

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

Date: Friday, 30 October 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

PRESENTATION

8. Child Poverty - The Rotherham Perspective (report attached) (Pages 1 - 68)

FOR DISCUSSION

9. The Directory of Services and Activities for Children, Young People and Families - Young People's Zone (report attached) (Pages 69 - 71)
10. Narrowing the Gap (Raising the Bar) Project (report attached) (Pages 72 - 78)

11. H.M. Government Response to the Lord Laming Report (report attached) (Pages 79 - 97)

MINUTES

12. Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 2nd October, 2009 (copy attached) (Pages 98 - 105)
13. Minutes of a meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel held on 23rd September, 2009 (copy attached) (Pages 106 - 110)
14. Minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on 6th October, 2009 and on 7th October, 2009 (copies attached) (Pages 111 - 114)
15. Minutes of a meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 25th September, 2009 and on 9th October, 2009 (copies attached) (Pages 115 - 130)
16. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**
The following item is likely to be considered in the absence of the press and public as being exempt under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended (information relating to financial or business affairs)
17. Minutes of a Meeting of the Children and Young People's Services - Value for Money Budget Review Group held on 5th October 2009 (copy attached) (Pages 131 - 134)

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Friday, 27 November 2009**

Membership:-

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

Co-optees:-

Mrs. J. Blanch-Nicholson, Ms. T. Guest, Mrs. L. Pitchley
Mr. M. Hall, Father A. Hayne, Mrs. K. Muscroft
Mr. C. A. Marvin and Parish Councillor Mrs. P. Wade.

RMBC – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 30th October 2009
3.	Title:	Child Poverty
4.	Programme Area:	Chief Executive’s Directorate

5. Summary

In 1999 the Government made a commitment to half child poverty by 2010 and eradicate it by 2020 – at this time child poverty had doubled in the previous 20 years and the UK had the worst level of child poverty in Europe.

Although significant progress has been made, with some 600,000 children having been lifted out of poverty since 1999, there are still 4 million children living in a state of poverty within the UK.

In June 2009 the Child Poverty Bill was introduced to Parliament, making the case to entrench in law the commitment to end child poverty by 2020. The Bill places a duty on Local Authorities and their Partners to conduct a local needs assessment and develop a joint local strategy.

6. Recommendations

That the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel:

- **receive this report**
- **note the duty being placed on Local Authorities to develop a local strategy**
- **receive further information on the Partnership Event and updates to the strategy**

7. Proposals and Details

The Child Poverty Bill was introduced to parliament in June 2009 following the consultation document 'Ending Child Poverty: Making it Happen (2009)'. The consultation made the case to entrench in law the Government's commitment to ending child poverty by 2020. 4 'building blocks' to addressing child poverty were identified within the document, which should form the basis for a local strategy:

1. Improving financial and material support for families;
2. Increasing employment and raising incomes for parents;
3. Improving poor children's life chances so that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor outcomes; and
4. Tackling deprivation in communities

The Child Poverty Bill, which is currently in parliament and due to be passed early 2010, sets out the Government's strategy and targets for reducing child poverty in the UK. The Bill also places a duty on Local Authorities and their Partners to conduct a local needs assessment and produce a joint local strategy, as well as taking the duties of the Bill into account when preparing their Sustainable Community Strategies.

Following a Centre for Excellence and Outcomes (C4EO) event, which took place 10 September, it was noted that further guidance in terms of what a local strategy should look like would be published in 2010, along with guidance on conducting a local needs assessment. However, there is still a large amount of information already available from C4EO and The Child Poverty Unit which therefore makes the case to start the development of a Rotherham strategy with immediate effect, as there is not likely to be any radical changes required on Government publishing this guidance. There are a number of actions being recommended for the strategy development process:

7.1 Local Needs Assessment

A local needs assessment was carried out during 2008, and was reported to CMT in October 2008. This document (appendix A) outlines the national picture of child poverty and how Rotherham compares with its statistical neighbours. It is being recommended that this piece of work forms the basis of the required needs assessment, however a review of this is needed to ensure the data remains up to date and relevant and to ensure any gaps are filled in. It is imperative that this data is as up to date as possible to show a true picture of child poverty in Rotherham, which will inform the strategy and ensure the key priorities are Rotherham specific.

7.2 Partnership Thematic Involvement

It is suggested that a large amount of work around child poverty may already be taking place across the Borough, although there is no central hub to collate all of this and review the overall effectiveness. It has been recommended to the LSP that Theme Boards be charged with looking at how they can contribute to the development of a Rotherham strategy and look at collating information from across Local Authority and Partner organisations.

7.3 Partnership Event

It is being recommended that a Partnership-wide consultation event be hosted in Rotherham, which will bring together all key stakeholders to consider the data and information resulting from the local needs assessment. It will provide an opportunity to review the picture to date, consider work which has already taken place across the Borough, then feed into the strategy development process.

It is proposed that this event will take, in part, the form of a workshop to consider and agree a set of key priorities which will be addressed within the strategy. These priorities will form the basis of the strategy, which local indicators and targets can then be set around. Guidance from C4EO suggests creating a 'basket' of indicators from the national indicator set as well as local indicators to deliver the strategy.

It is being recommended that the event take place before Christmas, to allow for consultation of the key proposals to take place, before developing a final strategy early 2010. This timescale will also allow for best use of the guidance being published by Government early in the New Year. A further report and updated draft strategy will then be taken to CMT.

7.4 Developing a strategy around the 'Building Blocks'

The 4 Building Blocks identified as part of the Government strategy should form the basis for developing work around tackling child poverty:

1. Improving financial and material support for families
2. Increasing employment and raising incomes for parents;
3. Improving poor children's life chances so that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor outcomes; and
4. Tackling deprivation in communities

Under each of the blocks, a set of local targets could be developed to address the specific issue. Current information and best practice around child poverty indicates that work should be focused around economic and social development, public perceptions and awareness raising of the issues. Suggested areas to consider are:

- Increasing employment amongst parents
- Families in which only one parent works and is in a low wage job – promoting their ability to secure better paid jobs, for both parents to work, and support to keep them in work
- Helping parents for whom self-employment may be an option
- Raising awareness of the credits and benefits available to families
- The impact of regeneration on the economic development of disadvantaged communities
- Identifying and assessing the possible barriers to parental employment and how they can be addressed, : eg with childcare, transport, housing and confidence-building
- The role of money management and financial inclusion in making work pay
- Identify existing projects relevant to child poverty and assess their impact or explore the potential for sharing best practice

- Assess the roles of national and local agencies in the region in addressing the causes of child poverty
- Raising aspirations of local people; highlighting the role of education in tackling child poverty
- Raising public awareness of child poverty; what it means in Rotherham and working with people to change negative perceptions
- Connotations of 'poverty' addressing language issues and barriers to understanding what child poverty is
- Empowering children to be part of their local communities

It is suggested that the Partnership event be themed around these 4 blocks, to establish a range of targets and areas of work for each, using the list above as a starting point.

Health is a specific issue closely linked to child poverty, and one which could be positively affected by implementing a strategy to reduce child poverty. A child's health and well-being affects not only the child, but their family and social networks around them, therefore work around improving the health and well-being of children needs to be a key focus of the strategy. The Child Well-being Index, which is broken down into 7 domains; Material well-being, Health, Education, Crime, Housing, Environment and Children in Need provides essential information to be considered when developing priorities.

8. Finance

There are currently no funding streams for delivering this strategy, however, there are no costs associated directly with the strategy implementation; it is the intention for it to be delivered within existing resources.

There will be costs for hosting the consultation event, in terms of venue and any materials required; consideration needs to be given to what resources are available.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There are uncertainties around developing the strategy ahead of the Bill being passed by Parliament and the anticipated guidance being published, as there may be requirements which have not been met by the Rotherham strategy. However, it is considered to be a minimal risk due to the host of information and support already available which suggests what is needed to tackle the issue, and given the risks associated with not delivering on child poverty reduction it makes sense to start the strategy development process with immediate effect.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Although central Government will remain responsible for reducing child poverty through their Public Service Agreement (PSA 9) a duty will be placed on Local Authorities to produce a local strategy. Rotherham is already involved in child poverty through work with schools, children services, housing, transport amongst other service areas and tackling child poverty should be a priority because of its short and long term consequences for children and because tackling poverty is a key strategy to achieving successes in areas such as health, education and economic development.

National Indicator 116 (proportion of children in poverty) maps to PSA 9. The reporting organisation for this indicator is DWP and there is currently no data available; data is collected from the Annual Family Resource Survey and the sample size is not large enough at Local Authority level. An interim measure is being used until alternative sources of data are developed; however, data for this is currently only available up until 2007.

NI 116 is the only indicator specific to child poverty; however, there are a number of other indicators which are closely linked to the child poverty objectives, including:

NI 166 Average earnings of employees in the area

NI 151 Overall employment rate (LAA indicator)

NI 152 Working age people on out of work benefits (LAA indicator)

Activity around education, health and attainment will also support the child poverty strategy.

The process for monitoring work around child poverty will be through the Comprehensive Area Assessment, which will include monitoring of NI 116 even if not included within the LAA, once data is available.

The Child Poverty Bill also places a duty on Local Authorities to take child poverty into account when preparing Community Strategies.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- *Every Child Matters* (2003) has as a key outcome for all children to “achieve economic wellbeing”
- *In Work better off (Green Paper, 2007)*: Proposal for Full employment
- *Ending Child Poverty: Everybody’s Business –Child Poverty Unit (2008)*, outlines the causes and consequences of child poverty, the impact of government action so far and the policy direction for the future.
- *Take Up the Challenge, Take Up Taskforce (2008)*, advises local authorities and partners how to maximise incomes for families.
- *‘Ending Child Poverty: Making it Happen’* Child Poverty Unit (2008), making the case to entrench in law the commitment to end child poverty by 2020.
- The Child Poverty Bill was introduced to Parliament in June 2008
- *‘Breaking the Cycle: ending child poverty in SIGOMA areas’* SIGOMA (2009)
- *‘Nice Work if you Can Get It’* Institute for Public Policy Research (2009)

Contact Name:

Kate Taylor
Policy Officer
Chief Executive’s
Tel: 01709 8(22789)

Child Poverty – The Rotherham Perspective

Background

“Our historic aim will be for ours to be the first generation to end child poverty forever, and it will take a generation. It is a twenty year mission, but I believe it can be done.” Tony Blair, March 18 1999.

In March 1999, Tony Blair pledged to end child poverty within a generation, later clarified as being 2020. On the road to this historic goal, the Government committed itself to cut child poverty by a quarter between 1998/99 and 2004/05, and by half by 2010/11.

On 9th October 2007, the Government published its 2007 *Pre-budget report and comprehensive spending review*. Whilst the pre-budget report part is an annual publication, the comprehensive spending review part is only published once every three years. Its purpose is to set out the Government's spending plans for the period 2008 to 2011. As part of this, it includes a set of *public service agreements*, which are effectively agreements between the spending departments and the Treasury on the key objectives that will be delivered over the next few years.

In publishing the outcome of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review and with particular reference to public service agreement no. 9, the Government reiterated its commitment to halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020. In the accompanying Delivery Agreement, the Government stated that it would use three indicators to measure progress against child poverty in coming years, as follows:

- **Indicator 1:** the number of children in absolute low-income households—designed to measure whether the poorest families are seeing their incomes rise in real terms;
- **Indicator 2:** the number of children in relative low-income households—designed to measure whether the poorest families are keeping pace with the growth in incomes in the economy as a whole; and
- **Indicator 3:** the number of children in relative low-income households and in material deprivation; the introduction of a material deprivation indicator for child poverty is designed to provide a wider measure of living standards and reflects the view that tackling poverty is about more than simply raising income levels.

These are indicators of poverty in absolute and relative terms which require some definition:

Notions of Relative and Absolute Poverty in a World Context

For the sake of simplicity, the references below relates to income poverty only - which can be seen as the 'narrow' definition of povert. Povety being about many things, not just income. As such, the terms absolute and relative could apply to wider notions of poverty such as education standards, cultural choices, housing, health etc.

Absolute poverty refers to a set standard which is the same in all countries and which does not change over time. An income-related example would be living on less than \$X per day.

Relative poverty refers to a standard which is defined in terms of the society in which an individual lives and which therefore differs between countries and over time. An income-related example would be living on less than x% of average UK income. The government set this figure at 60%

Absolute poverty and relative poverty are both valid concepts. The concept of absolute poverty is that there are minimum standards below which no one anywhere in the world should ever fall. The concept of relative poverty is that, in a rich country such as the UK, there are higher minimum standards below which no one should fall, and that these standards should rise if and as the country becomes richer.

Absolute poverty vs Relative poverty

When both absolute and relative poverty are prevalent, it is absolute poverty which is to some major degree the more serious issue. This is the case in much of the third world, where the focus is therefore on fixed income thresholds (typically \$1 or \$2 a day, on the grounds that this is the minimum needed for mere survival).

In the UK, the main efforts to define 'absolute poverty' thresholds have been undertaken under the general heading of 'minimum income standards', which basically estimate the level of income required to purchase a given basket of goods and services. But the key point about such initiatives is that the basket of goods and services is defined according to the norms of the day and, as such, are inherently relative rather than absolute in nature. So, for example, there would be

many items in the 'today's basket' that would not have been in the basket 50 years ago. In other words, 'minimum income standards' relate to relative poverty rather than to absolute poverty.

In recent years, the Government has begun to describe households with less than half the average 1997 household income (after adjusting for inflation) as being in 'absolute poverty'. This is, however, purely a political device - the only relevance of 1997 is that it is when the current Government came into power. That is not to say that the statistic is unimportant, simply that it should not be described as 'absolute poverty'.

However, in summarising notions of poverty, in a UK setting, absolute thresholds have no meaning: no one in the UK lives on incomes anywhere near as low as the world threshold therefore there is no absolute poverty in the UK.

Building Brighter Futures

The government published 'The Children's Plan – Building Brighter Futures' in December 2007 with the aim of making 'England the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up.' (p5). According to their figures, over the previous ten years, the number of children in relative poverty fell 600,000 and teenage pregnancy rates were at their lowest level for 20 years. The publication commits the government to halve child poverty by 2010 and eradicate it by 2020. The new joint Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department for Work and Pensions Child Poverty Unit will coordinate work across government to 'break the cycle of poverty from generation to generation.' (p7)

A major facet of this drive to end child poverty is to reform the child maintenance system. The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (C-MEC) will take on a wide, by encouraging and supporting parents to make arrangements which suit them best. A key part of the reforms will be the creation of a new Information and Support Service for parents. The Department for Work and Pensions is working closely with other government departments and third sector organisations to ensure the new service has effective links to existing support services for parents. The government expects that the full reform programme will 'lift a further 100,000 children out of poverty.'

In the publication the government acknowledges some of the main characteristics surrounding child poverty, these are

- that particular groups, such as disabled children and those from black and minority ethnic groups are especially likely to live in poverty.

- children and young people are particularly concerned by issues of inequality, and by how hard it is to live on a low income.
- parental employment provides the best sustainable route out of poverty.
- families are better off in work than on benefits, both financially and in terms of health and well-being and because the attitudes and expectations parents have directly shape the aspirations of their children, the benefits of being in work pass on to the next generation.
- services must also be at the heart of tackling inter-generational poverty.

Policies set out in the plan include

- more tailored and accessible support for parents and increased investment in high quality outreach services;
- extending the free entitlement to 15 hours per week of early learning and childcare for all 3 and 4-year-olds as well as 2-year-olds in disadvantaged areas and investing to improve the quality of early years provision;
- making childcare available for children up to the age of 14 and providing more accessible childcare for families with disabled children;
- building a network of Sure Start Children's Centres, delivering better training and employment support for parents and expanding the Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy programme;
- an intensified focus on ensuring all children and young people leave school with the skills they need to thrive through investment in workforce development, one-to-one help for those at risk of falling behind, a new 14–19 curriculum and a greater focus on personal, social and emotional skills throughout the system;
- a priority on early identification and intervention to resolve issues that may be holding children back from achieving their potential.
- investment in tackling health inequalities, providing things to do and places to go for children and young people and support for emotional, behavioural and mental health problems;
- ensuring separated parents and their children get to keep more of the maintenance paid to them. By the end of 2008 parents with care claiming the main income-related benefits will be able to keep the first £20 per week of any maintenance paid before their benefit is affected. This doubles to £40 per week from April 2010.

According to the government, these measures will benefit some 350,000 children and will lift around 50,000 children out of poverty. (p36)

Measuring Poverty: Key Indicators

There are a number of key indicators which underpin the drive to end child poverty and the government makes reference to these when assessing the progress made. Key data on income poverty and material deprivation, *Households Below Average Incomes* (HBAI) is published annually by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). It provides the national data which is used to measure progress against the Government's target to halve child poverty by 2010/11 and eradicate it by 2020. The latest issue covers the period 1994/5 to 2005/06. However, this data is only published as a national and regional (along Government Office regions) breakdown in a Department of Work and Pensions Annual Report and as such, wider data sources are needed to gather the picture in Rotherham. Widening the scope enables a drilling down to ward level data and allows comparisons between Rotherham's performance and that of its Statistical Neighbours. Some of the wider data does mirror the data gathered in the HBAI and where other sources are used, they provide a holistic reference to poverty across Rotherham.

Structure of the Report

This report will seek to answer three distinct questions:

1. What is the national picture of poverty in the UK? This will be based on the latest Annual HBAI report as well as using wider data sources to look at the progress made over time.
2. How does Rotherham compare within the Yorkshire and Humber region and with its statistical neighbours?
3. What is the picture of child poverty in localities across Rotherham? Based on key data – income, benefits, education, health etc. Within this there will be an analysis of poverty demographics within the local authority which drills down to ward and area assembly level.

Much of the analysis will be presented in the form of tables, maps and charts and will at times reflect wider poverty issues than child poverty. As such, the rationale for choosing key indicators was based on recommendations by the New Policy Institute and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, who jointly gather together relevant data on poverty in the UK. Consequently according to these two institutions all the following data is a pointer towards child poverty as evidence

suggests that where poverty exists in an area it is more likely to affect children than adults. For example, in those households where the adults are in paid work, income in households with children is on average lower than in households without. In these households, more than 10% of children are been defined as 'poor' on the basis of lacking three or more 'necessities', and over 3% were defined as 'severely poor' on the basis of going without five or more 'necessities'. (Middleton, S, Ashworth, K and Braithwaite, I, *Small fortunes: spending on children, childhood poverty and parental sacrifice*, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 1998, pages 67 to 68.). These circumstances imply considerable deprivation across the whole household with a greater impact on young people, clearly justifying the need to look further than the data which specifically references children. Data from the HBAI suggests that children are still much more likely to live in low income households than the population as a whole: 30% compared to 22%.

Poverty - The national Picture

The latest child poverty figures, published as part of the annual Household Below Average Income (HBAI) report: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai.asp>, by the Department for Work and Pensions indicates the following trends in relation to child poverty (HBAI, An analysis of the income distribution, 1994/95 – 2006/07)

- Contemporary trends - In general, there was a decrease in the proportion and number of children below various thresholds of contemporary median income between the years 1994/95 and 2006/07. The figures showed a rise in the earlier years of the period and a fall in later years, however between 2005/06 and 2006/07, the numbers increased and the proportions either stayed the same or rose, depending on the measure. The number and proportion of children who were living in low-income and material deprivation fell over the last year.
- Real trends - Over the period 1994/95 to 2006/07, there was a marked fall in the proportion of children below income thresholds held constant in real terms, however between 2005/06 and 2006/07 the proportions either stayed the same or rose, depending on the measure.
- Family type - Children in lone-parent families were much more likely to live in low-income households than those in families with two adults. However, there has been a reduction in the risk of relative low income for children in lone-parent families since 1996/97.

- Economic status - Children in workless families were much more likely to live in low income households than those with one or more adults in full-time work.
- Family size –Children in large families – those with three or more children – were more likely to live in low-income households, although the risk of relative low income for this group has decreased since 1996/97.
- Disability status - Children in families containing someone who is disabled were more likely to live in low-income households than those in families with no disabled person if they were not in receipt of disability benefits.
- Ethnicity - Children living in a family headed by someone from an ethnic minority were more likely to live in low-income households. This was particularly the case for those headed by someone of Pakistani or Bangladeshi origin, where the majority of children were in households below 60 per cent of median income.
- Regional differences - Children in Inner London had a greater risk of low income than for any other region, with nearly half of children in households below 60 per cent of median income After Housing Costs.
- Material deprivation - Children in low income and material deprivation were more likely to live in social rented sector housing and workless households. Their family was also more likely to receive income support or housing benefit. Children in the two lowest quintiles of the income distribution were most likely to lack a week's holiday away from home, because their families could not afford to provide this.

No. of children falling below various thresholds of contemporary median income, United Kingdom

% of UK Average Income	Before Housing Costs			After Housing Costs		
	50%	60%	70%	50%	60%	70%
1998/99	3.4	4.8	3.1	4.4	5.4	1.8
1999/00	1.7	3.4	4.8	3.1	4.3	5.4
2000/01	1.6	3.1	4.5	2.8	4.1	5.2
2001/02	1.5	3.0	4.6	2.6	4.0	5.1
2002/03	1.5	2.9	4.4	2.6	3.9	5.0
2003/04	1.4	2.9	4.3	2.5	3.7	4.9
2004/05	1.4	2.7	4.3	2.3	3.6	4.8
2005/06	1.4	2.8	4.2	2.5	3.8	4.9
2006/07	1.5	2.9	4.3	2.6	3.9	5.0

Percentage of children falling below various thresholds of contemporary median income, United Kingdom

% of UK Average Income	Before Housing Costs			After Housing Costs		
	50%	60%	70%	50%	60%	70%
1998/99	14	26	36	24	34	41
1999/00	13	26	37	23	33	41
2000/01	12	23	34	21	31	40
2001/02	11	23	35	20	31	39
2002/03	11	23	34	20	30	38
2003/04	11	22	33	19	29	37
2004/05	11	21	33	18	28	38
2005/06	11	22	33	19	30	38
2006/07	12	22	33	20	30	39

Child Poverty in the Regions

Child Poverty rates vary widely across the UK. The North East (28%) has the highest percentage of children at risk of living in poverty in the UK. The nation with the highest child poverty rate in the UK is WALES, where one in four children live in poverty. The South East of England has the lowest child poverty rate with 15% living below the 60% threshold. Yorkshire & Humber have the 3rd equal highest % of children living in Poverty, with 25% below the 60% threshold.

