the then Deputy Cabinet Member
- in response to the consultation, 78 people had voted for a one way system of some sort, 39 had voted for a one way scheme the other direction
- there were many inaccuracies in Councillor Thirlwall's presentation
- with regard to the mistakes, he could have turned it round and used the road with a two way traffic system (Option 2)
- he did say on road safety terms Option 1 was not better than Option 2 but it was not worse and there as a slight drop in accidents
- he did agree to consult and 8194 residents of Bramley were consulted
- Bramley Action Group had expected a noise but only got a murmur. 71 responses were discarded due to 67 wanting to see a left turn out of Cross Street onto Main Street and 4 wanted a return to the old scheme
- Option 2 would not improve road safety or traffic management flow
- of the 570 households on the Grange Estate and 72 properties on Main Street only 87 and 18 responses were received respectively in favour of Option 2
- 36 businesses had information hand delivered and only 4 responses were received, 2 for Option 2, 1 for Option 1 and 1 for status quo
- the estimate of £1m to revert to the two way scheme included the present scheme costs of £800,000 plus £190,000 to amend

- the officer mistake regarding the TRO was being rectified and was three quarters of the way to being finalised
- consultation did not mean compliance
- the Bramley Action Group leaflet, campaigning for Option 2 but must include all amendments, had done the people of Bramley a disservice
- two mistakes were made:
 - drafting the TRO
 - being convinced by officers to go out to consultation again
- the decision was not taken lightly
- how often had Councillor Thirlwall voted against officer recommendations
- PSOC had previously supported that the one way system should remain by a majority of 11 to 1
- in considering the options, Option 2, did not improve road safety or traffic management but could make traffic management worse
- in keeping the cycle lane in, as the Police wanted, some parking would be lost but there was ample parking on Church Lane and Cross Street
- people on the Grange Estate did not lose out, it took 1 minute 50 seconds to get around the one way system
- the response to the consultation was not overwhelming given that there were 40 replies from 17,000 in that area
- members had had the opportunity previously to oppose the scheme and were now jumping on the bandwagon

The Chairman invited sponsors of the call in to seek clarification on any issues and issues covered included :

- parking on Main Street
- the claimed time of 1 minute 50 seconds to navigate the one way system at peak times
- provision of contra flow cycle lane regardless of which scheme

option was chosen

- £1m cost argument to revert to two way system was ludicrous
- method of consultation
- TRO
- the dismissal of 400 + votes very lightly

The sponsors of the call in and Councillor Smith, together with officers, answered, where possible, questions from the Committee covering:-

- benefits of Option 2
- deciding on Option 1 when officers and Police recommended Option 2
- why bother consulting only to ignore responses
- respective parking times for businesses regarding Options 1 and 2
- discounting the 71 votes
- traffic management flow at varying times of the day and week
- lack of objections to the existing scheme received
- clarification of how Councillor Smith had allegedly misled PSOC at the previous call in meeting

At the conclusion of the questioning Councillor Smith left the room and the Committee deliberated.

Resolved:- That the call-in request be not supported.

(Councillor Smith declared a prejudicial interest in the above item and left the room at the conclusion of the questioning from the Committee and prior to the Committee's deliberations)