- Using the government's preferred measure of low income and that which is used in its official targets – below 60% of median income – 3.8 million children in the UK were living in low income households in 2005/06 after deducting housing costs. This is 0.6 million - or 14% - less than in 1998/99.
- The government's short term target was to reduce the number of children in low income households by a quarter by 2004/05 compared with 1998/99. This implied a maximum of 3.3 million children living in low income households by 2004/05. Given that the actual number in 2005/06 was 3.8 million, the government is still 0.5 million above its 2004/05 target.
- Using an alternative measure of low income, namely before rather than after deducting housing costs, the number of children in low income households fell from 3.4 million in 1998/99 to 2.8 million in 2005/06. This was a fall of 17% compared with the government target of 25%. In other words, on the before deducting housing costs measure, the government is still 0.3 million above its 2004/05 target and 1.1 million above the target set for 2010.
- Half of all lone parent families are on low incomes compared to one in five couples with children. Two-fifths all the children in low income households are in lone parent households.
- A child's risk of low income varies greatly depending on how much paid work the family does. These risks have fallen in recent years for both workless and part-working families. However, unless all adults in the family are working (and at least one of them full time), the risks of being in low income are still substantial: 85% for unemployed families, 75% for other workless families and (notably) 30% for those where the adults are part-working.
- Half of the children in low income households live in families where at least one the adults is in paid work.
- Most of the lone parents on low incomes are not working. In contrast, most of the couples with children on low incomes do have someone in paid work. The net result is that most of the children in low income households are either in couple families where someone is in paid work or in workless lone parent families.
- Inner London has a far higher proportion of children in low income households than any other region: half of all children in inner London live in low income households compared to a third in the next highest region (outer London).

Children - risk of living in households with less than 60 per cent of contemporary median household income, by region and country, United Kingdom

	94/95-96/97	95/96-97/98	96/97-98/99	97/98-99/00	98/99-00/01	00/01-02/03	01/02-03/04	02/03-04/05	03/04-05/06	04/05-06/07
England	25	25	26	26	24	22	22	22	22	22
North East	32	33	35	34	34	32	30	31	28	28
North West	29	30	33	32	30	26	26	24	24	25
Yorkshire & Humber	31	30	32	32	30	27	26	25	25	25
East Midlands	26	25	25	24	26	26	24	23	23	24
West Midlands	27	29	28	28	27	26	26	25	26	26
East of England	19	19	20	19	17	15	15	15	16	15
London	25	26	27	27	27	25	26	27	26	25
South East	17	17	17	16	15	14	13	13	13	15
South West	21	21	23	24	22	19	18	18	17	17
Scotland	29	29	29	29	28	26	25	23	22	21
Wales	29	31	30	30	29	28	27	26	24	25
Northern Ireland					29	26	26	25	25	24
All UK	25	26	27	26	25	23	23	22	22	22

Child Poverty in Rotherham – Comparative Data.

This section analyses poverty in Rotherham as a comparison with the borough's statistical neighbours and its regional and sub-regional neighbours. The main sources used include the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, The Indices of Deprivation and the Poverty Site (www.poverty.org.uk).

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has put together local data on poverty using, as a measure, the percentage of children living in families claiming out of work benefits. This does not count all people who are poor, but is a good indicator of how bad poverty is in different areas. According to this data, in Great Britain, 21% of children are in families on benefits. Within the Yorkshire and the Humber region Hirsch and Hirsch point out that there are 17 local wards where the percentage of children on benefits is at least twice the national average – **one of which is in Rotherham.**

What should be noted is that the data used in this survey was based on the old wards – there has been no recalculation to reflect new boundaries but the information is still a relevant comparator for Rotherham.

These wards are in the following local authorities:

Local authority	Number of wards
Kingston upon Hull	6
Sheffield	4
Leeds	3
North East Lincolnshire	2
Barnsley	1
Rotherham	1

The following table illustrates the actual wards which had more than twice the national average children living on benefits. They are shown in descending order with the ward recording the highest % of children living on benefits being, Herringthorpe ward in Rotherham is ranked 7th.

Local authority	Ward	% of children living in families with out of work benefits (National average = 21%)
Kingston upon Hull	Orchard Park and Greenwood	55.7
Kingston upon Hull	Myton	51.1
Kingston upon Hull	Bransholme East	49.9
Sheffield	Manor	48.7
Kingston upon Hull	Marfleet	47.7
North East Lincolnshire	South	47.7
Kingston upon Hull	Southcoates East	47
Rotherham	Herringthorpe	47
Leeds	University	46.7
Sheffield	Park	46.2
Kingston upon Hull	St Andrew's	45.6
Leeds	Richmond Hill	45.4
Sheffield	Southey Green	44.1
Leeds	Burmantofts	44
North East Lincolnshire	East Marsh	43.5
Barnsley	Dearne Thurnscoe	42.7
Sheffield	Burngreave	42.3

Rotherham and its Statistical Neighbours

Rotherham's Statistical Neighbours are as follows (with the ranking and degree of closeness)

<u>Rank (1=Closest)</u>	Name	"Closeness"
1	Doncaster	Extremely Close
2	Redcar and Cleveland	Extremely Close
3	Wigan	Very Close
4	Barnsley	Very Close
5	Tameside	Very Close
6	Hartlepool	Very Close
7	St. Helens	Very Close
8	Wakefield	Very Close
9	Dudley	Very Close
10	Telford and Wrekin	Very Close

The Indices of Deprivation 2007 - Rotherham is ranked 68th out of 354 English local authorities for overall deprivation using the Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2007 (this compares to 63rd in 2004). The following table shows how Rotherham ranks in comparison to the borough's statistical neighbours.

Local Authority	Rank of Average Score	Rank of Extent of Deprivation	Rank of Local Concentration of Deprivation	Rank of Income	Rank of Employment Scale
Barnsley	43	46	41	52	25
Doncaster	41	41	45	32	19
Dudley	100	87	81	35	33
Hartlepool	23	19	18	102	90
Redcar and Cleveland	50	55	12	83	67
Rotherham	68	65	60	45	38
St. Helens	47	51	34	71	51
Tameside	56	56	54	56	44
Telford and Wrekin	113	102	112	85	87
Wakefield	66	62	68	37	11
Wigan	67	63	53	41	9

This information reflects the overall picture of deprivation in Rotherham it does not give the total picture in relation to factors relating to children and young people within the area. Using the information from the Index of Deprivation Affecting Children (IDAC) and specifically the data within the Education and Skills domain, which includes data about parent's level of education and employment, the following table shows the profile of disadvantage affecting children in Rotherham, compared with our Statistical Neighbours.

Statistical neighbour models provide one method for benchmarking progress. For each LA, these models designate a number of other LAs deemed to have similar characteristics. These designated LAs are known as statistical neighbours. Any LA may compare its performance (as measured by various indicators) against its statistical neighbours to provide an initial guide as to whether their performance is above or below the level that might be expected.

% of children and young people living in areas identified in relation to economic factors

Statistical Neighbours	30% Super Output Areas i.e. most deprived				30% least deprived areas		
	SOA Total	10% SOA	20% SOA	30% SOA	30% SOA	20% SOA	10% SOA
Rotherham	166	27.1%	44.0%	56.6%	6.6%	1.2%	0.6%
Doncaster	193	36.8%	47.7%	58.5%	23.3%	12.4%	1.6%
Redcar and Cleveland	92	21.7%	29.3%	47.8%	12.0%	12.0%	3.3%
Barnsley	147	32.7%	53.7%	65.3%	4.8%	2.7%	0.0%
St. Helens	118	11.9%	28.8%	43.2%	21.2%	15.3%	7.6%
Tameside	141	9.9%	34.0%	53.2%	3.5%	2.1%	0.7%
Wakefield	209	25.8%	44.0%	56.9%	9.6%	5.3%	2.4%
Wigan	200	14.5%	32.0%	44.5%	20.0%	9.5%	2.5%
Dudley	202	13.9%	33.2%	46.0%	21.3%	11.4%	4.0%
Hartlepool	58	22.4%	44.8%	51.7%	10.3%	10.3%	3.4%
Telford and Wrekin	108	17.6%	33.3%	46.3%	24.1%	13.9%	5.6%

The data shows that 56.6% of children and young people, in Rotherham, live in the 30% most deprived areas nationally. However, unlike the majority of our statistical neighbours, the percentage of children and young people living in the most advantaged areas nationally is low. Given this profile, the Leitch Review findings about the inequalities that exist for young people are a particularly concern for the children and young people of Rotherham.

Growing up in poverty damages children's health and well-being, adversely affecting their future health and life chances as adults. Ensuring a good environment in childhood, especially early childhood, is important. A considerable body of evidence links adverse childhood circumstances to poor child health outcomes and future adult ill health. Adverse outcomes include higher rates of: mortality from accidents, poor dental health, child mortality, low educational attainment, low birth weight, childhood obesity, school exclusions, infant mortality, teenage pregnancy some infections, substance misuse, mental ill health.

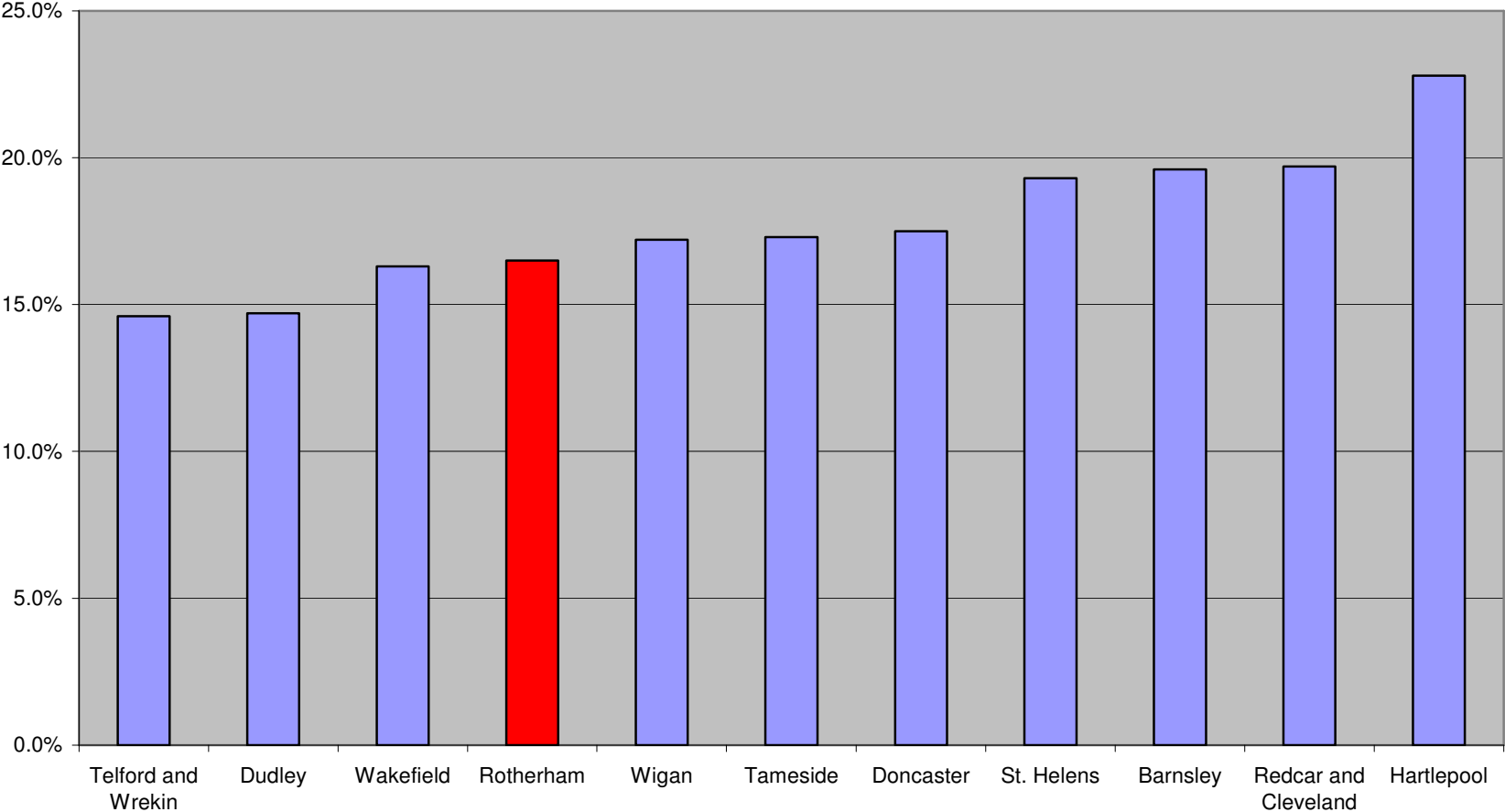
Key Indicators of Poverty

The following bar charts measure the Key Indicators of poverty across the Rotherham's Statistical neighbours. The key Indicators have been determined by the Poverty Site. This site monitors what is happening to poverty and social exclusion in the UK and is organised around 50 statistical indicators covering all aspects of the subject, from income and work to health and education.

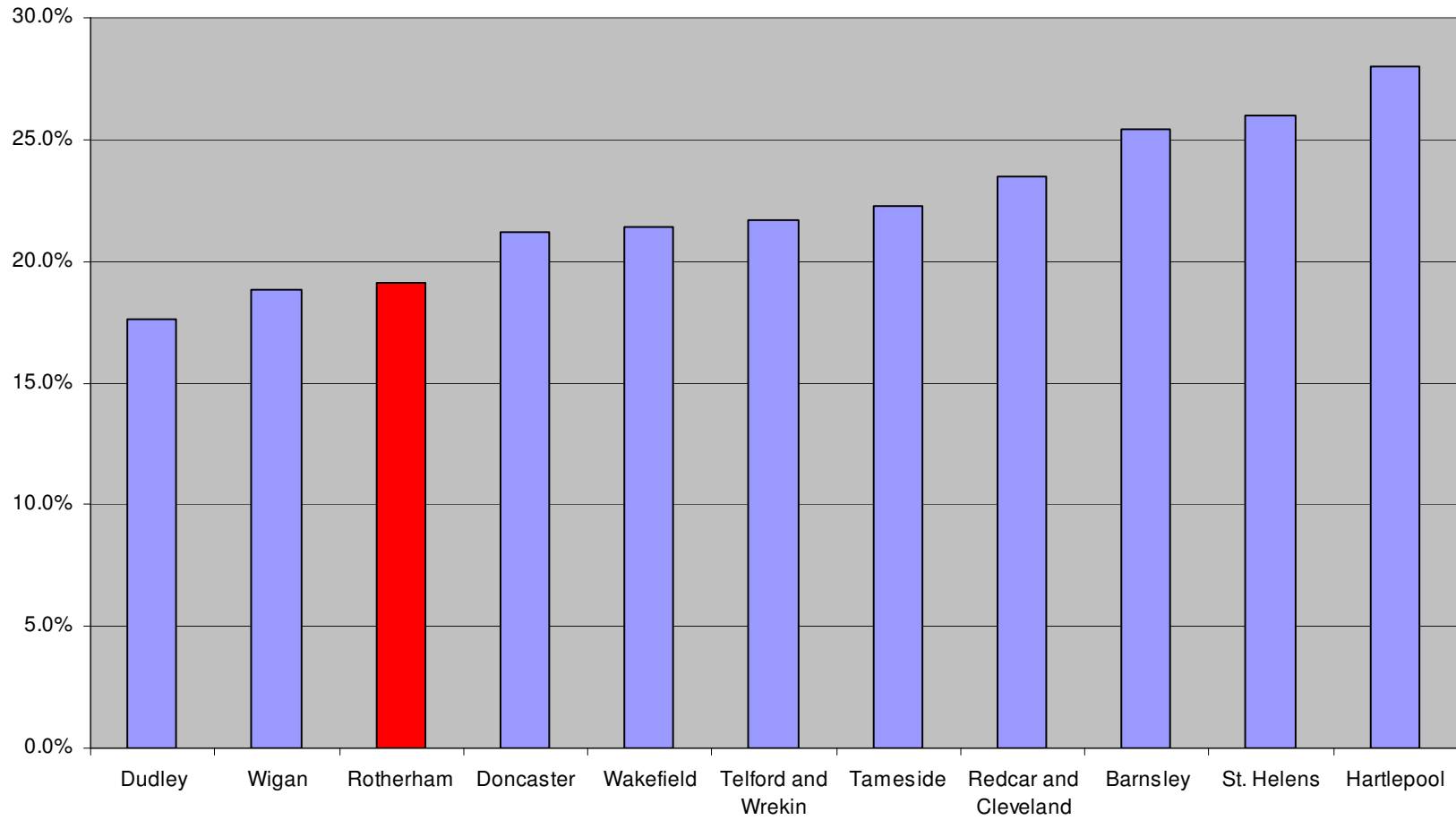
The indicators below were selected because of the influence they exert on children in poverty. The bar charts appear alongside a brief synopsis which captures the national picture. The relative position of Rotherham can be compared along with the borough's statistical neighbours.

The charts measure the % of people for each Key Indicator with the best performing appearing on the left, progressing to the worst performing on the right. A key to the sources for each the chart appears in the *References* section.

Proportion of the working-age population who are in receipt of key out-of-work benefits.



Proportion of children who are in families who are in receipt of key out-of-work benefits.



This indicator shows the % of working age people in Britain (and the % of dependent children) whose incomes rely, at least in part, on one of the following benefits/tax credits: income support, jobseeker's allowance, family credit/working families tax credit and disability working allowance/disabled person's tax credit.

Considerable number of people who have incomes low enough to make them eligible to claim do not do so. Take-up varies across the population. It is thought that in 1999-2000, between 87 and 95% (by caseload) of eligible parents claim income support. The equivalent rate for pensioners is considerably lower at 63-82%. (*Income Related Benefits: Estimates of Take-up*, Department of Social Security, 2000.)

Where reliance on benefits also equates to worklessness in households, children are particularly vulnerable. Around 1.8 million children live in workless households, down from 2.2 million a decade ago. Most of the fall took place in the late 1990s and most of it has been in children in workless couple households rather than workless lone parent households.

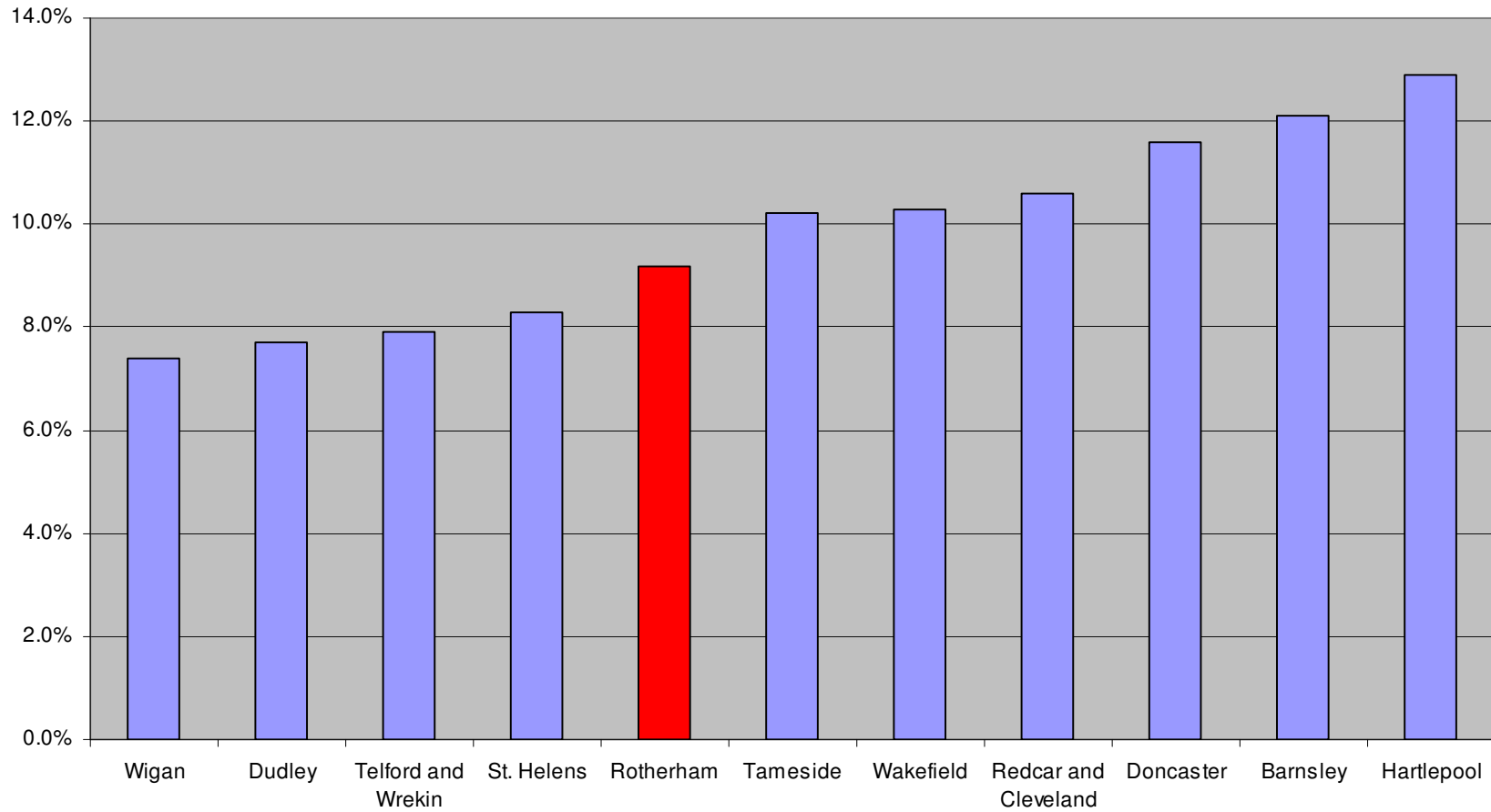
In percentage terms, 16% of all children live in workless households, down from 18% a decade ago. The reduction in terms of percentages is rather less than that in terms of absolute numbers because the total population of children has been falling.

Two-thirds of all children in workless households are now in lone parent households. Half of all children of lone parents live in households that are workless. This compares to only one in fifteen for children of couples.

The UK has a higher proportion of its children living in workless households than any other EU country. It is one-and-a-half times that of the EU average, one-and-a-half times that in France and Germany, and more than twice as high as that in many of the other countries.

The UK is one of the few EU countries where the proportion of children who are in workless households is much higher than the proportion of working-age people who are in workless households.

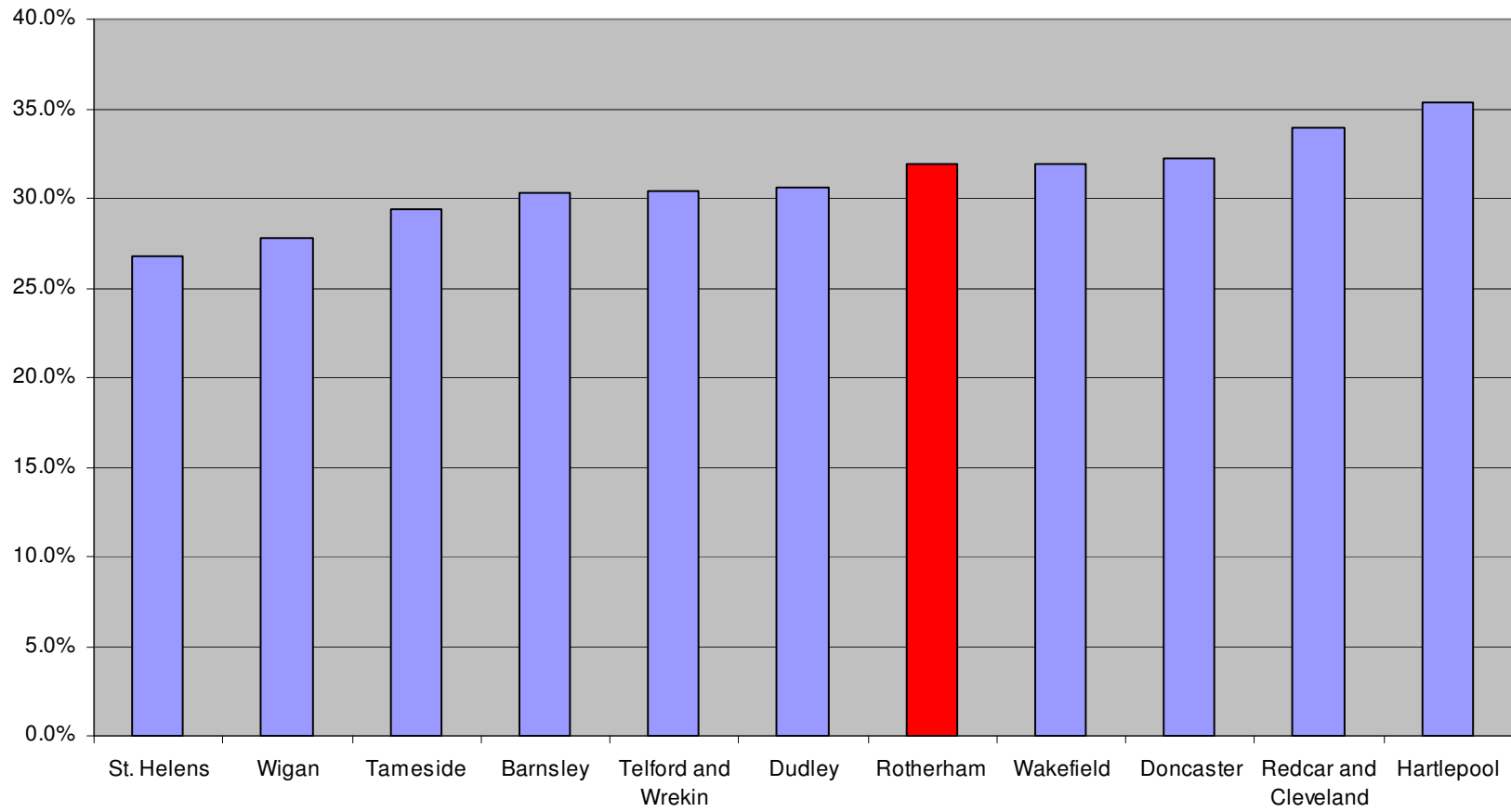
Proportion of working-age people who lack, but want, paid work.



This indicator recognises that it is not sufficient to look only at those officially unemployed since they are actually a minority of working age adults who would like to have a job. A large section of adults who are officially described as 'economically inactive' rather than unemployed would also like to work, and may even be actively seeking to find a job. The balance between the unemployed and the economically inactive has recently been changing, with falling numbers of unemployed and stable or rising levels of economic inactivity. The indicator therefore shows both the unemployed and the economically inactive who would like work.

- 'Unemployment' is only part of the overall picture of people who lack, but want, paid work: just over half of all those who lack, but want, paid work are considered to be 'economically inactive', either because they are able to start work immediately or because they are not actively seeking work. Lone parents and those who are sick or disabled usually count as 'economically inactive' rather than 'unemployed'.
- There are 3.6 million people of working-age who want to be in paid work but are not. This compares to a figure of 4.4 million a decade ago. It represents 10% of the total population aged 16 to retirement.
- The number of people who are officially unemployed has fallen by 21% over the last decade, from 2.0 million in 1997 to 1.6 million in 2007. All of this fall has been among those unemployed longer than a year, where the numbers have halved: down by half from 0.7 million to 0.35 million. By contrast, the number of those unemployed for less than a year has remained broadly unchanged.
- The number of economically inactive people wanting paid work has also fallen but more slowly, down 13% from 2.4 million in 1997 to 2.1 million in 2007.
- Because the number of people unemployed has fallen faster than the number of economically inactive people wanting paid work, the fall in the unemployment rate somewhat over-states the rate of fall in the total number of people lacking, but wanting, paid work.

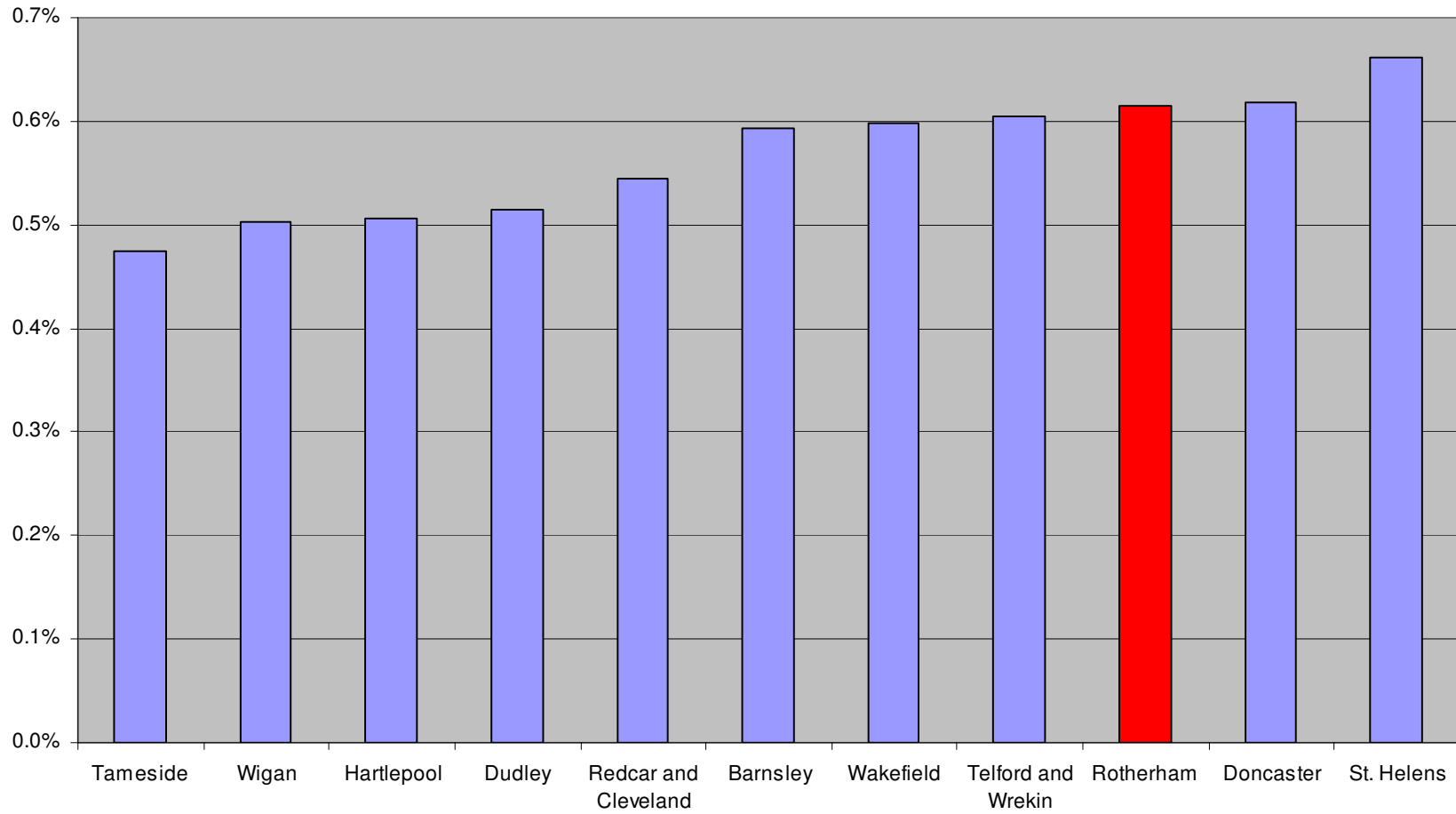
Proportion of employees paid less than £7 per hour.



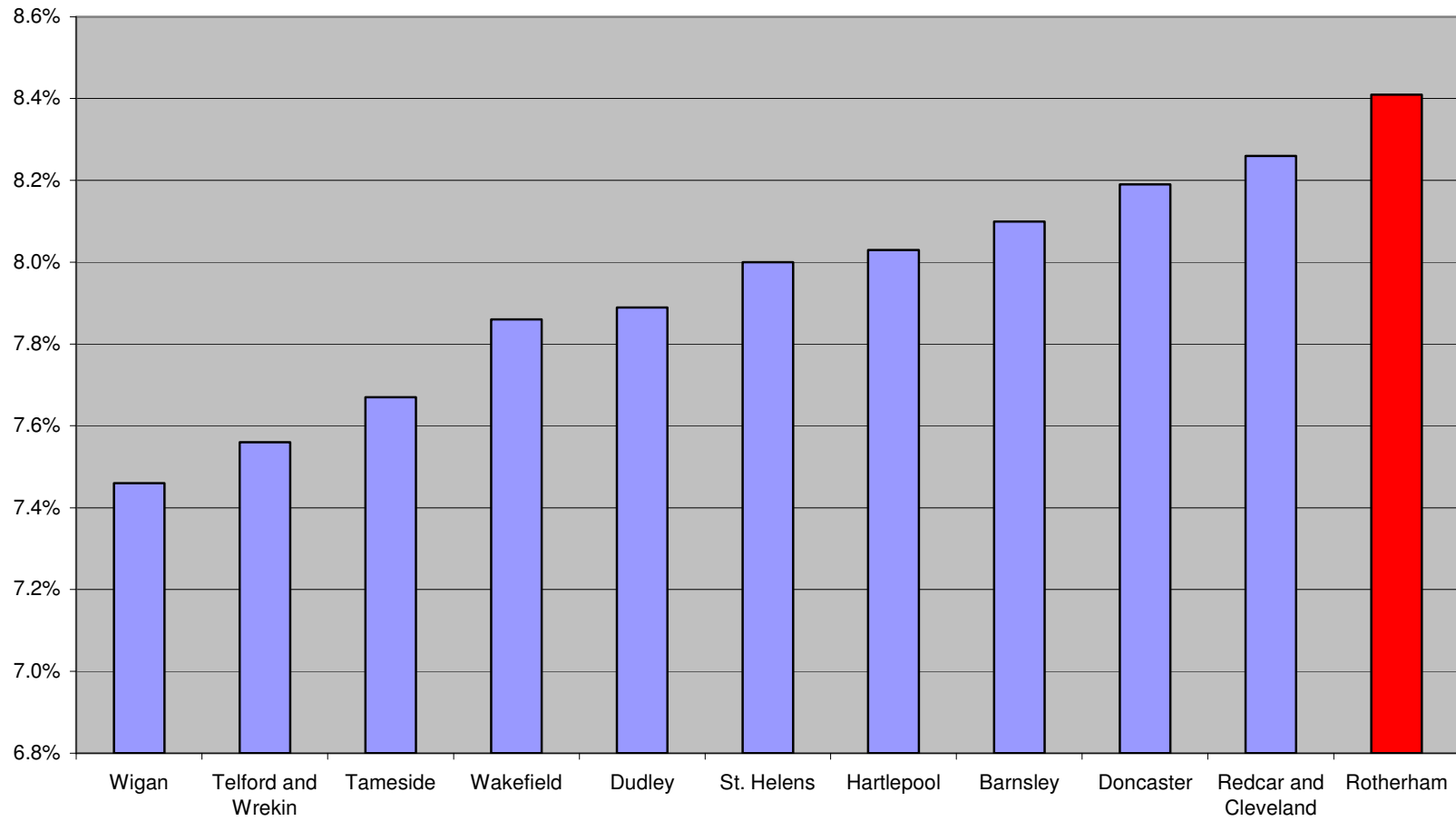
Low wages disproportionately affect young adults. This age group is also the only one where the average weekly wage fell in the early 1990s. (Labour Force Survey figures for Winter 1994/95, as cited in Action on aftercare consortium *Too much to young*, Barnardo's, 1996, page 23.)

- The only data on low pay over time is a series of estimates published by government. This indicator tracks the number of 18 to 21-year-olds on low rates of pay.
- In 2007, around 1.3 million 18 to 21-year-olds were paid less than £7 per hour. This is two-thirds of all the employees in this age group. It is a much higher proportion than that for older workers.
- Around half of those earning £7 per hour were men and half were women. More generally, the distribution of pay rates is men aged 18 to 21 is similar to that for women.
- Using a relative low pay threshold which rises in line with average earnings and was £7 per hour in 2007, the proportion of 18 to 21-year-olds who are low paid has remained broadly unchanged since at least 1998. In terms of absolute numbers, however, it is somewhat higher than a decade ago, reflecting an increase in the total number of 18 to 21-year-olds who are working.
- Between the ages of 18 and 21, more than half of all full-time employees were paid less than £7 per hour in 2007. This is in sharp contrast to those aged 22 and over.
- In most industrial sectors, at least half of all employees aged 16 to 24 are paid less than £7 per hour. The sectors with the highest proportions are hotels & restaurants (85%) and wholesale & retail (80%).
- Half of all adults aged 16 to 24 earning less than £7 per hour work in hotels & restaurants or wholesale & retail.

Proportion of live births who die in their first year.

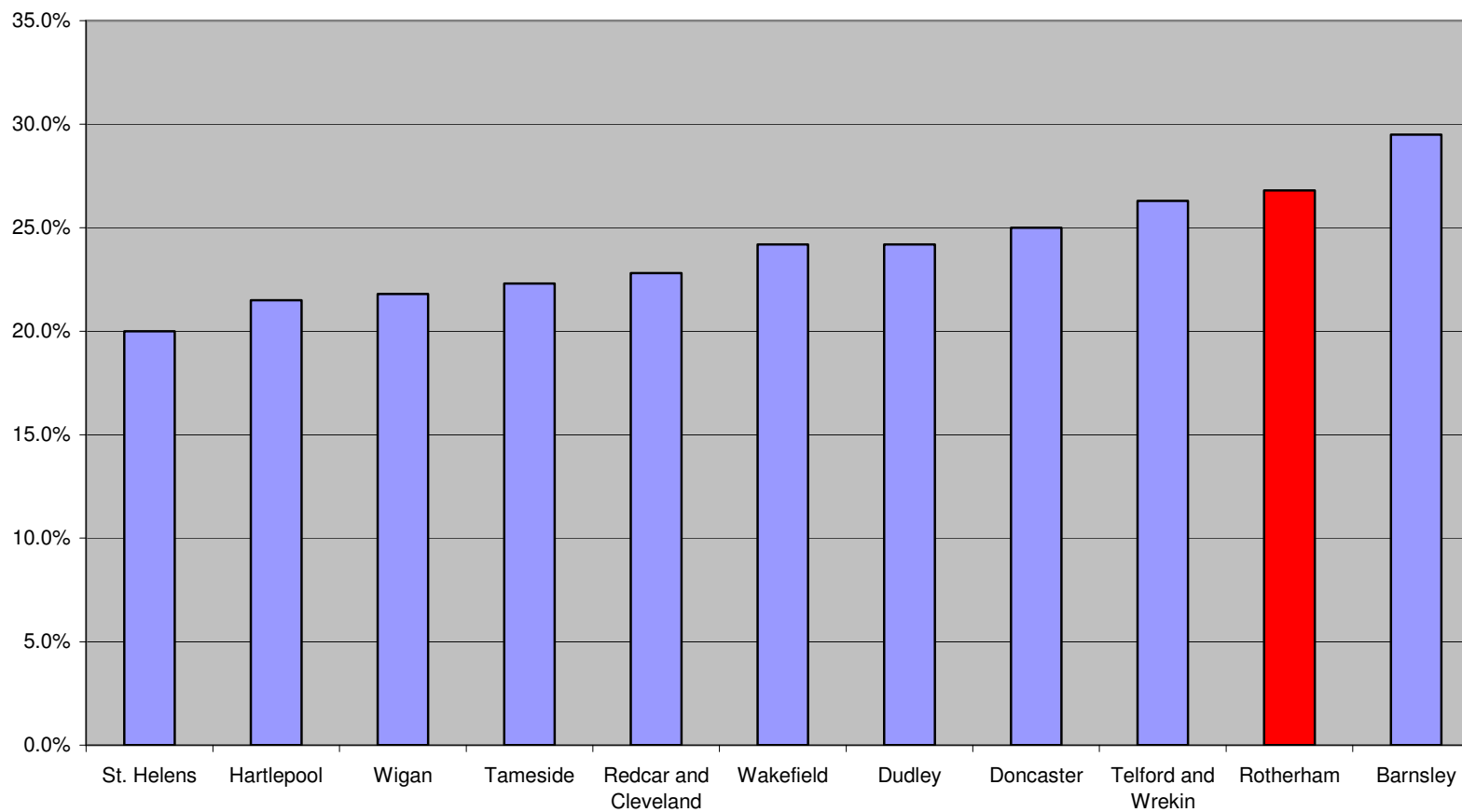


Proportion of live births who are underweight (England and Wales only).

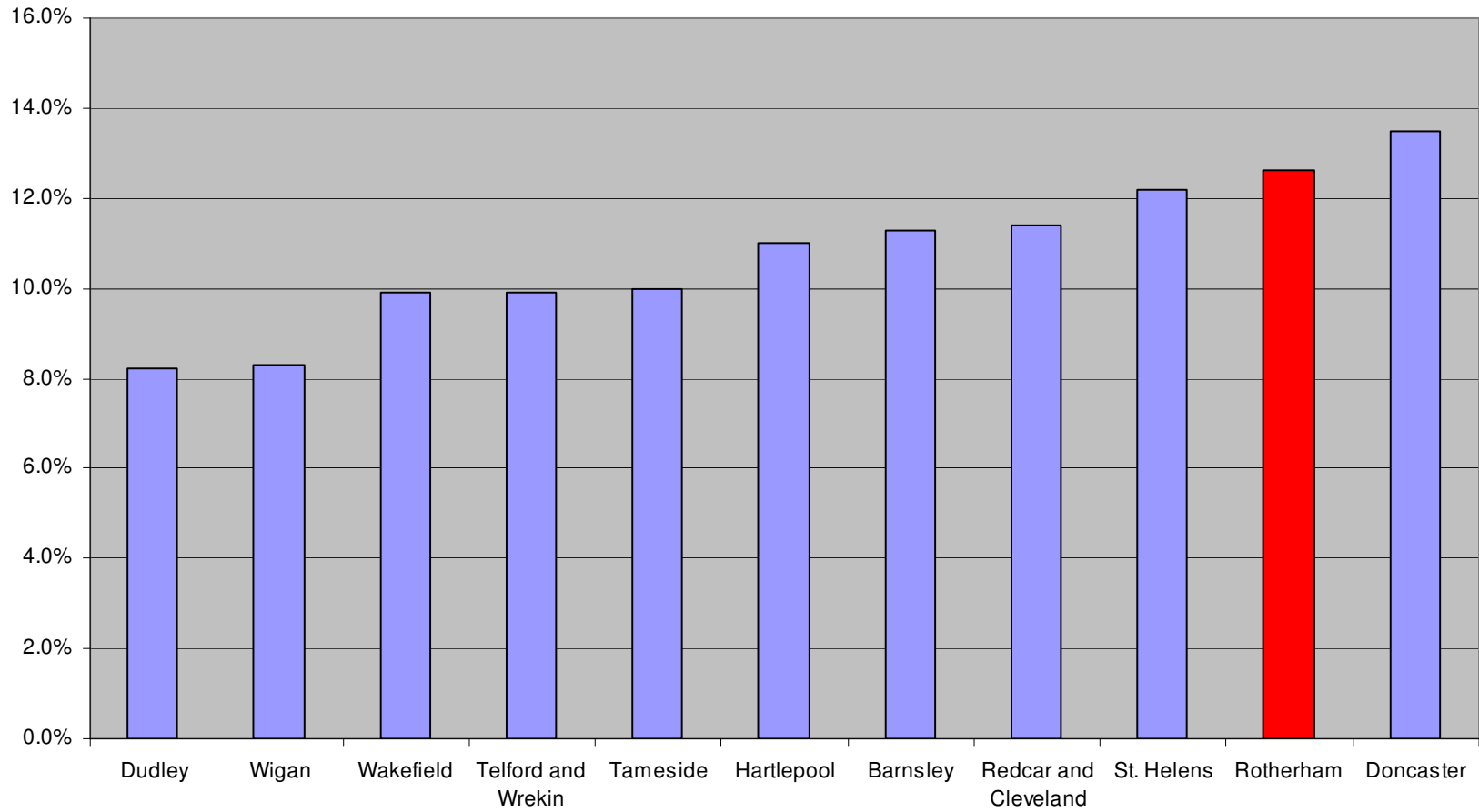


- Infant death rates among both those from manual backgrounds and those from non-manual backgrounds have fallen somewhat over the last decade but the gap between them has not reduced.
- Infant deaths are still 50% more common among those from manual backgrounds than among those from non-manual backgrounds.
- Infant mortality has traditionally been used as a major indicator of the health and, while infant mortality rates dropped sharply in the 1970s and 1980s, the rate of progress over the last decade has been much slower.
- Over the last decade, there has been a small increase in the proportion of babies in England and Wales who are of low birthweight.
- Babies from manual backgrounds are somewhat more likely to have a low birthweight than those from non-manual backgrounds: 8% compared to 6½%.
- Babies of lone parents are more likely to be of low birthweight than babies of couples: 10% compared to 7%.
- All of these differences have persisted for at least the last decade.
- The proportion of babies who are of low birthweight is similar in all regions of the UK.

Proportion of pupils failing to achieve level 4 at Key Stage 2 - average of English and Maths (England only).



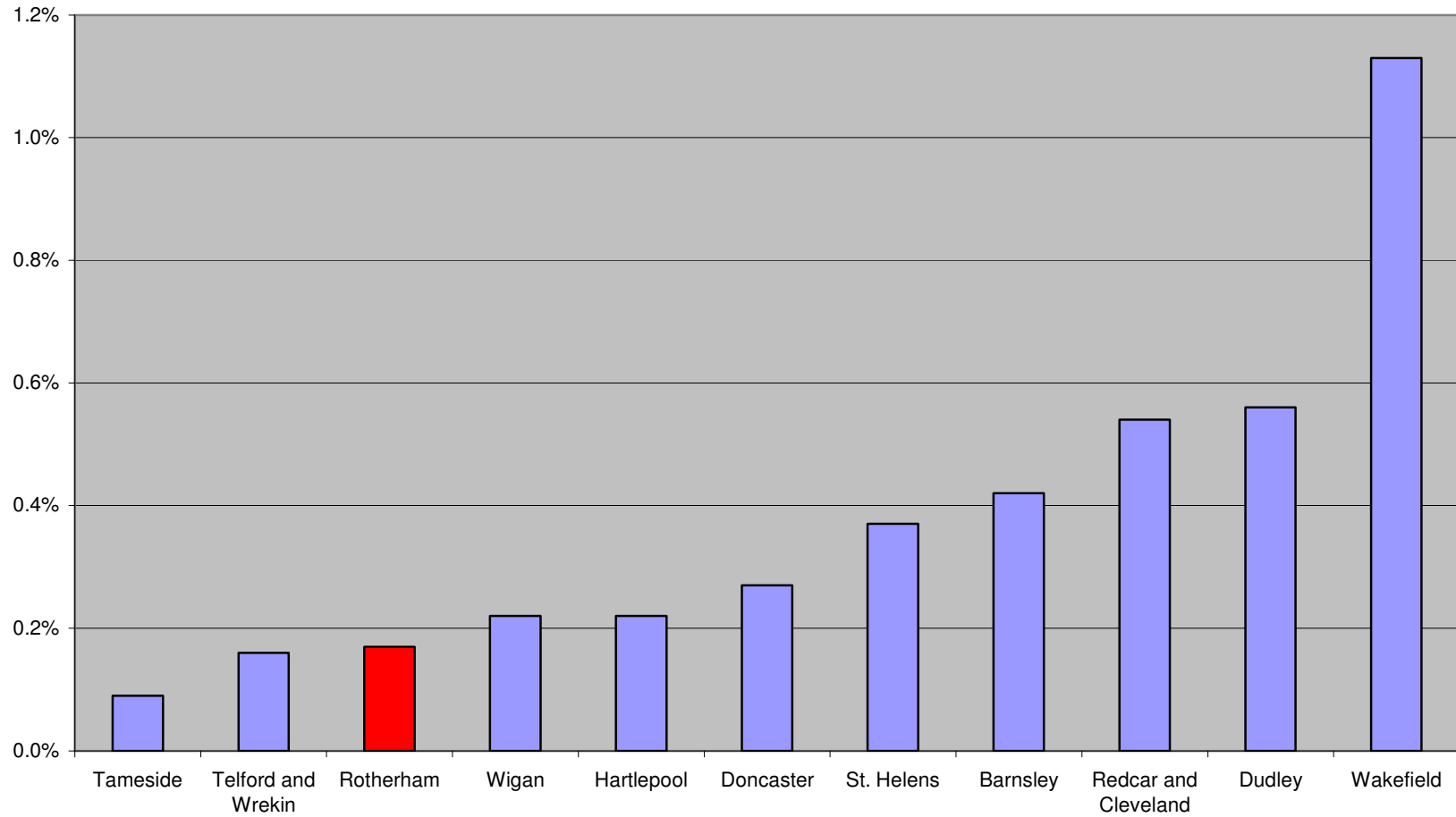
Proportion of 16-year-olds with fewer than 5 GCSEs (England only).



Although the rate of improvement has slowed since the late 1990s, progress continues to be made in the literacy and numeracy of 11-year-olds in England - including those in schools with high levels of deprivation. So, for example, in maintained mainstream schools with more than 35% of their pupils eligible for free school meals, 31% of pupils in 2007 failed to reach level 4 at Key Stage 2 in English compared with 55% a decade earlier. For Maths, the equivalent figures are 32% in 2007 compared with 55% a decade earlier.

- 11-year-olds in schools with high numbers eligible for free school meals still do worse in English and Maths than pupils in other schools, however their results are now actually better than the all-schools average was in 1998.
- 11-year-old pupils eligible for free school meals are twice as likely not to achieve basic standards in literacy and numeracy as other 11-year-old pupils. In English, for a given free school meal status (that is, eligible for free school meals or not), boys do worse than girls by at around 10 percentage points. By contrast, in Maths, for a given free school meal status there is no difference between boys and girls. In other words, there is gender gap in English, but not in Maths.
- Differences in achievement between 11-year old pupils by eligibility for free school meals are greatest amongst white pupils.
- One in ten (70,000 pupils) in England and Wales obtained fewer than 5 GCSEs in 2006/07, only slightly lower than in 1999/00. This lack of improvement contrasts with the continuing improvement for the higher threshold of 5 GCSEs at grade C or above.
- 24% of boys eligible for free school meals do not obtain 5 or more GCSEs. This compares with 17% for girls eligible for free school meals and 9% for boys not eligible for free school meals.
- 24% of White British pupils eligible for free school
- Combining gender and ethnic group, 28% of White British boys eligible for free school meals do not obtain 5 or more GCSEs. This is a much higher proportion than that for any other combination of gender, ethnic group and eligibility for free school meals.

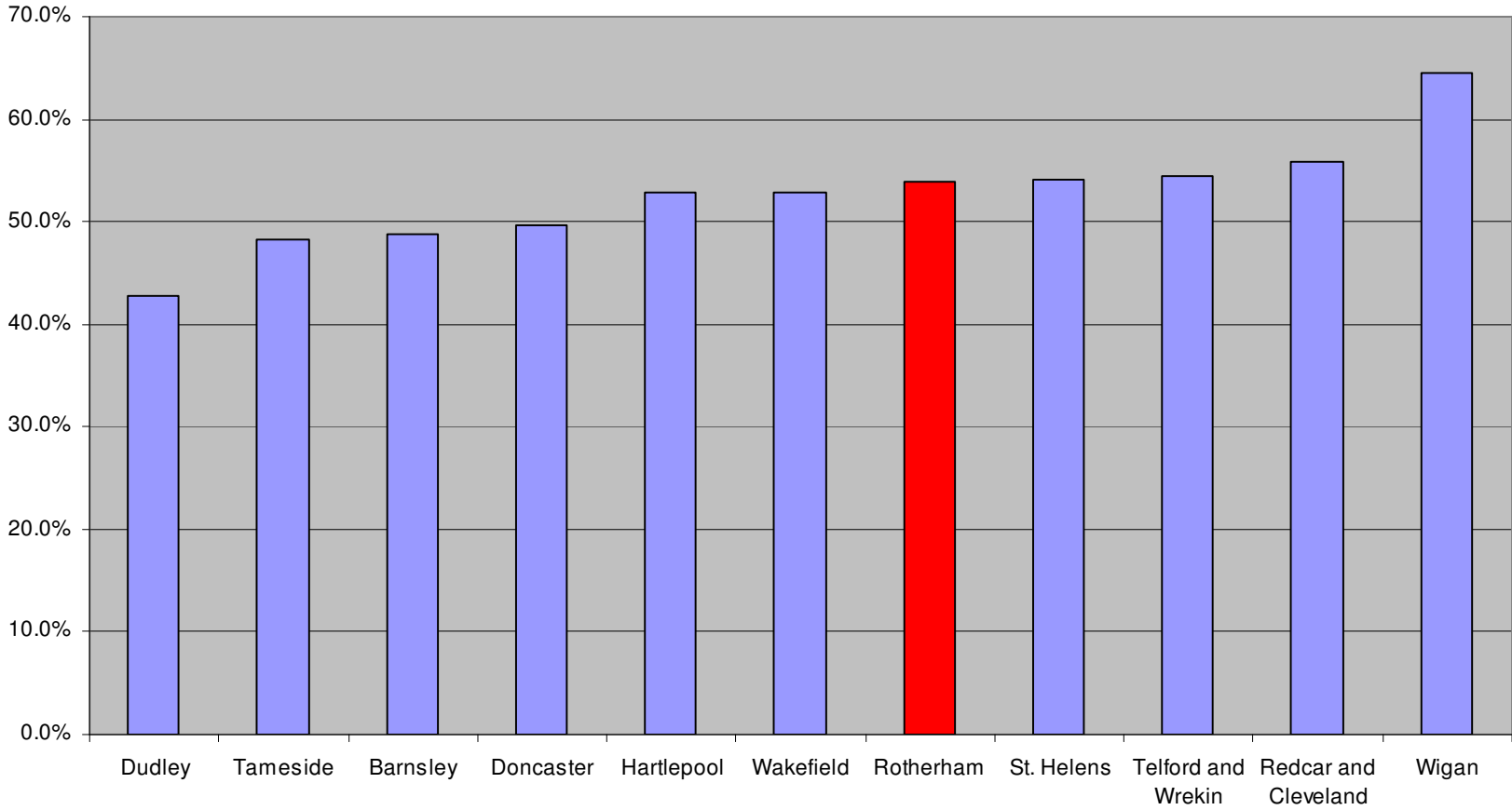
Proportion of households who are newly recognised as homeless each year (England only).



Homelessness both causes and is caused by many other aspects of poverty and social exclusion, including financial problems, lack of work and deterioration in mental and physical health. Local authorities have a responsibility to provide accommodation for many (but not all) of those accepted as homeless, who are given at least some form of temporary accommodation. But homelessness can also take other forms, such as young people living in hostels and squats or having to remain with their parents for financial reasons. Homelessness is associated with severe poverty and is a social determinant of health. Homelessness is associated with adverse health, education and social outcomes, particularly for children.

- By far the biggest reason for becoming homeless is loss of accommodation provided by relatives or friends (two-fifths of those deemed 'in priority need'), with a further fifth each being due to relationship breakdown or loss of tenancy. Mortgage and rent arrears account for just one in sixteen.
- A fifth of those accepted as homeless and in priority need by English local authorities are from ethnic minorities. This means that ethnic minority households are, overall, more than twice as likely to become homeless as the majority White population.
- Many of those who are effectively homeless live in concealed households - households which neither own nor rent the property that they are living in. Most of these people do not have dependent children.
- The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation can be seen as a measure of the capacity of local authorities to meet the needs of those homeless households whom they have a duty to accommodate.
- In the first quarter of 2008, there were around 90,000 homeless households in temporary accommodation in Great Britain. Although this number is well below the peak of 110,000 in 2005, it is still double the 45,000 in 1997.

Underage pregnancies



One particularly vulnerable group are girls who give birth as teenagers. Early child-bearing poses both physical and emotional risks for the young mother. (Farrington, D *Understanding and preventing youth crime*, Joseph Rowntree Social Policy Research paper 93, April 1996. Also, see Gustavsson, N and Segal, E *Critical Issues in Child Welfare*, Sage Publications, 1994, page 26.) There are also concerns about the risks to the children of young mothers including low school attainment, antisocial behaviour, substance abuse and early sexual activity.

Many young teenage mothers drop out of school early, (Gustavsson, N and Segal, E *Critical issues in child welfare*, Sage Publications, 1994, page 26.) and more than half never resume their education, even though they are below the statutory school leaving age. (*The needs and cares of adolescents*, British Paediatric Association, 1985, page 20.)

- The overall number of underage conceptions is similar to a decade ago, although a lower proportion now lead to actual births.
- Of the 8,500 pregnancies among girls conceiving before the age of 16 in 2006, two-fifths resulted in births and the other three-fifths in abortions.
- Teenage motherhood is eight times as common amongst those from manual social background as for those from managerial and professional backgrounds.
- The total rate of conceptions amongst girls aged under 16 is highest in the North East of England.

Child Poverty in Rotherham – Additional Health Indicators

Additional health indicators which are also indicators of poverty are collected by many different government departments and agencies. Most of the current data can be located on the *Yorkshire & Humber Public Health Observatory* website (www.yhpho.org.uk/). The following data allows for local and regional comparisons on key poverty indicators.

Percentage of children with active dental decay.

	% of Children with tooth decay	
	2001/2002	2002/2004
Primary Care Trusts		
Barnsley PCT	53.7	56.6
Doncaster Central PCT	38.7	46.6
Doncaster East PCT	43.3	49.1
Doncaster West PCT	47.8	50.0
Rotherham PCT	41.6	42.9
Sheffield South West PCT	27.4	25.0
Sheffield West PCT	29.5	28.5
ENGLAND	34.2	34.3

Number of GPs per 100,000 population, by PCT, September 2006

Primary Care Trust	GPs (FTE ¹)	Weighted Population	GPs Per 100'000 Population
Barnsley PCT	130	257,229	50.5
Doncaster PCT	169	323,523	52.2
Rotherham PCT	143	263,708	54.2
Sheffield PCT	372	541,073	68.8
England	30,931	50,044,788	61.8

Percentage (%) of live and still births <2500 grams, by local authority, 2004 - 2006

	2004	2005	2006
	%	%	%
Barnsley	9.3	8.8	8.7
Doncaster	8.8	8.7	8.4
Rotherham	8.7	9.2	9
Sheffield	9.1	8.4	8.7
ENGLAND	7.9	7.9	7.9

Source: Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators 2007

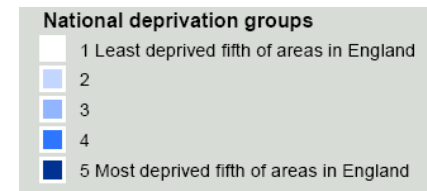
The Association of Public Health Observatories produces an annual snapshot of data which relates to measures of poverty. The 2008 report on Rotherham, which is funded by the Department of Health gives a 'snapshot of Health' in the area. With other local information, the Health Profile is 'designed to support action by local government and primary care trusts to tackle health inequalities and improve people's health.'

Key findings ('Source: APHO and Department of Health. © Crown Copyright 2008) indicate that:

- The health of people in Rotherham is generally worse than the England average. Deaths from smoking and early deaths from cancer, estimates of binge drinking, poor diet, and obesity in adults are all worse than the England averages.
- There are health inequalities within Rotherham by gender and deprivation. For example, men from the most deprived areas have over six years shorter life expectancy than those in the least deprived areas.
- Over the last ten years, all age all cause mortality rates and early death rates from cancer have decreased, but remain higher than the England average.
- Early death rates from heart disease and stroke have fallen faster than the averages for England.
- On average, there are about 500 deaths each year from smoking in Rotherham. Smoking in pregnancy and deaths from smoking are above average, but the estimated percentage of adults that smoke is similar to the England average.
- Rates of breast-feeding initiation, teenage pregnancy, and under 15-year-olds 'not in good health' are all worse than the averages for England.
- Rotherham's Local Area Agreement has prioritized improving life expectancy and breast-feeding and tackling smoking in pregnancy, road traffic accidents, childhood obesity, and teenage pregnancy.

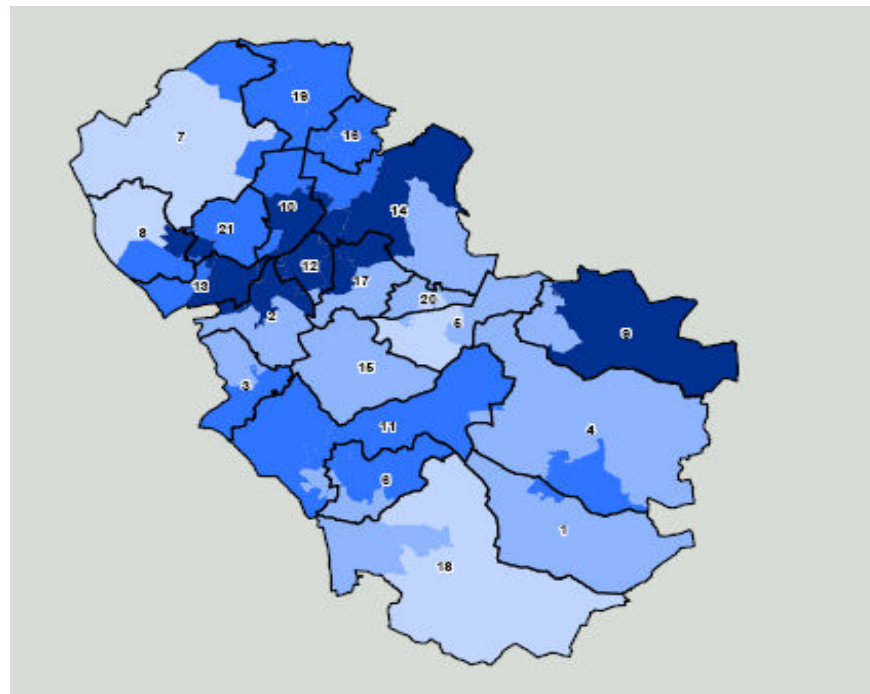
The following maps look at deprivation and how Rotherham as a borough appears in a national and local perspective. Ward boundaries 2005 are superimposed upon Middle Super Output Area boundaries. Each MSOA is shaded by Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007. Numbers correspond to ward legend.

This map shows differences in deprivation between small areas in this local authority, compared to the whole of England (based on IMD 2007).



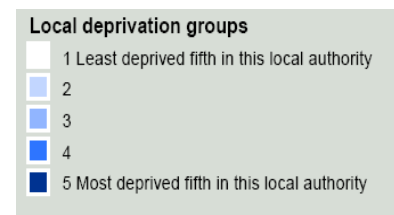
Ward legend

1	Anston and Woodsetts
2	Boston Castle
3	Brinsworth and Catcliffe
4	Dinnington
5	Hellaby
6	Holderness
7	Hoover
8	Keppel
9	Maltby
10	Rawmarsh
11	Rother Vale
12	Rotherham East
13	Rotherham West
14	Silverwood
15	Sitwell
16	Swinton
17	Valley
18	Wales
19	Wath
20	Wickersley
21	Wingfield



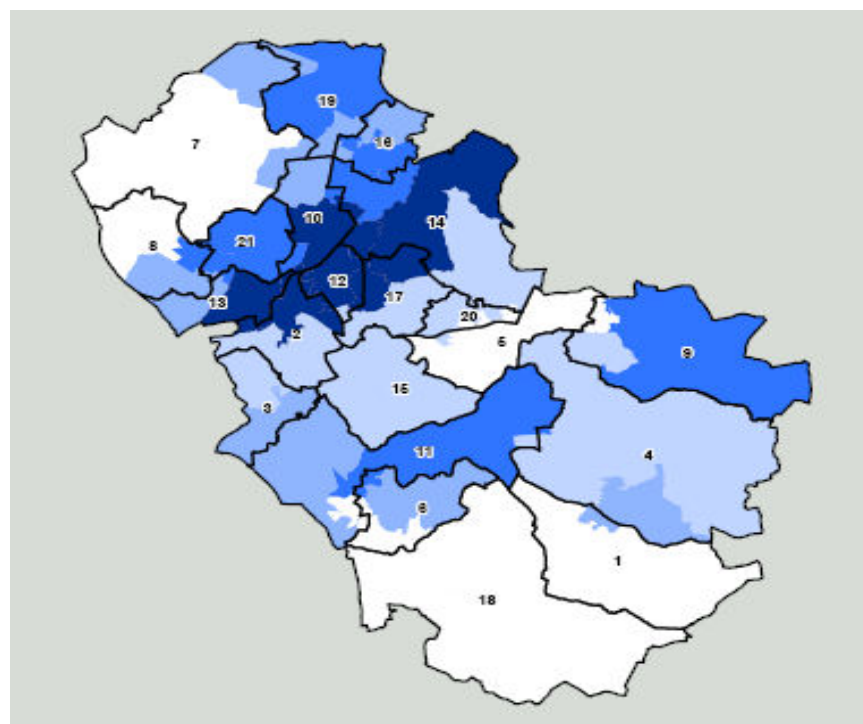
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This map shows differences in deprivation between small areas in this local authority, compared to the local authority as a whole (based on IMD 2007).



Ward legend

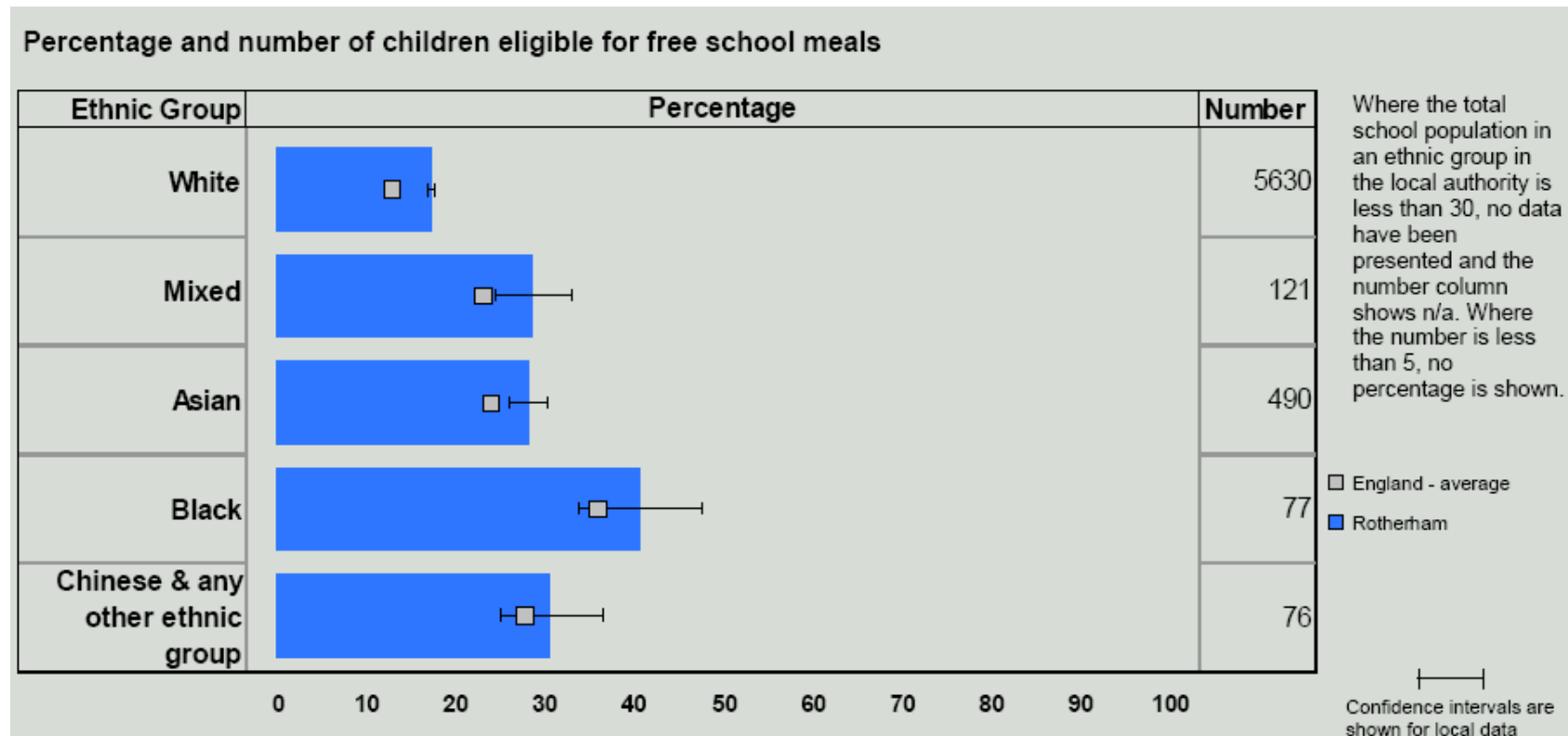
1	Anston and Woodsetts
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5	Hellaby
6	Holderness
7	Hoober
8	Keppel
9	Maltby
10	Rawmarsh
11	Rother Vale
12	Rotherham East
13	Rotherham West
14	Silverwood
15	Sitwell
16	Swinton
17	Valley
18	Wales
19	Wath
20	Wickersley
21	Wingfield



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Health inequalities: ethnicity

This chart compares the percentage of children in each ethnic group who are eligible for free school meals (2007). Eligibility for free school meals is an indicator of deprivation, and people who suffer more deprivation tend to have poorer health. Comparing deprivation by ethnic group helps identify potential health inequalities between groups.



Health summary for Rotherham

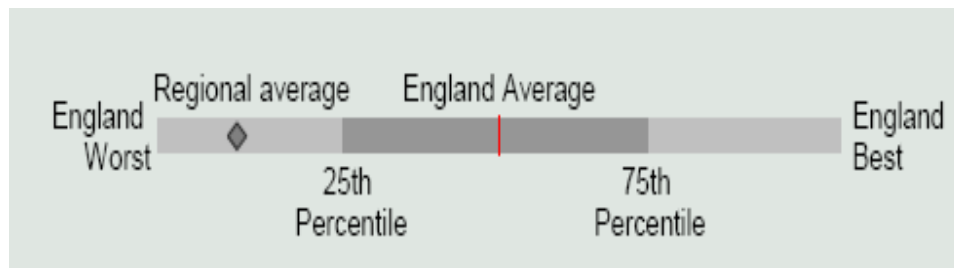
The chart below (source: APHO and Department of Health. © Crown Copyright 2008.) shows how people's health in Rotherham compares to the rest of England. It has been broken down into the areas of concern.

The indicators highlighted are those that directly relate to, or can impact on, poverty and its affect on young people.

The local result for each indicator is shown as a circle, against the range of results for England which is shown as a bar.

Key: Note that a green circle may still indicate an important public health problem.

- Significantly worse than England average
- Not significantly different from England average
- Significantly better than England average
- No significance can be calculated



The references to each indicator appear below the individual tables in each area of concern.

Our Community

Indicator	Local No. Per Year	Local Value	Eng Avg	Eng Worst	England Range	Eng Best
1 Deprivation	81619	32.3	19.9	89.2		0.0
2 Children in poverty *	12451	24.6	22.4	66.5		6.0
3 Statutory homelessness	305	2.9	4.4	14.4		0.0
4 GCSE achievement (5 A*-C) *	2074	54.6	60.1	35.8		82.7

1 % of people in this area living in 20% most deprived areas of England 2005

2 % of children living in families receiving means-tested benefits 2005

3 Crude rate per 1,000 households 2005-2006

4 % at Key Stage 4 2006-2007

Children's and young people's health

Indicator	Local No. Per Year	Local Value	Eng Avg	Eng Worst	England Range	Eng Best
7 Smoking in pregnancy	659	25.0	16.1	38.8		4.4
8 Breast feeding initiation *	1454	54.7	69.2	33.2		90.9
9 Physically active children *	31502	84.6	85.7	63.3		99.2
10 Obese children *	265	10.3	9.9	16.1		4.9
11 Children's tooth decay (at age 5)	n/a	1.8	1.5	3.2		0.4
12 Teenage pregnancy (under 18) *	262	51.6	41.1	83.1		12.5

7 % of mothers smoking in pregnancy where status is known 2006-2007

8 % of mothers initiating breast-feeding where status known 2006-2007

9 % 5-16 year olds who spend at least 2 hrs/wk on high quality PE and school sport 2006-2007

10 %. Schoolchildren in Reception year. 2006-2007

11 Average (mean) number of teeth per child which were actively decayed, filled, or had been extracted (age 5) 2005-2006

12 Under-18 conception rate per 1,000 females (crude rate) 2004-2006 (provisional)

Disease and poor health

Indicator	Local No. Per Year	Local Value	Eng Avg	Eng Worst	England Range	Eng Best
18 Under-15s 'not in good health'	618	13.0	11.6	20.8		6.4

18 % who self assessed general health as 'not good' (directly age standardised) 2001

Life expectancy and causes of death

Indicator	Local No. Per Year	Local Value	Eng Avg	Eng Worst	England Range	Eng Best
26 Life expectancy - male *	n/a	75.8	77.3	73.0		83.1
27 Life expectancy - female *	n/a	80.4	81.6	78.3		87.2
28 Infant deaths	18	6.2	5.0	10.3		0.0
29 Deaths from smoking	499	268.9	225.4	355.0		139.4
30 Early deaths: heart disease & stroke *	257	90.4	84.2	142.4		39.7
31 Early deaths: cancer *	357	127.3	117.1	167.8		76.7
32 Road injuries and deaths *	113	44.7	56.3	194.6		20.8

26 At birth, years 2004-2006

27 At birth, years 2004-2006

28 Rate /1,000 live births 2004-06

29 Per 100,000 population age 35+, directly age standardised rate. 2004-2006

30 Directly age standardised rate/100,000 pop. under 75 2004-2006

31 Directly age standardised rate/100,000 pop. under 75 2004-2006

32 Per 100,000 population (3-year average crude rate) 2004-2006

Child Poverty in Rotherham – Local Indicators

General Poverty Indicators – Rotherham (Poverty Site, www.poverty.org.uk)

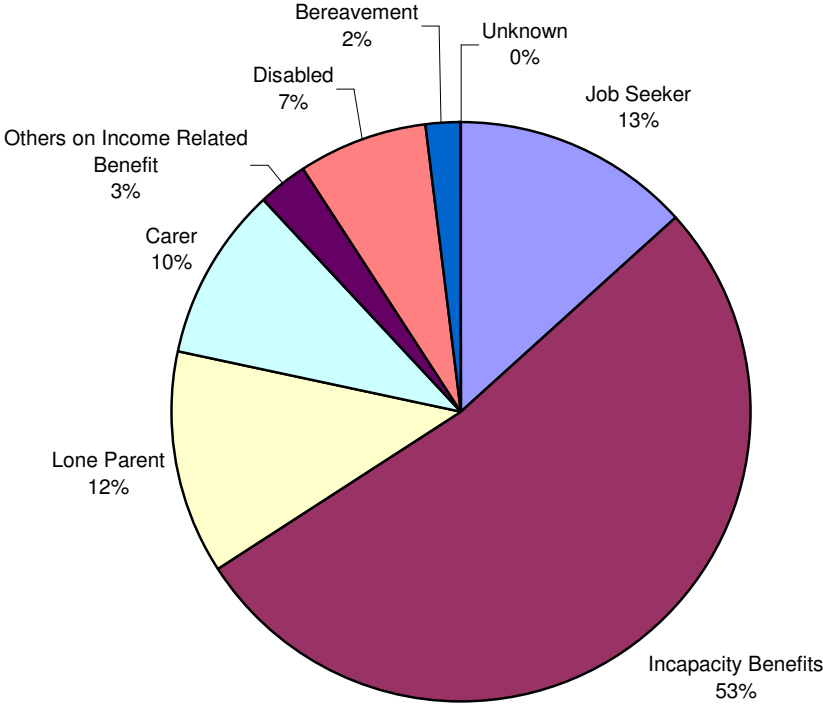
Proportion of employees paid less than £7 per hour.	31.9%
Proportion of households who are newly recognised as homeless each year (England only).	0.2%
Proportion of the working-age population who are in receipt of key out-of-work benefits.	16.5%
Proportion of working-age people who lack, but want, paid work.	9.2%

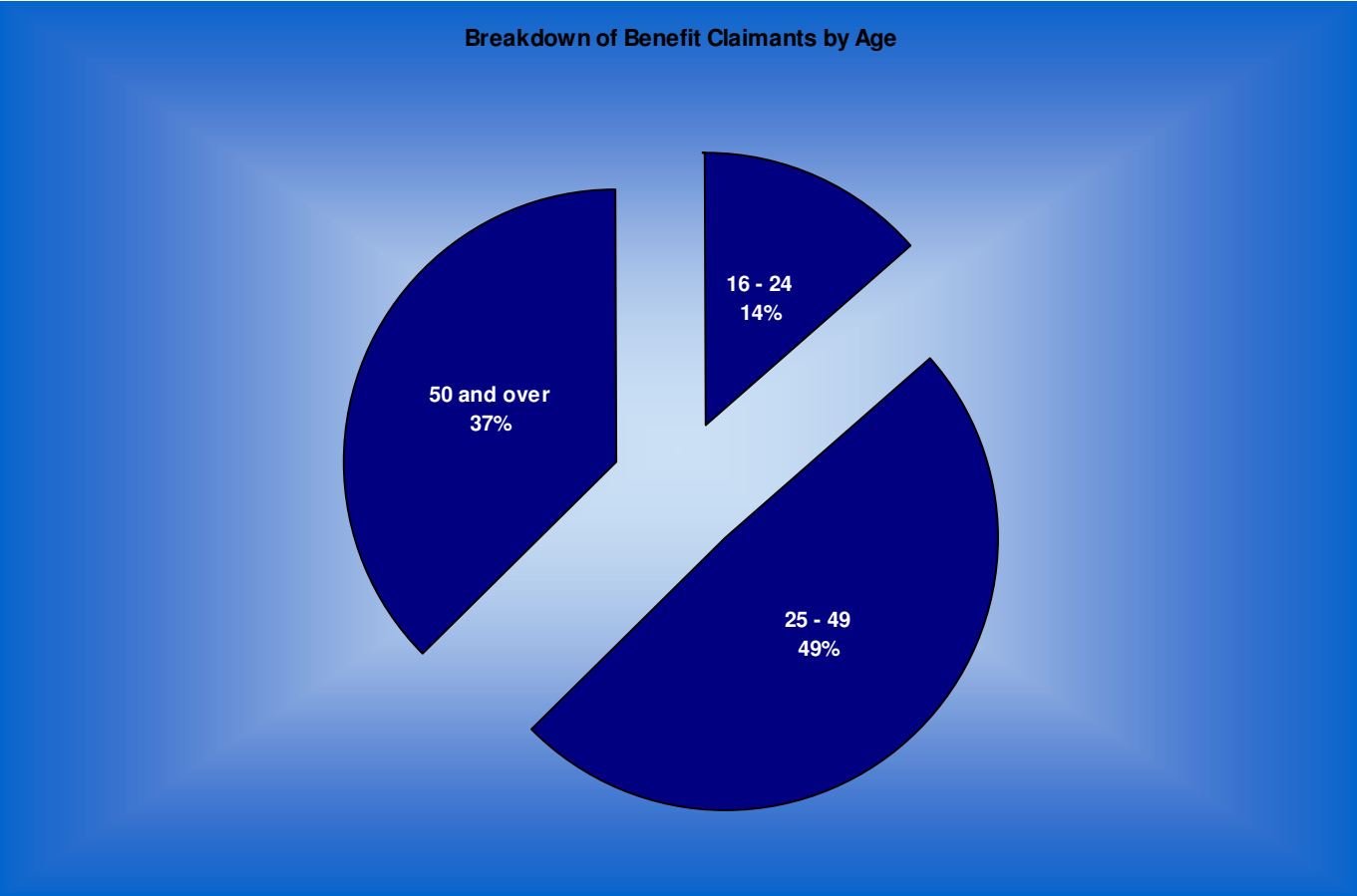
- Almost a third of all employees in Rotherham receive less than £7 per hour compared to a fifth nationally.
- This means that out of 405 districts across Great Britain (at a local authority or equivalent level), Rotherham ranks 76 (with 1st being the worst ranking).
- The proportion of households newly recognised as homeless is almost a third less than the Yorkshire and Humber average with Rotherham ranked 283 in the country.
- Rotherham has a relatively high proportion of households living on benefits. The data shows that this disproportionately affects young people with a greater proportion of children in families on benefits (19.1%) than the actual proportion of the working age-population on benefits (16.5%).
- The 16.5% of working age people on benefits in Rotherham compares to 14% in the Yorkshire and Humber region as a whole. The authority is ranked 81st out of 405 districts in Great Britain.

The make up of those in receipt of out of work benefits across Rotherham is as follows:

- 51% Male, 49% female

Breakdown of all benefit claimants by type of benefit





Child Specific Poverty Indicators

Proportion of children who are in families who are in receipt of key out-of-work benefits.	19.1%
Proportion of live births who die in their first year.	0.6%
Proportion of live births who are underweight	8.4%
Proportion of pupils failing to achieve level 4 at Key Stage 2 - average of English and Maths	26.8%
Proportion of 16-year-olds with fewer than 5 GCSEs (England only).	12.6%
Teenage pregnancies (per 1,000)	49.5

- The proportion of Children who are in families in receipt of key out of work benefits is 3.1% greater than the national average and 3% greater than the Yorkshire and Humber Average. This ranks Rotherham in the bottom quarter of local authorities on this measure (126th).
- Rotherham ranks 80th in Great Britain for the proportion of live births who die in their first year and 49th for the proportion of live births who are underweight
- In terms of achievement at Key Stage 2, Rotherham performs very poorly, with over a quarter of all students failing to gain a level 4 in English and Maths. This ranks the borough 56th out of 351 local authorities.
- The picture at 16 year old is even worse with the borough falling into the lowest 12% of local authorities measured by those young people with fewer than 5 GCSEs
- Rates of teenage pregnancies across Rotherham have shown a steady decline over the last few years with a 2.8% improvement in the latest figures (2005) since 2000. However this rate of decrease is 3.1% less than the national average.

Local data on young people allows for a wider and more rigorous analysis which can be examined at ward and areas assembly level.

This following deals with those issues which on their own do not necessarily indicate poverty but which tend to be associated with it or are by-products of it – namely, young people in care, young offenders, teenage mothers, young people with learning difficulties or disabilities, 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training, free school meals and take up of childcare. The data presented is a snapshot of the relative situations of young people who fall into one or more of these categories.

Young People in Care

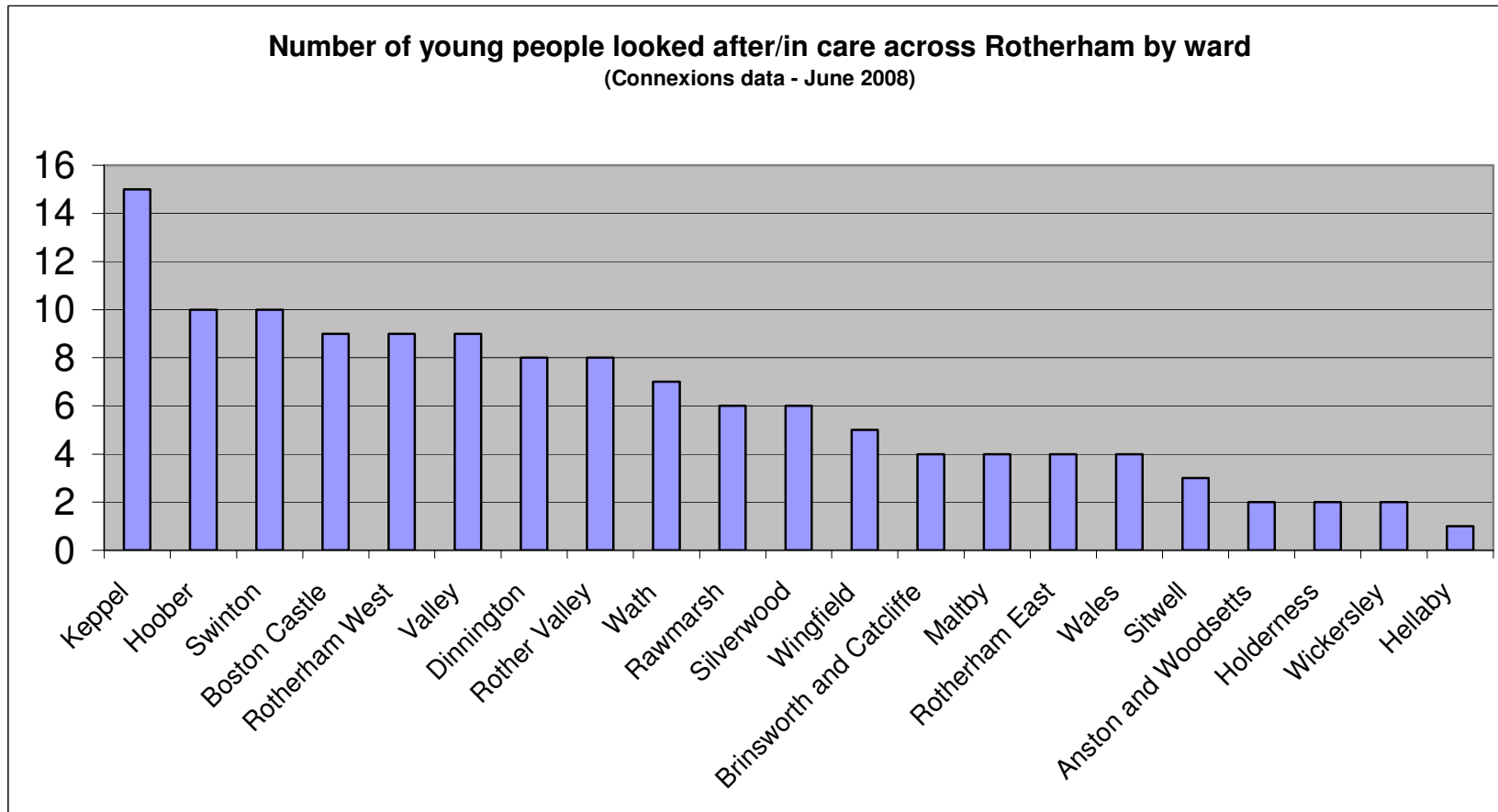
Comparison of the number of young people looked after/in care June 2007 & June 2008 (aged 13 to 19)

	Number looked after / In care (Connexions data)	
	Jun-07	Jun-08
Cohort Total	143	65
Those of compulsory education age	100	48
Those of Post Compulsory Education Age	43	17

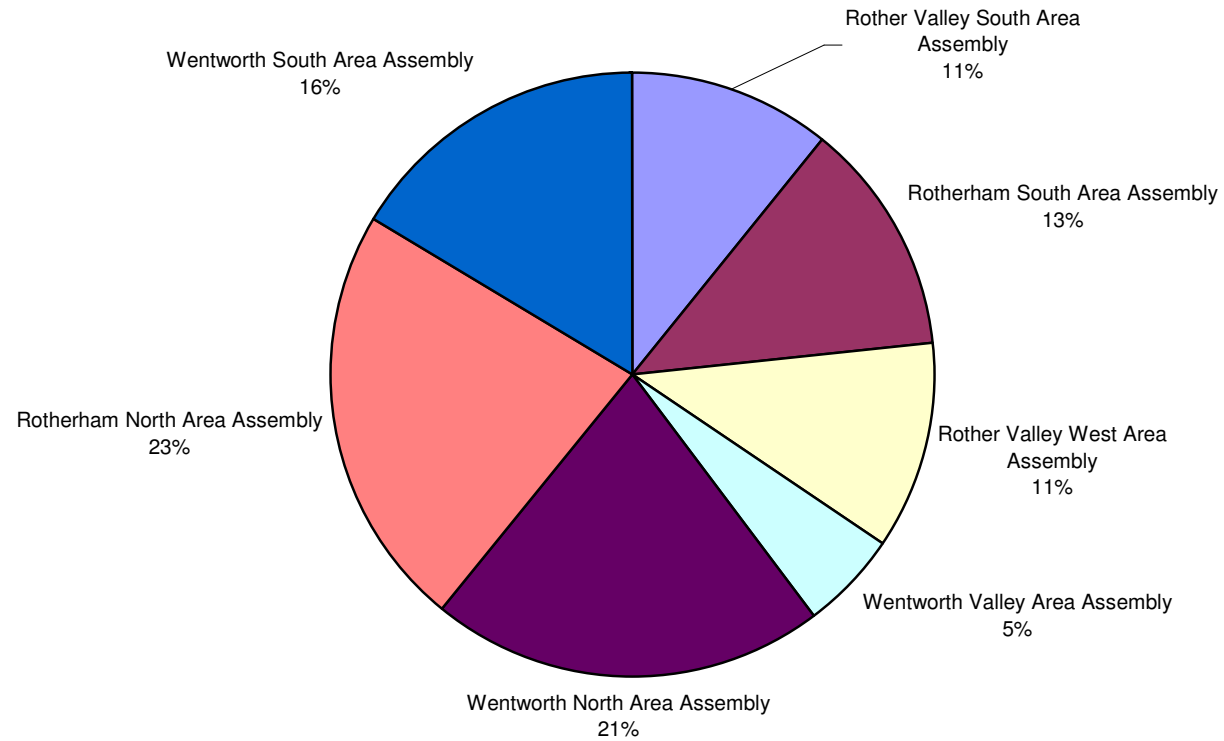
Destinations of looked after/in care young people of post-compulsory education age

	Nos. looked after / In care (Connexions data)	
	Jun-07	Jun-08
In FTE	21	9
Employment	7	0
Training	2	4
NEET + PDO	13	3
Custody	0	0
Current situation not known	0	1

Young people looked after/in care by ward and area assembly (June 2008)



Young people looked after/in care by Area Assembly as a % of all looked after/in care across Rotherham
(Connexions data - June 2008)



Young people with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities (LDD)

Numbers of young people with LDD aged 13 to 19

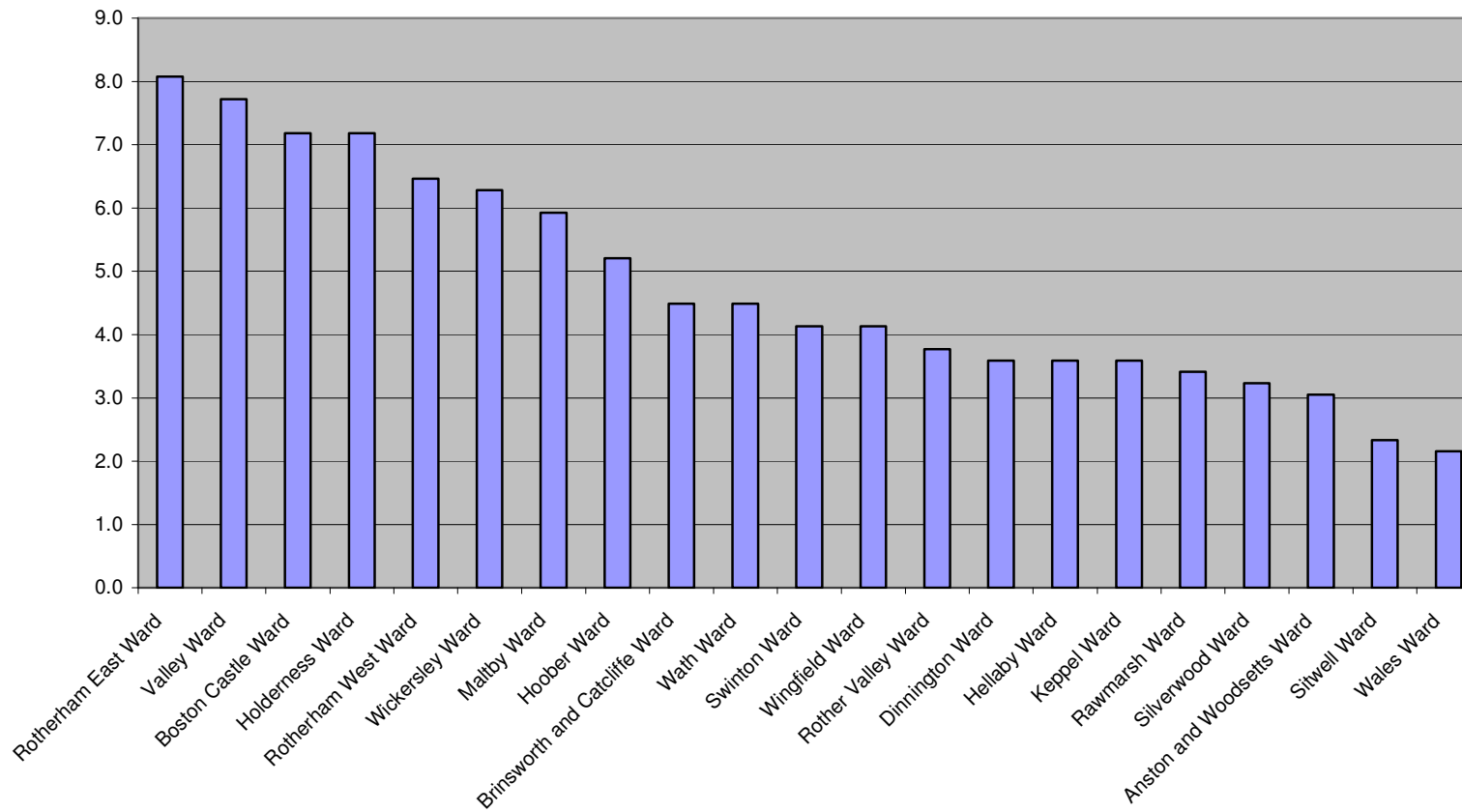
(Connexions data - June 2008)	Nos. with LDD	
	Jun-07	Jun-08
Cohort Total	2830	2734
Those of compulsory education age	1328	1367
Those of Post Compulsory Education Age	1502	1367

Destinations of young people with LDD (post-compulsory education age) aged 16 to 19

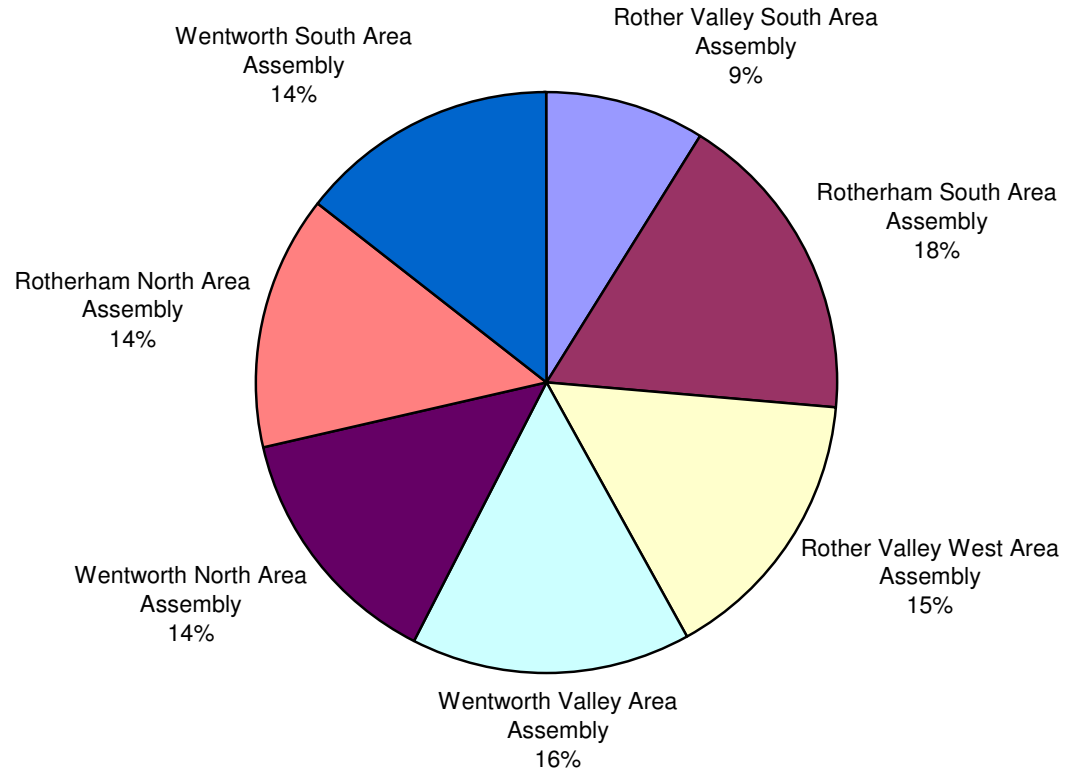
(Connexions data - June 2008)	Nos. with LDD	
	Jun-07	Jun-08
In FTE	387	350
Employment	154	138
Training	49	30
NEET	119	113
Custody	4	7
Situation not known	789	729

Young people with LDD by ward as a % of all LDD across Rotherham

(Connexions data - June 2008)



Young people with LDD by area assembly as a % of all LDD across Rotherham
(Connexions data - June 2008)



Young Offenders (supervised by YOT)

Numbers of Young Offenders

(Connexions data - June 2008)	No. of Young Offenders	
	Jun-07	Jun-08
Cohort Total	2734	2830
Those of compulsory education age	1367	1328
Those of Post Compulsory Education Age	1367	1502

Destinations of young offenders (post-compulsory education age)

(Connexions data - June 2008)	No. of Young Offenders	
	Jun-07	Jun-08
In FTE	350	387
Employment	138	154
Training	30	49
NEET	113	119
Custody	7	4
Current situation not known	729	789

Destinations of Teenage Mothers

(Connexions data - June 2008)	No. of Young Offenders	
	Jun-07	Jun-08
Cohort total	187	57
In education, post Year 11	10	1
Employment	14	0
Training	7	0
NEET Group	114	49
Current situation not known	42	7

16-18 year old NEETS

Number of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (Connexions data - June 2007/June 2008)

	June 2007					June 2008			
	Aged 16	Aged 17	Aged 18	16-18 Total		Aged 16	Aged 17	Aged 18	16-18 Total
Cohort total	680	4128	3834	8642		765	4064	3740	8569
NEET Group	53	323	295	671		62	424	351	837
% NEET	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.8		8.1	10.4	9.4	9.8

Breakdown of those available/not available to the labour market (Connexions data - June 2007/June 2008)

	June 2007					June 2008			
	Aged 16	Aged 17	Aged 18	16-18 Total		Aged 16	Aged 17	Aged 18	16-18 Total
Available to labour market	83.0	76.8	60.7	70.2		85.5	83.0	74.1	79.5
Not available to labour market	17.0	23.2	39.3	29.8		14.5	17.0	25.9	20.5

Reasons for being unavailable to Labour Market (Connexions data - June 2007/June 2008)

	June 2007					June 2008			
	Aged 16	Aged 17	Aged 18	16-18 Total		Aged 16	Aged 17	Aged 18	16-18 Total
Not available to labour market total	9	75	116	200		9	72	91	172
Young carers	0	3	5	8		3	6	2	11
Teenage parents	3	29	72	104		5	33	56	94
Illness	3	25	25	53		0	16	14	30
Pregnancy	3	17	13	33		1	15	18	34
Religious grounds	0	0	0	0		0	1	0	1
Unlikely to be economically active	0	1	1	2		0	1	1	2
Other reason	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0

MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOLS: SCHOOL MEAL ARRANGEMENTS - DCSF: Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007

	Number on roll	Pupils taking free school meals	% taking free school meals	No. known to be eligible for free meals	% known to be eligible for free meals
ENGLAND	3,272,480	314,630	9.6	429,700	13.1
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER	339,070	31,840	9.4	47,150	13.9
Barnsley	13,250	1,230	9.3	2,150	16.2
Doncaster	20,180	1,790	8.9	2,780	13.8
Rotherham	20,160	2,040	10.1	2,950	14.6
Sheffield	29,220	2,860	9.8	4,170	14.3

Number of three and four year olds accessing childcare through free early education (private, voluntary and independent providers)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	+/- 2004 to 2008	+/- 2007 to 2008
ENGLAND	1,032,725	1,027,970	1,029,705	1,054,800	1,098,090	6.3	4.1
YORKSHIRE & HUMBER	107,320	105,525	105,985	107,915	112,775	5.1	4.5
Barnsley	4,530	4,555	4,520	4,675	4,760	5.1	1.8
Doncaster	6,060	6,010	6,065	6,035	6,325	4.4	4.8
Rotherham	5,600	5,400	5,260	5,355	5,400	-3.6	0.8
Sheffield	11,005	10,870	10,465	10,690	11,290	2.6	5.6

**Jon Parry, Research Manager
September 2008**

Apendicies

Key to bar charts

Statistic	Date	Source	Notes
Proportion of the working-age population who are in receipt of key out-of-work benefits	February 2007	Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, DWP and ONS population estimates	Key out-of-work benefits are Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Carer's Allowance.
Proportion of children who are in families who are in receipt of key out-of-work benefits	average of four quarters to May 2007	DWP benefit statistics 5% sample	Children here are defined as all those aged under 16 plus those who are 16-18 and in full-time education.
Proportion of working-age people who lack, but want, paid work	average of 2004 to 2006	Annual Population Survey	
Proportion of employees paid less than £7 per hour	average of 2005 to 2007	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings	The data is by where people live, not by where they work.
Proportion of working-age households in receipt of tax credits	April 2008	Geographic Analyses, HM Revenue & Customs and Census household estimates	Excludes those just in receipt of the Family Element of tax credits. Also excludes those who are not working but are receiving tax credit child supplements rather than their benefit equivalents.

Proportion of live births who die in their first year	average of the nine years to 2006	Key population and vital statistics, ONS	
Proportion of live births which are under 2,500 grams	average of nine years to 2006	Key population and vital statistics, ONS	There is currently no data for 2005, so this year is not included in the averaging.
Proportion of pupils failing to reach level 4 at Key Stage 2 (average of English and Maths)	average of 2005 to 2007	DCSF National Pupil Database	The data is the average for English and Maths in maintained schools and based on where the pupils live, not where their school is.
Proportion of 16-year-olds with fewer than 5 GCSEs	average of 2004/05 to 2006/07	DCSF National Pupil Database	The data is by where the pupils live, not where their school is. The data is for maintained schools only. The data is for those aged 15 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August. This is not quite the same as pupils in the final year of their compulsory education. The data includes vocational equivalents to GCSEs.
Annual number of newly homeless households per 1,000 total households	England: 2007 Scotland: average of 2004/05 to 2006/07 Wales: average of 2005 to 2007	England: DCLG Statistical Releases Scotland: Scottish Executive Statistical Bulletins Wales: Local Government Data Unit Wales	As officially recognised as newly homeless by their local authorities.

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Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Observatory, www.yhpho.org.uk/

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 30th October 2009
3.	Title:	The Directory of services and activities for children, young people and families – Young People’s Zone
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary

The Families Information Service (FIS) ensures that the Information Duty of the Childcare Act 2006 is met by providing information on childcare and services to parents and carers in Rotherham. To meet this duty The Directory was developed to expand on the current information held on childcare to include information on services and activities for children, young people and families. The Directory was developed in conjunction with the Youth Service to meet their requirement to provide information to meet the Youth Offer requirements, which is achieved via the ‘Young People’s Zone’ of the Directory.

A report on the 2nd October 2009 updated Scrutiny on the progress of the recommendations arising from the Review of Youth Services from 2008. One of the recommendations from the Review was omitted however - *That resources are identified to support the further development and maintenance of the Directory of Services*, and this Report provides the necessary information.

6. Recommendations

That Scrutiny Panel receive this report for information.

7. Proposals and Details

The Families Information Service (FIS), is based within the Early Years and Childcare Service and holds up to date information on all childcare in Rotherham. A website has been developed to provide this information and is also used for additional information in relation to other services and activities for children 0 – 19. www.rotherham.gov.uk/thedirectory

To establish the website, the FIS purchased an additional software module (with Sure Start grant funding) from Opportunity Links to hold details of the additional services. At the same time, the Youth Service were developing the Youth Offer as a result of the Government initiative *Aiming High for Young People – A 10 Year Strategy*, which included a requirement to publicise information about positive activities. It was agreed to work together on one 'Directory' to meet both needs. Information is provided to the FIS by the Youth Service on a regular basis to keep The Directory up to date.

Consultation was carried out with parents, children and young people on both the name of the directory as well as the look and feel of the website.

The FIS staff add additional records to The Directory database on an ongoing basis and records are updated on a 6th monthly basis. Links are in place with the Youth Service to provide updated information 6 monthly. Information on sports activities are sourced from Mega Active publications, half termly newsletters and the council website.

The information below details no of 'visits' made to the website in the first two quarters of this year and the referral sources of these visits, with the specific visits to the Young People's Zone in brackets. It should also be noted that young people are able to access the Zone page directly via the School Portal:

			Method of Referral		
2009/10	No of Visits	No of page views	Search Engine	Via another site	Directly
Quarter 1	2077 [585]	24,661	40%	41%	19%
Quarter 2	1882 [527]	20,231	42%	41%	17%

8. Finance

The initial purchase cost of the software / website design for The Directory was £21,000. The Youth Service contributed £12,500 towards this. Ongoing annual maintenance / support costs are £2,600 which are fully met by the Early Years and Childcare Service at this time.

In 2008 local authorities were informed that the central DCSF contract for the iChis database would come to an end (in September 2009) and all local authorities were provided with additional grant funding to independently purchase an alternative solution.

This has taken place and The Directory is being maintained within the new solution. Annual maintenance / support costs for The Directory module now amount to £1,200

and these cost are being met through Sure Start Grant Funding of which the current funding stream runs until 31st March 2011.

These above costs maintain the directory in its current format. If any changes are required to the layout of the Young Peoples section in the future then additional funding would have to be identified. This is not profiled in the Youth Services budget.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

It is essential that this system is maintained to ensure the Information Duty of the Childcare Act and the information required by Aiming High, continue to be met.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The FIS, using the above mentioned information, support delivery of the Childcare Act 2006, particularly:

- The Information Duty
- The Sufficiency Duty
- The Early Years Outcomes Duty
-

The Youth Service uses the Directory to provide information in accordance with:

- Education and Inspection Act 2006
- Statutory Guidance for Positive Activities
- Aiming High for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities 2007

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Duty to provide information, advice and assistance: Guidance for local authorities childcare act 2006
- Securing Sufficient Childcare: Guidance for local authorities childcare act 2006
- Aiming High for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities 2007
- Youth Matters DfES July 2005

Contact Name:

Simon Perry – Director of Community Services tel: 823687 simon.perry@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2	Date:	Friday 30th October 2009
3	Title:	Narrowing the Gap (Raising the Bar) Project
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 background, progress to date and initial recommendations of the project.

6 Recommendations

- **That the report be received.**
- **That the Scrutiny Panel notes the concerns related to the gap in attainment between the lowest 20% and the mean at Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.**
- **That the Scrutiny Panel endorses the drive to encourage all schools to narrow the gap by addressing the needs of vulnerable pupils and their families.**
- **That the Scrutiny Panel endorses the recommendations of the project group to increase the number of children accessing quality pre school provision in order to improve future outcomes in the academic attainment of boys and other vulnerable and underachieving groups.**

7 **Proposals and Details**

a) Background

The 'Raising the Bar' research project began in the Autumn Term of 2008 as a result of serious concerns arising from the following issues:

- The gap in Rotherham between the lowest 20% and the mean at the end of Foundation Stage in 2008 was one of the highest nationally.
- There was an increasing proportion of children attaining below Level 2 in all core subjects at the end of Key Stage 1, exceeding national and regional trends. There was also an increasing percentage of children attaining below the level of the tests at the end of Key Stage 2, compared to a decline regionally and nationally. These children will experience difficulty in accessing the curriculum at secondary school and are statistically more likely to be excluded or to truant.

Why is there a significant gap in Rotherham?

Rotherham has a range of contextual features which may have a negative impact on children's attainment, for example Super Output Areas (SOA) around 53%, compared to 33% nationally, and a Child Wellbeing index below that of statistical neighbours. However, as a result of the Council's commitment to breaking the link between poverty and underachievement, an in-depth investigation was commissioned by the Executive Director of CYPS.

Involvement of the Education Action Zones (EAZs).

All but three schools in the L.A. reported children in the lowest 20% at the end of Foundation Stage in 2008. However, most of these children were living in communities linked to the three Education Action Zones. For example the Clifton EAZ has around 30% of the lowest 20%. The EAZ Project Directors recognised the benefits of the project and how it could support the more efficient deployment of resources.

b) Aims of the project

The aims of the project are:

- to increase our collective knowledge and understanding of the specific characteristics of those children who are at greatest risk of underachievement in order to target action and resources to overcome these barriers to learning.
- to make recommendations to key stakeholders across the Council, regarding the deployment of services, resources and enhanced provision.

c) Collection of evidence

The three EAZs organised a collection of data for children in the bottom 20% at Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, using the following characteristics:

- Background information such as Free School Meals, SOA, English as an Additional Language (EAL), ethnicity, Special Educational Needs (SEN), home circumstances, attendance, punctuality, significant life event
- Engagement with learning, including motivation to learn and understanding how to be an effective learner
- Self esteem and confidence
- The acquisition of skills such as listening, verbal, spatial, memory, and social interaction.
- Disrupted key stage and mobility
- Term of birth
- Gender
- Pre school experience
- Interventions

Scoring

Each characteristic was given a score according to the following criteria

0 – not a factor

1 – minor factor

2 – medium factor

3 – major factor

It quickly became apparent that moderation of the scores would be necessary in order to establish consistency and accuracy across all of the schools; for example, a characteristic judged as a grade 3 in one school might be judged as 2 in another.

d) Analysis of data

The data collection sheets were submitted to the LA data team. However, in spite of an in-depth analysis, no significant conclusions were drawn. The data connected with pre-school experience was very limited. Some schools, particularly Junior schools, had little or no knowledge of children's pre-school experience. The EAZ Project Directors made the decision to ask schools to revisit this area and new data collection sheets were issued, with the expectation that school staff would make every effort to obtain the information.

It became apparent that it was very difficult to track children's pre-school experience as unique pupil numbers are not issued at this stage. Many schools reported that significant numbers of pupils had not accessed pre school provision, particularly the 'hard to reach' and those with EAL.

At this stage the membership of the project group was extended to include representatives from the Early Years and Childcare team.

National research

A number of recently published documents highlighted the significance of the education of the mother, attendance at quality pre school settings and gender as being the most significant indicators of future academic achievement. Attending a high quality pre school was found to be particularly beneficial for

boys, pupils with SEN and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Attendance at poor quality or less effective provision was seen to have very limited impact on future attainment.

Recommendations arising from the work so far

Implement well focused and sustained system-level strategies for remediating child and family poverty to improve the range of ECM outcomes for young children and impact upon their future progress and attainment.

- Ensure that sufficient places are available in high quality settings that are accessible and meet the needs of the children and families.
- Provide culturally sensitive outreach and family support to help parents and ensure that their children attend pre school provision. Parents should also be encouraged to engage in simple educational activities with their children and contribute to the quality of the home learning environment. Some re alignment of the workforce may be necessary. This will require further investigation in order to establish whether practitioners across Rotherham are being effectively deployed for maximum benefit to young children and their families, or whether additional workers are required in some areas.
- Seek to boost a mother's education and pass on positive learning behaviours to their young children - possible support from 'Inspire Rotherham'
- Allocate Unique Pupil Numbers to pre school pupils so that their attendance can be tracked
- Develop a more effective multi professional approach, involving the localities.
- Identify the services which hold information about 'hard to reach' families and establish what could be shared in order to provide better services for vulnerable children.

Outcomes for 2009

The gap in attainment between the lowest 20% and the mean has been considerably reduced at Foundation Stage from 2008 to 2009.

The table below shows the % of pupils achieving the Early Years Outcomes for 2008 and 2009.

Pupils in the LA	2008	2009	Diff
% achieving 6+ in Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)	68.5	73.6	5.1
% achieving 6+ in Communication, Language & Literacy (CLL)	47.1	53.8	6.7
% achieving 6+ in PSED & CLL	44.2	50.4	6.2
% achieving 78 points across the Foundation Stage Profile	64.7	72.1	7.4
% achieving 78 points & 6+ in PSED & CLL	44.2	50.4	6.2
LA % gap between median and lowest 20%	44.4	35.7	-8.7

However, at Key Stage 1, the gap has increased in the majority of areas. This is particularly significant in mathematics for all pupils and girls at Level 2+, and

girls at Level 2B+. The gap in girls' writing, and boys' reading at Level 2+ are also a cause for concern.

Improvements include girls' reading at Level 2B+ and mathematics at Level 3.

	Reading								
	L2+			L2b+			L3		
	All	Boys	Girls	All	Boys	Girls	All	Boys	Girls
2008	62.0	58.2	65.9	64.2	57.6	71.5	24.0	19.3	29.0
2009	64.8	61.8	67	64	58.2	69.5	25.7	20.8	30.9
Difference	2.8	3.6	1.1	-0.2	0.6	-2.0	1.7	1.5	1.9

	Writing								
	L2+			L2b+			L3		
	All	Boys	Girls	All	Boys	Girls	All	Boys	Girls
2008	65.2	63.5	65.4	56.2	48.7	64.2	12.5	8.7	16.6
2009	66.1	63.2	67.8	59.2	49.7	69.2	13.4	9	18.1
Difference	0.9	-0.3	2.4	3.0	1.0	5.0	0.9	0.3	1.5

	Maths								
	L2+			L2b+			L3		
	All	Boys	Girls	All	Boys	Girls	All	Boys	Girls
2008	39.7	35.3	45.8	56.4	52.6	61.9	21.9	22.3	21.5
2009	44.2	36.8	56	58.1	52.2	66.4	21.1	23.4	18.6
Difference	4.5	1.5	10.2	1.7	-0.4	4.5	-0.8	1.1	-2.9

Outcomes for Key Stage 2 are not yet available.

Actions Taken

School Improvement Partners (SIPs), advisers and consultants have contributed by consistently emphasising the need to address the underachievement of vulnerable groups, which will be an area of particular focus in the new Ofsted framework.

The three EAZs have also been very proactive in exploring the issues and in working to engage the 'hard to reach'. The project has divided into two main areas of work

1. the engagement of children and families in pre-school provision and support for the vulnerable
2. the use of the data to enable schools to improve provision for children in the lowest 20%.

The Clifton Project

As part of the Council's commitment to 'local leaders finding local solutions' the Clifton EAZ has set up a strategy group, including representation from a number of agencies, and is working towards the following aims.

- A small amount of time is to be committed by a number of agencies to work towards engaging with identified families with pre-school age children in order to support them to access appropriate services and appropriate pre-school provision for their children.
- Workers will engage with a small number of identified families over the long-term (up to a year initially), making contact regularly to provide support
- Workers will initially support 2 families; when the need for support reduces, another family will be added to their caseload. However, cases will not be 'closed' and contact will continue for the full year.
- Staff will work under the guiding principles of the Clifton Behaviour Improvement (BIP) Team, which includes looking at the needs of the whole child, as in ECM, to address inequalities, to be non-judgmental, to build trust, to be solution-focused and persistent, doing 'whatever it takes'

The Extra Mile Project

The LA is now involved in a high profile DCSF research project which focuses on narrowing the gap between the attainment of children from low income families and their more affluent peers.

It involves five schools (one of which will be a 'lead school') and is funded by the DCSF. All of the schools are situated in the EAZs and this work will link to the 'Raising the Bar' project.

National College for School Leadership (NCSL) Narrowing the Gap Project

Headteachers in the Clifton EAZ have been successful in securing funding to support the development of leadership and CPD in narrowing the gap. This will also link with the work already being done through the 'Raising the Bar' project by the deputy headteachers.

8 **Finance**

Funding for the identification of, intervention in and support for schools that are underachieving is a key focus for the core budget of the School Effectiveness Service.

Additional grant funding of £27,000 has been provided by the DCSF for the 'Extra Mile' project.

£4,000 has been secured for the NCSL Narrowing the Gap project.

9 **Risks and Uncertainties**

Should Rotherham's schools show insufficient progress in narrowing the gap in future years, this could result in:

- Declining and lower standards at the end of KS2
- Significant numbers of children underachieving, which reduces their opportunities post statutory education.

- The Council's rating, in relation to the quality of services and its statutory responsibility to raise standards will be affected through the CPA and APA systems
- The Council's intervention rating with DCSF could be increased.

10 **Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Pupil achievement is a key performance indicator (Learning), in the Community Strategy, the Corporate Plan, the Children and Young People's Single Plan and The learning without Limits Partnership Plan (schools).

11 **Background Papers and Consultation**

- Narrowing the gap in outcomes for young children through effective practices in the early years – Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (2009)
- Pre school, school and family influences on children's development during Key Stage 2 – DCSF (2009)
- Breaking the link between disadvantage and low attainment –DCSF (2009)
- The Extra Mile – DCSF (2009)

Contact Name: Claire Sneath - Lead Adviser, School Effectiveness Service
Telephone: 01709 336823
E-mail: claire.sneath@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 30th October, 2009
3.	Title:	Government’s Response to Lord Laming Report
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services.

5. Summary

On 12th March, 2009, Lord Laming’s report, ‘The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report’, was published. The Government published an immediate response in which it accepted all of Lord Laming’s recommendations.

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council’s Children and Young People’s Services has completed an initial assessment of the borough’s position with regard to the recommendations and a report outlining the findings was presented to Rotherham Borough Council members on 15th July 2009 and the Children and Young People’s Board on 16th September 2009. Lead members requested regular updates to track progress across the borough. A report outlining the findings was presented to Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board on 11th September 2009. Members present felt that the focus of the report should be self assessment with the Safeguarding Children Board remit being that of quality assurance. This proposal is to be taken forward by members of the Safeguarding Children Board.

The attached Action Plan has been given a ‘RAG Status’ (Red, Amber, Green) based on a further assessment of Rotherham’s ongoing position.

6. Recommendations

That Members of the Children’s Scrutiny Panel endorses the plan and requests a progress update on compliance with Laming’s recommendations.

7. Proposals and Details

Each Member agency of the Safeguarding Board would consider all of Lord Laming's recommendations, the government's response and the action plan attached to this report. Each member agency then will assess the actions required, determining and monitoring timescales for identified actions. The Safeguarding Children Board Manager will co-ordinate and review progress against each of the actions identified within the Action Plan.

8. Finance

To date, the Government has not released any specific ring-fenced grants or additional budgets for implementation of the Laming recommendations. Capacity for the Safeguarding Children Board with regard to the additional administrative time required is an issue that requires consideration.

9. Risk and Uncertainties

The Safeguarding Children Board will assess each agency's current provision and quality of services against the Action Plan. The risks associated with the action plan are significant as failure to address the issues identified as requiring action are likely to render agency practice unsafe.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The introduction of the Comprehensive Area Assessment has introduced new inspection arrangements for Safeguarding. The framework and grade descriptors for these Inspections were published by Ofsted at the end of May 2009.

On 4th and 5th August 2009, CYPS received an unannounced inspection of its Contact, Referral and Assessment (CRA) Service. Ofsted made a number of recommendations for immediate action and these are reflected in relevant Action Plans. Further Ofsted inspections are anticipated for Looked After Children's Services and Safeguarding Services. Failure to address the issues identified within the action plan would render the service unsafe and would trigger a full Safeguarding inspection which in turn would impact on the CYPS Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), the Council's CAA and could lead to external intervention.

11. Background and Consultation

- The Protection of Children in England: Action Plan (May 2009).
- Comprehensive Area Assessment: Annual Rating of Council Children's Services for 2009 (May 2009).
- Ofsted annual unannounced inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment arrangements within Rotherham Children's Services, dated 12th August 2009.

Contact Name: Pam Allen, Director of Locality Services
01709 823905
pam.allen@rotherham.gov.uk



The Protection of Children In Rotherham A Multi Agency Action Plan August 2009

This Composite Action Plan is written following The Protection of Children in England:
A Progress Report, Lord Laming March 2009

Key to Progress of Actions

GREEN = The task has been completed and appropriate evidence produced.

AMBER = Plans are progressing to timescale.

RED = Work has yet to be/planned/started/progressed.

In November 2008 the Government asked Lord Laming to prepare an urgent independent report of progress on safeguarding arrangements nationally. Lord Laming's report, *The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report* was published on 12th March 2009. The Government welcomed the report and accepted all the recommendations.

Rationale

Lord Laming reported that whilst *Every Child Matters (2004)* and *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006)* provide a sound framework for professionals to protect children and promote their welfare it was clear that the need to protect children from significant harm and neglect is even more challenging. He reported the need for a step change in the arrangements to safeguard children from harm; he also felt that it is essential that action is now taken so that as far as humanly possible children at risk of harm are properly protected. In addition to accepting Lord Laming's recommendations the Government plan to:

- Set up a cross-Government national safeguarding delivery unit to support and challenge every Local Authority (LA) and children's trust in the country.
- Strengthen independence and quality of serious case reviews - the unit will monitor implementation to ensure both that lessons are learned and that public executive summaries are full and comprehensive
- Produce legislation to ensure that every LA has a statutory Children Trust Board to improve the outcomes for children and young people
- Compel the chief executive and council leaders to confirm annually that local arrangements comply with the law.
- Provide a new leadership programme for Director Children Services and an accelerated programme for those with the greatest potential to become children's service leaders.

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board have compiled an Action Plan as the beginning of a process to provide agencies and RSCB Members with a structure to demonstrate their current position, future work and anticipated outcome. This self assessment tool will provide a base line from which future work can be coordinated. The collation of agencies responses will provide Cabinet members with a transparent audit of services for Children and Young People Rotherham

For additional Information, please go to:-

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090312/debtext/90312-0007.htm#09031256000005>
<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0809/hc03/0330/0330.asp>
<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0809/hc03/0330/0330.pdf>

Government's Response to Laming Action Plan				
Recommendation 1:				
Every Children 's Trust will be expected to undertake a thorough needs assessment of their local population as part of their Children and Young People's Plan; to make improvements in leadership, staffing, training, supervision and practice across all services; to raise the profile of safeguarding and child protection across children's services, health and police; to develop better local performance management; to lead a change in culture across frontline services that enables them to work more effectively to protect children; to work with existing organisations to create a shared evidence base about effective practice, including evidence-based programmes, early intervention and preventative services; and to support the implementation of the recommendations of Serious Case Review and put in place systems to learn the lessons at local, regional and national level.				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
Children's First Review has informed review of Children and Young People's Services and NHS Rotherham. Unannounced Ofsted inspection of August 2009 and Care Quality Commission self-assessment audit has produced detailed Action Plan. The Service Plan for the Operational Safeguarding Unit and the Strategic Overview of the work of the Safeguarding Unit to include the review of performance indicators for partner agencies within Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board.	Safeguarding Board Manager	14.8.09 Green	20.10.09 Green	
Recommendation 2:				
Ofsted has designed more rigorous inspection arrangements for safeguarding and will shortly be publishing a new framework for a rolling programme of inspections of safeguarding and looked after children in all areas and covering the role of all partners, on a three year cycle. They will also be publishing a framework for a new annual inspection of child protection in local authority children's services.				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
Each Locality Team had a presentation by the Locality Managers on the specific area of interest for CAA. A self-assessment was undertaken for the unannounced CRA Inspection and work undertaken by the Access Team. The same process is to commence for announced Inspection. LAC Service Manager has produced self-assessment. Assistant Safeguarding Manager has commenced self-assessment and Action Plan. Awaiting further direction from the Inspectorates.	Locality Managers	14.8.09 Amber	20.10.09 Amber	
Recommendation 3:				
Ofsted has also designed the new school inspection framework which will apply from September 2009 so that it will have a stronger focus on safeguarding. The current inspection framework already includes a judgement about whether safeguarding arrangements in schools are satisfactory but this will be strengthened in the new framework with a grading on a scale from 1 (outstanding) to 4 (inadequate) for a school's safeguarding arrangements. Any school which receives a grade of 4 will also be likely to be awarded an inadequate grade for its overall performance and will need, therefore, to make urgent improvements. These arrangements will 'raise the bar' about the importance of safeguarding for school and will also facilitate the identification and dissemination of best practice.				

Government's Response to Laming Action Plan				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
<p>Operational Safeguarding Unit Education Leads provide ongoing training and support to schools regarding safeguarding issues and policy/procedural developments.</p> <p>September 2009, quarterly meetings have begun for designated staff within all educational establishments. RSCB Sub Group - E-Safety and the Anti-Bullying Strategy are proactively working within educational settings. The E-Safety Group is a multi-agency forum that engages with young people seeking their views on policies and procedures.</p>	Operational Safeguarding Unit Manager	14.8.09 Amber	20.10.09 Green	
<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is committed to working in partnership with Ofsted to inspect and assess the health-related elements of its programme and thus provide leverage alongside Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) to improvement of practice and outcomes and will work closely with Ofsted to ensure that its inspection framework is sound, workable and adaptable for the health element of the inspection programme. In addition, the CQC's own Annual Health Check of all NHS trusts in England includes assessing the quality of safeguarding arrangements against core standards criteria. By 1st May, all NHS bodies had declared compliance or otherwise against national standards, including a specific standard relating to child protection arrangements. The Commission will be rigorous in its assessments of services and will take follow-up action against non-compliance where necessary.</p>				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
<p>The Care Quality Commission has requested that all Health Trusts, nationally, undertake an additional self assessment to assure NHS Commissioners and Strategic Health authorities of their compliance with safeguarding children. This self assessment will form part of the overall position statement due to be published November 2009. In Rotherham this initial assessment is due to be completed by all health Trusts in September prior to it being highlighted to NHS Rotherham trust Board. All NHS Trusts within Rotherham have submitted via the Strategic Health Authority their compliance with Care Quality Commission/David Nicholson, Safeguarding Standards. All NHS Trusts including NHS Rotherham as commissioners of Health Care within the Borough will, by the end of October 2009, declare publicly their Safeguarding status.</p>	<p>Director of CYPS Health Service</p> <p>Director of Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting</p>	16.8.09 Amber	20.10.09 Green	
<p>Recommendation 5:</p> <p>The Chief Inspector of Probation has consistently promoted the inspection of actual work involved in safeguarding and public protection. Implementation of Lord Laming's recommendation will simply build on existing practices.</p>				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
<p>The local probation area operates in line with guidance and recommendations received from HMI probation. Rotherham Probation service has completed an action plan in response to the most recent inspection of services in January 2009. This action plan incorporates all safeguarding requirements and has been implemented across the service.</p>	Assistant Operational Safeguarding Board Manager	18.8.09 Green	20.10.09 Green	

Government's Response to Laming Action Plan				
Recommendation 6: The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill, currently before Parliament, sets out the Government's proposals to strengthen Children's Trusts. Every Children's Trust should have a Board on which the partners and the local community are represented. Subject to the passage of legislation, the Children's Trust Board will have responsibility for producing a Children and Young People's Plan for the local area, informed by a needs analysis and full consultation, including with children, young people and their families.				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
Position Statement - September 2009. The Children and Young People's Plan revision is being consulted upon, the underpinning audit of need is completed. Key partners will be consulted on regarding the CYPP.	Director, Resources, Planning and Performance	27.8.09 Green	20.10.09 Green	
Recommendation 7: The Children's Trust Board - drawing on support and challenge from the Local Safeguarding Children Board - will ensure that the Children and Young People's Plan covers strengths and weaknesses in the area, what has been achieved in the last year and what more needs to be done by each partner to improve outcomes in safeguarding. The Plan should also include clear targets for improving outcomes for keeping children safe. The Government will work with partners to review the range of safeguarding indicators, following Lord Laming's recommendation, and will publish a new set of national indicators by the end of September 2009. These revised indicators will form the basis of the targets set by Children's Trusts.				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
Position Statement - September 2009 Awaiting national indicators - due September 2009. The Independent Safeguarding Board Chair now attends the Children and Young People's Board. The Children and Young People's Board will ensure the revised indicators are fully reflected in the Children and Young People's Plan.	Director, Resources, Planning and Performance Safeguarding Board Manager	27.8.09 Green	20.10.09 Green	
Recommendation 8: The Government's immediate response to Lord Laming's report accepted his recommendations on the respective roles and responsibilities of LSCBs and Children's Trust which stressed the importance of a 'clear distinction between the roles and responsibilities between LSCBs and Children's Trusts to ensure appropriate challenge, scrutiny and impartiality'. Local Safeguarding Children Boards should include membership from the senior decision makers from all safeguarding partners. Lord Laming also recommended that the Children's Trust and the Local Safeguarding Children Board should not be chaired by the same person and that the LSCB chair, who must be of sufficient stature and authority, should be selected with the agreement of a group of multi-agency partners and should have access to training to support them in their role.				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
Advert regarding Independent Safeguarding Board Chair resulted in a number of candidates being shortlisted. New Chair fully operational as from September 2009.	Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services	27.8.09 Green	20.10.09 Green	

Government's Response to Laming Action Plan						
Recommendation 9:						
The Government went further to ensure that there is complete clarity about local accountabilities underpinned by effective local challenge. They are, therefore, taking action to put in place the following arrangements:-						
<p>The Children's Trust and the LSCB have important but distinctive roles in keeping children safe. The Children's Trust is accountable for ensuring that services deliver better outcomes, with the Children's Trust Board being specifically accountable for overseeing the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan. The LSCB should be responsible for challenging every member of the Children's Trust, through the Children's Trust Board, on their success in ensuring that children and young people are kept safe. The LSCB should publish an annual report on the effectiveness of arrangements locally and the contribution and activities of each local partner, for keeping children safe, as recommended in Lord Laming's report. The complementary roles of the two bodies –and the challenge of the LSCB to the Children's Trust – will only work effectively if the two bodies are chaired by different people. There will now be a presumption that the LSCB is chaired by someone independent of the local agencies so that the LSCB can exercise its local challenge function effectively. We accept, however, that it may take time to develop sufficient availability of suitable independent chairs and we are, therefore, proposing to work towards this arrangement over time. This will be an early opportunity for the new Chief Adviser and the Unit.</p>						
Comment to include evidence as appropriate			Lead Person		RAG Rating	
<p>Children's Board and LSCB have separate Chairing arrangements in place.</p> <p>Children's Board and LSCB have considered governance arrangements.</p> <p>Robust governance arrangements now include membership of the Independent Chair at the Children's Board and the attendance of the Chair of the Children's Board at LSCB.</p> <p>These arrangements will be subject to annual review and a report detailing the effectiveness of the Board will be published.</p>			Chair of RSCB and Children Board		14.8.09 Amber	20.10.09 Green
Recommendation 10:						
<p>Directors of Children's Services (DCSs) and Lead Members for Children's Services have central roles. Directors of Children's Services have lead responsibility for improving outcomes for children in their area. Lead Members for Children's Services are politically accountable for ensuring that the local authority fulfils its legal responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and should provide the political leadership needed for the effective co-ordination of work with other relevant agencies with safeguarding responsibilities (such as the police and health service). Lead Members should also take steps to assure themselves that effective quality assurance systems for safeguarding are in place and functioning effectively. Both the DCS and the Lead Member should always be members of both the Children's Trust Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board.</p>						
Comment to include evidence as appropriate			Lead Person		RAG Rating	
<p>Lead Member and the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services both sit on the Children and Young People's Board and the Safeguarding Children's Board. Regular meetings are held between the Lead Member, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services and Safeguarding Board Manager. The Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services and the Chair of the Children's Board also meets with the Independent Safeguarding Children's Board Chair on a monthly basis to satisfy themselves we are meeting their statutory requirements. Fully implemented September 2009.</p>			Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services		27.8.09 Amber	20.10.09 Green

Government's Response to Laming Action Plan				
Recommendation 11:				
<p>Local Authority Chief Executives and Council Leaders also have critical roles to play. Chief Executives are responsible for satisfying themselves that the Directors of Children's Services are fulfilling their managerial responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, including in particular by ensuring that the relationship between the Children's Trust and the LSCB is working effectively; that clear responsibility has been assigned within the local authority and among Children's Trust partners for improving services and outcomes; and that the targets for improving safeguarding and progress against them are reported to the Local Strategic Partnership. Every year, as part of the Children's Trust annual report, the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council should make an assessment of the effectiveness of local governance and partnership arrangements for improving outcomes for children and supporting the best possible standards for safeguarding children.</p>				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council will produce an annual statement for effectiveness on safeguarding and welfare of children and young people. This will form part of the Children and Young People's Board's Annual Report to be presented to Cabinet and the LSP in the Summer term of 2010. Chief Executive to take up post on 26.10.09.	Leader of the Council	27.8.09 Amber	20.10.09 Amber	
Recommendation 12:				
<p>The wider public also has an important role to play, as keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility. It is right that Children's Trust Boards should actively seek the views of the local community and consult children, young people and their families when drawing up Children and Young People's Plans. We believe Local Safeguarding Children Boards' arrangements should be opened up to wider public scrutiny through the appointment of two lay members drawn from the local community to the LSCB and have brought forward an amendment to the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill to require this. This will support stronger public engagement in, and understanding of, children's safety issues. The voice and experiences of young people should also strongly inform the LSCB's work.</p>				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
<p>Safeguarding Board Manager, Chair of LSCB and Director of Children's Services to develop a position statement .</p> <p>Consideration is being given to the appointment of 2 lay members. The Interim Safeguarding Children Board Manager has been in discussion with the Safeguarding Children Government Officer Adviser to discuss Rotherham's position with regard to the 2 lay members. To date, no LSCB in Yorkshire and Humber have instigated this piece of work.</p> <p>Serious Case Reviews in the area now consider the voice of the family during the review process.</p>	Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services Safeguarding Board Manager	14.8.09 Amber	20.10.09 Amber	
Recommendation 13:				
<p>It is also vital that managers in frontline practice have the necessary development and support to enable them to provide strong leadership. We have asked the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) to develop a programme of intensive support and coaching for social work team leaders and first line managers, particularly those working in child protection and safeguarding. The Government expects the NCSL to be closely involved in this urgent work, contributing their advice and expertise.</p>				

Government's Response to Laming Action Plan				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
<p>Guidance from the CWDC is still pending. Work on a "Leading the Integrated Workforce" programme in partnership with the NCSL is scheduled to be completed March 2010, but a middle manager programme is due for roll out in September 2009. This national work is supported locally by the Rotherham CYPS Workforce Development Strategy, which aims for Autumn 2009 to begin development of our own leadership programme, incorporated the CWDC competencies and course content if and where appropriate. We have been successful in securing assistance from CWDC for our Newly Qualified Social Work Support Programme and Middle Manager Programme, both due for roll-out in October 2009. A regional approach is also being considered to maximise learning and efficiency.</p>	<p>Director, Resources, Planning and Performance</p> <p>Workforce Strategy, Planning and Development Officer</p>	<p>14.8.09 Amber</p>	<p>20.10.09 Green</p>	
<p>Recommendation 14:</p> <p>All services that have contact with children or with members of their families need to be alert to signs that a child has additional needs, whether as a result of the child's disability or special educational need or because adults in the family face problems that affect their capacity to parent effectively or because of a combination of these factors. Disabled children can be particularly vulnerable and it is important that practitioners communicate with them and are alert to their particular needs. Schools and children's centres which have more regular contact with children than other services have a particularly important role to play in early intervention. In our forthcoming 21st Century Schools White Paper we will set out a national framework for early intervention to meet children's additional needs which will set out the roles and responsibilities of schools and other services.</p>				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
<p>Multi-agency training needs analysis has been undertaken.</p> <p>Operational Safeguarding Children Unit Management Team meet at weekly intervals. Representatives from Social Care, South Yorkshire Police, NHS Rotherham, Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, Education and Probation attend. Actions have resulted in prioritising urgent training across all services.</p> <p>The Local Authority's Children's Disability Services are managed within Community Services</p>	<p>Operational Safeguarding Manager</p>	<p>27.8.09 Green</p>	<p>20.10.09 Green</p>	
<p>Recommendation 15:</p> <p>ContactPoint is a national online directory for people who work with children and young people. It is a tool designed to help improve the well-being of all children and young people, to help keep them safe and ensure that no child slips through the net. ContactPoint provides a quick way for a practitioner to find out who else is working with the same child, thereby enabling practitioners across the children's workforce to work together when they need to and provide a more co-ordinated approach to meet a child's needs. The delivery of ContactPoint is being phased in across England. Nineteen 'early adopter' organisations (seventeen local authorities in the North West plus Barnado's and KIDS) have trained their ContactPoint management teams on the system and are making it ready for practitioner use. All other local authorities will train their management teams later this year.</p>				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
<p>Ongoing national initiative.</p> <p>The local lead for the implementation is the Director, Resources, Planning and Performance.</p>	<p>Director, Resources, Planning and Performance</p>	<p>27.8.09 Amber</p>	<p>20.10.09 Green</p>	

Government's Response to Laming Action Plan					
<p>A project board and implementation team have been in existence for around 2 years with the ContactPoint Team having been trained and accredited.</p> <p>The key data sets are all green on the Local Data Quality Toolkit with others being included in an intensive data quality programme. It is anticipated that Rotherham's feed into national ContactPoint will be ready by the end of the year, dependant on the DCSF's National Feed Status.</p> <p>Health Visitors in Rotherham will be the first users to use the system with training taking place in the New Year.</p>					
Recommendation 16:					
The Children's Workforce Development Council will shortly be issuing updated guidance on the Common Assessment Framework and has developed a range of web-based material to help local authorities and their Children's Trust partners to implement CAF as part of the development of integrated working locally.					
Comment to include evidence as appropriate		Lead Person	RAG Rating		
The Director, CYPS Community Services will oversee the development of CAF working with a seconded multi-agency management team. The work will be concluded in January 2010.		Director, CYPS Community Services	14.8.09 Amber	20.10.09 Amber	
Recommendation 17:					
The Police plan an important part in child safety. Working with the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Association of Police Authorities and the National Police Improvement Agency, the Home Office will be developing a new Strategic Framework for delivering Protective Services that will, for the first time, provide a clear structure for driving the delivery of all protective services – those services which are not so visible to the public but are crucial to ensuring that local communities are protected from a wide range of potential threats, such as organised crime or major crime. Child Protection will be one of the first priorities for implementation of the new Framework, making clear that, nationally, the Police Service, including every Police force, must ensure that they have the right arrangements and the right levels of resource in place locally to protect children and young people from abuse.					
Comment to include evidence as appropriate		Lead Person	RAG Rating		
Awaiting further guidance from the National Police Improvement Agency.		Peter Horner	14.8.09 Amber	20.10.09 Amber	
Recommendation 18:					
Lord Laming's report challenged us to build further on the commitments we have already set out in <i>Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures</i> : to develop the health visiting workforce further, to provide leadership and expert practice for the Healthy Child Programme and to use health visitor's specialist skills in supporting vulnerable families and making their contribution to safeguarding. He called for immediate action to increase the numbers, confidence and competence of health visiting staff.					
Comment to include evidence as appropriate		Lead Person	RAG Rating		
The Health Visiting Service was skilled mixed in 2009 to include Advanced Practitioners, Staff Nurses, additional Nursery Nurses, Mental Health Workers and Antenatal/Postnatal Support Workers. Skill mix will allow the specialist skills of Health Visitors to be released for more intensive work with vulnerable children and families. Advanced Practitioners provide leadership and direction to teams. A culture change is required		Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services Rotherham	27.8.09 Amber	20.10.09 Green	

<p>Government's Response to Laming Action Plan</p>				
<p>to build competence and confidence in Health Visitors to manage complex cases where safeguarding is a prominent feature.</p> <p>Health Visiting Teams are arranged across 7 localities and the size of team is 'weighted' according to the level of need in each locality. Teams are co-located with partner agencies to strengthen joint working and information sharing.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to develop appropriate induction and preceptorship programmes and also to develop competency frameworks for each grade of staff.</p> <p>A robust Service Specification is in place which details the required activity, performance and quality measures.</p> <p>The national shortage of Health Visitors and a shift to targeted work has affected recruitment and retention of Health Visitors; an Action Plan is in place which includes plans to recruit and retain staff.</p> <p>Following the Community Practitioner, Health Visitor Conference in Southport in October 2009. The Government reiterated their commitment to preventative services and launched, with the Department of Health, their blueprint for developing Community Children's Nursing services. Rotherham remains committed to the preventative strategy.</p>	<p>Community Health Services</p>			
<p>Recommendation 19:</p> <p>In parallel, Dr. Sheila Shribman, the National Clinical Director for Children, Young People and Maternity Services, is working closely with NHS and professional leaders to build on existing work and respond to Lord Laming's recommendations on other areas of training, development and support for staff on safeguarding children, recognising the important contributions that GPs, practice nurses, paediatricians, A&E staff, mental health staff, ambulance staff and others who engage with children and families have to make.</p>				
<p>Comment to include evidence as appropriate</p>	<p>Lead Person</p>	<p>RAG Rating</p>		
<p>Audit of training needs currently being undertaken across the health economy, nationally. Results to be fed back to Dr. Shribman by 28th August 2009. Further directions with regard to safeguarding training was then anticipated.</p> <p>Rotherham health economy currently train staff to a national standard that were provided by all Royal Colleges in the Intercollegiate Document 2006</p> <p>All Health Trusts within Rotherham Borough have presented compliance with Level 1 Safeguarding Children Training to the Care Quality Commission. Dr Shribman is anticipated to report back to the Government towards the end of 2009. It is widely anticipated that significant changes to Health staff's Safeguarding Training will be developed. NICE guidelines have now been published to provide all key front line Health staff with signs, symptoms and indicators of child maltreatment. The Designated Doctor in Rotherham is ensuring that all Paediatricians are aware of this document. The Safeguarding Health Forum, Chaired by the Director of Public Health, has also ensured that this document has been widely distributed to General Practice.</p>	<p>Designated Nurse, Child Protection</p>	<p>14.8.09 Amber</p>	<p>20.10.09 Green</p>	

Government's Response to Laming Action Plan					
Recommendation 20:					
<p>In response to Lord Laming's report, we asked the Social Work Task Force to advise on how those in his recommendations which relate to social work should be implemented. We are grateful to Moira Gibb and her colleagues on the Task Force for writing to us to set out their early findings and recommendations. We particularly welcome the Task Force's advice that, in implementing Lord Laming's recommendations, we must go further and deeper to address, comprehensively, the challenges that are facing both adults' and children's social work. We are also very pleased that the Task Force is beginning to develop a leadership role within the sector, stimulating the debate – and solutions – which will shape the future of the profession and involving social workers themselves but also service users and other professionals.</p>					
Comment to include evidence as appropriate		Lead Person	RAG Rating		
<p>Social work vacancy factor has reduced from 36% to 31% in frontline social work posts. Recruitment and Retention Strategy has been developed utilising internal and external expertise. Newly Qualified Social Workers continue to apply for posts in Rotherham. These will be supported by the CWDC Newly Qualified Programme.</p> <p>A Children and Young People's Services Improvement Panel has been set up to address this area of concern. Members of the Panel include Children's Services Advisor for Government Office, Chief Executive's Office, CYPS, NAS, Scrutiny etc.</p>		<p>Director, Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting</p> <p>Human Resource Services</p>	<p>27.8.09 Red</p>	<p>20.10.09 Red</p>	
Recommendation 21:					
<p>The Task Force will report fully to the Government in October and we are committed to bringing forward a comprehensive programme of reform for the profession at that time. Lord Laming's report, however, painted a picture of the pressures in the system which reinforces the need for immediate action. The Government is, therefore, announcing today measures we will take to reform the Integrated Children's System and a new Social Work Transformation Fund, which will support immediate improvements and support.</p>					
Comment to include evidence as appropriate		Lead Person	RAG Rating		
<p>ICS programme of implementation since September 2008 is proving very challenging of social work time. Social workers are experiencing competing priorities in gathering and inputting electronic information.</p> <p>Additional administrators have successfully assisted the pressures within the social work service. Records have been updated and inputting information electronically has been improved. Additional resources will need to continue in order to sustain this improvement.</p> <p>A Children and Young People's Services Improvement Panel has been set up to address this area of concern. Members of the Panel include Children's Services Advisor for Government Office, Chief Executive's Office, CYPS, NAS, Scrutiny etc.</p>		<p>Director, Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting</p> <p>Director, Resources, Planning and Performance</p>	<p>27.8.09 Red</p>	<p>20.10.09 Amber</p>	
Recommendation 22:					
<p>The Social Work Task Force says that effective record-keeping is an essential part of good social work; that in the 21st century this requires an effective IT approach; and that the ICS undoubtedly has the potential to deliver this. However, the Task Force also highlights a number of current problems with the local implementation of ICS systems and says these have been exacerbated by overly prescriptive national requirements. The intense frustration with ICS that the Task Force has found among many frontline workers is, it explains, the unfortunate result.</p>					

Government's Response to Laming Action Plan					
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating			
<p>ICS programme of implementation since September 2008 is proving very challenging of social work time. Social workers are experiencing competing priorities in gathering and inputting electronic information.</p> <p>Additional administrators have successfully assisted the pressures within the social work service. Records have been updated and inputting information electronically has been improved. Additional resources will need to continue in order to sustain this improvement.</p> <p>A Children and Young People's Services Improvement Panel has been set up to address this area of concern. Members of the Panel include Children's Services Advisor for Government Office, Chief Executive's Office, CYPS, NAS, Scrutiny etc.</p>	<p>Director, Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting</p> <p>Director, Resources, Planning and Performance</p>	<p>27.8.09 Red</p>	<p>20.10.09 Amber</p>		
<p>Recommendation 23:</p> <p>The Task Force makes a series of recommendations which, it believes, will rapidly have a positive impact on how frontline workers experience ICS. The Task Force says its proposed changes will enhance the positive elements of the system by making it more flexible and by supporting its record-keeping capacity, while stripping out other, unnecessary features.</p>					
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating			
<p>ICS programme of implementation since September 2008 is proving very challenging of social work time. Social workers are experiencing competing priorities in gathering and inputting electronic information.</p> <p>Additional administrators have successfully assisted the pressures within the social work service. Records have been updated and inputting information electronically has been improved. Additional resources will need to continue in order to sustain this improvement.</p> <p>A Children and Young People's Services Improvement Panel has been set up to address this area of concern. Members of the Panel include Children's Services Advisor for Government Office, Chief Executive's Office, CYPS, NAS, Scrutiny etc.</p>	<p>Director, Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting</p> <p>Director, Resources, Planning and Performance</p>	<p>27.8.09 Red</p>	<p>20.10.09 Amber</p>		
<p>Recommendation 24:</p> <p>It is clear that the recruitment and retention of children and families' social workers are issues of key concern and particularly severe in local authorities. To improve supply into social work, the Government has announced a Return to Social Work Scheme to help former social workers move back more easily into the workforce. It will be delivered by the Children's workforce Development Council (CWDC) working in partnership with the General Social Care Council (SCC) and the Local government Association (LGA). The campaign will start this month, with former social workers able to access information online and, from July, through a telephone helpline which will help returning social workers to identify their support and training needs. Our aim is that there should be 500 social workers back in the workplace from this autumn, supported by refresher training where they need it.</p>					
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating			
<p>The Authority has not felt any benefits of retired Social Workers expressing an interest to return to frontline practice. The Authority has reduced its vacancy factor to 31% with an additional positive response to the most</p>	<p>Director, Safeguarding and</p>	<p>31.7.09</p>	<p>20.10.09</p>		

Government's Response to Laming Action Plan					
recent advert in October 2009. 90% of vacancies are now covered by Agency staff who will leave the department when recruitment has been completed. Recent recruitment and retention initiatives have improved staff morale at the front line. 12 newly qualified staff have taken up Post Qualification places in September 2009. In addition, an induction course commenced in September 2009.	Corporate Parenting Human Resources Staff	Green	Green		
Recommendation 25: We want to support more high achieving graduates to train to be social workers. We announced in March that we would sponsor a new cohort of the Graduate Recruitment Scheme. We are pleased to announce that 200 high quality social work students will be able to train to join the profession through this scheme in September. CWDC will deliver this, working in partnership with employers and universities.					
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating			
Manager, OD, exploring opportunities with CWDC. Due to staffing gaps in Workforce Development Team and late notice period of CWDC correspondence for 2009-10 graduate programme, Rotherham will not be engaging this year. However, a South Yorkshire regional approach to fast-track, practice based routes to social work is being explored by the Workforce Strategy, Planning & Development Manager and other workforce leads.	Director, Resources, Planning and Performance	31.7.09 Amber	20.10.09 Amber		
Recommendation 26: It is critical that new social workers are well supported in their first year of practice – Lord Laming and the Social Work Task Force have told us that this is not happening consistently at present. Last year, DCSF launched the Newly Qualified Social Worker pilot programme to better support the transition from training to practice. In his report, Lord Laming recommended that all newly qualified social workers should receive this level of support and the Government agreed, announcing on 12th March, 2009, that the programme will be available to all new social workers in statutory children and families' services and the first sector from September 2009.					
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating			
Our submission to the CWDC for inclusion in their pilot scheme was successful. This will allow us to use financial support to enable maintenance of protected caseloads for newly qualified Social Workers. We are trying to adhere to the need for protected caseload management for newly qualified Social Workers.	Director, Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting Workforce Strategy, Planning and Development Officer	20.8.09 Green	20.10.09 Green		
Recommendation 27: At the other end of the spectrum, it is important that the expertise of experienced social workers is retained on the frontline and that there are suitably recognised roles to enable this. On 12th March, 2009, the government announced the Advanced Social work Professional (ASWP) status which will create senior practice-focused roles for excellent and experienced social workers in local authority children's services. CWDC, working with local authorities, will begin to assess candidates for the new status in October and they will be in post and making a difference on the frontline soon after.					

Government's Response to Laming Action Plan					
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating			
<p>The Authority has developed posts of Principal Practitioners and Principal Social Workers. Progression to these posts is competency based. In addition we offer a fast track approach to professional progression and a monthly recruitment drive is currently proving successful. Benchmarking work comparing salaries has resulted in raising the starting salary to come in line with neighbouring Authorities.</p>	<p>Director, Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting Human Resources Staff</p>	<p>20.8.09 Green</p>	<p>20.10.09 Green</p>		
<p>Recommendation 28: The Ministry of Justice is working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to establish a system-wide target for reducing delays that draws in all participants within the care proceedings system. Whilst the detail is yet to be finalised with the relevant key partners, the intention is to have an overarching objective, related to the timetable for the completion of care proceedings for an individual child, supported by a suite of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) owned by individual participants in the system. This will include commitments to continuous performance improvement in order to avoid unnecessary delay by Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Legal Services Commission and the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service. Improvement and success will be measured in a Balanced Scorecard.</p>					
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating			
<p>The Authority is averaging 80 sets of care proceedings. The challenge for timely conclusion is reliant upon available resources from Legal Services, Health Services, etc</p> <p>A second Adoption Panel has been established (August 2009) to assist in progressing care plans in a more timely manner. Outstanding issues centre around additional resources required to successfully administer a second Adoption Panel.</p> <p>Recent quarterly outturn for Looked After children's Health Assessments has indicated good improvement.</p>	<p>Director, Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting Director Public Health NHSR</p>	<p>20.8.09 Amber</p>	<p>20.10.09 Green</p>		
<p>Recommendation 29: In line with Lord Laming's recommendation, the Ministry of Justice has appointed Francis Plowden to conduct a review of court fees and to establish whether or not court fees act as a deterrent when local authorities decide whether or not to commence care proceedings.</p>					
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating			
<p>In Rotherham the issue of Court fees has not been a deterrent to initiating Care Proceeding where appropriate.</p>	<p>Legal Services Director, Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting</p>	<p>20.8.09 Green</p>	<p>20.10.09 Green</p>		

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Recommendation 30: DCSF should review Working Together so that it is explicit that the formal purpose of SCRs is to learn lessons for improving individual agencies as well as improving multi-agency working. The Government will publish a revised Chapter 8 of Working Together by July 2009 for consultation so that these important improvements can be put in place as quickly as possible.				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
A pre-consultation version of Chapter 8 was issued to LSCB Chairs on 30th June, 2009. Comments had to be submitted to DCSF by 8th July, 2009. The cost of SCRs is likely to increase.	RSCB Chair	20.8.09 Green	20.10.09 Green	
Recommendation 31: Ofsted should focus their evaluation of SCRs on the depth of the learning a review has provided and the quality of the recommendations it has made to protect children. Ofsted is convening a partners' discussion about revising the SCR Evaluation Framework. This will be developed and consulted against the review of Chapter 8 of Working Together so that there is a consistent end to end set of arrangements with clear roles and responsibilities for all partners published by the end of July 2009.				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
'Adequate' judgement may change to 'satisfactory'. Ofsted is entering into a dialogue at the point of evaluation. RSCB has recently been given the opportunity of clarifying issues/resubmitting documentation. Greater attention will need to be paid to media issues prior to publishing executive summaries.	RSCB Chair CYPS Communication Manager	20.8.09 Green	20.10.09 Green	
Recommendation 32: LSCBs should ensure all SCR Panel Chairs and SCR Overview Authors are independent of the LSCB and all services involved in the case and that arrangements for the SCR offer sufficient scrutiny and challenge. To be reflected in the revised Working Together guidance.				
Comment to include evidence as appropriate	Lead Person	RAG Rating		
SCR procedure to be reviewed in light of revised guidance from December 2009.	RSCB Chair	20.8.09 Amber	20.10.09 Amber	
Recommendation 33: The Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families must strengthen current guidance and put in place the systems and training so that staff in A&E Departments are able to tell if a child has recently presented to any A&E Department and if a child is the subject of a Child Protection Plan. If there is any cause for concern, staff must act accordingly, contacting other professionals, conducting further medical examinations of the child, as appropriate and necessary, and ensuring no child is discharged whilst concerns for their safety or well-being remain.				

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Comment to include evidence as appropriate		Lead Person	RAG Rating		
A&E staff are able to access information regarding the Child Protection Plan status of any child where there is cause for concern. A recent audit of children admitted via A&E with deliberate injuries completed. Results to be available to September 2009 Board.		Director of Public Health (Commissioning) Chief Nurse RFT	20.8.09 Green	20.10.09 Green	
Recommendation 34:					
The Department for Children, Schools and Families should revise Working Together to Safeguard Children to set out the elements of high quality supervision focused on case planning, constructive challenge and professional development.					
Comment to include evidence as appropriate		Lead Person	RAG Rating		
A robust joint casework supervision policy was introduced from April 2009. The review of the policy has identified inconsistencies across front line services. Additional audit work in this area has been commissioned and led by the Director, Resources, Planning and Performance.		Locality Managers Director, Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting	20.8.09 Amber	20.10.09 Amber	
Recommendation 35:					
The Department for Children, Schools and Families must strengthen Working together to Safeguard Children and Children's Trust must take appropriate action to ensure:-					
(i) All referrals to children's services from other professionals lead to an initial assessment, including direct involvement with the child or young person and their family, and the direct engagement with, and feedback to, the referring professional;					
(ii) Core group meetings, reviews, and casework decisions include all the professionals involved with the child, particularly police, health, youth services and education colleagues. Records must be kept which must include the written views of those who cannot make such meetings; and					
(iii) Formal procedures are in place for managing a conflict of opinions between professionals from different services over the safety of a child.					
Comment to include evidence as appropriate		Lead Person	RAG Rating		
(i) All Referrals The unannounced Inspection in August 2009 highlighted inconsistency in response to referrals. Those teams with high vacancy factors have had additional resources in order to provide a timely response to Initial Assessments, improvement is evident.		Director, Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting	27.8.09 Red	20.10.09 Amber	
(ii) Core Group Meetings Additional administrative support has been very productive. This resource will need to continue in order to sustain success in this area.		Director, Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting	20.8.09 Green	20.10.09 Green	

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(iii) Formal Procedures Where children/young people are the subject of a child protection conference formal procedures are in place for professionals to dissent where there is a conflict of opinion as to whether or not the criteria for a child protection plan are met. Dissent in such circumstances is considered at the monthly meeting of the Practice Standards	Director, Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting	20.8.09 Green	20.10.09 Green		

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
Friday, 2nd October, 2009

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

Also in attendance were:- Mr. M. Hall and Mrs. L. Pitchley (co-opted members).

Apologies were received from The Mayor (Councillor Ali), Councillors Dodson, Hughes and Sims and from co-opted members Mrs. J. Blanch-Nicholson, Father A. Hayne, Mr. C. A. Marvin and Mrs. K. Muscroft.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

52. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

53. MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE YOUTH CABINET

There had been a meeting of the members of the Youth Cabinet, with Elected Members, about the PHSE curriculum, on 29th September, 2009 and a further meeting was now being planned.

54. COMMUNICATIONS

Scrutiny Panel Members would be invited to attend a visit to STEPS (Support Therapy Education Prevention Service) during November, 2009.

55. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - REVENUE BUDGET 2009/2010

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Programme Director, Building Schools for the Future, outlining the main areas of pressure on the Children and Young People's Services' Revenue Budget 2009/2010 and indicating where investment should be considered for this and for future years.

The report and subsequent discussion included the following main issues:-

- the net outturn for Children and Young People's Services for the 2008/09 financial year was the same amount as the approved budget for the 2009/10 financial year; therefore, any budget reductions or savings would have a detrimental impact upon service provision;

- the 2008/09 main variations from budget were highlighted;

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- the forecast outturn for the Children and Young People's Services 2009/10 budget predicted a significant overspend, directly attributable to an increase in demand for social care services for children, young people and their families;
- the number of looked after children and children in need, in Rotherham, had also increased, requiring significant increased expenditure;
- details of Rotherham's comparative spending on services, against statistical neighbours and other Metropolitan Authorities were highlighted (and had been referenced in the Children's First Review);
- mitigating actions to reduce the budget overspend were also listed;
- recruitment and retention of social workers and the associated costs;
- the impact upon service delivery of any budget cuts;
- the focus upon early intervention and prevention, which may help to alleviate the demand upon pressurised budgets;
- the considerable risks of certain mandatory services being insufficiently funded;
- seeking support from schools budgets for the school effectiveness service;
- the wider implications of the national pressures upon public sector funding;
- the Borough Council's value for money budget review, which would include Children and Young People's Services.

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

(2) That the significant pressures upon the Children and Young People's Services revenue budget and consequently upon service delivery be acknowledged and considered in detail as part of the preparation of the Borough Council's overall budget for the 2010/2011 financial year.

(3) That the considerable risks of certain mandatory services being insufficiently funded be also highlighted during the forthcoming budget deliberations.

(4) That the outcome of the Council's value for money budget review of Children and Young People's Services be reported to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Panel.

56. 14 TO 19 STRATEGY, INCLUDING LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL DEVELOPMENTS

Further to Minute No. 54 of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 31st October, 2008, consideration was given to a report presented by the Assistant Head of School Effectiveness Service concerning the 14-19 Strategy and the requirements of the Government White Paper 'Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver'. This White Paper details the transfer of responsibility for 16-19 education from the Learning and Skills Council to local authorities, by the end of the decade.

The report stated that the Leitch Review of Skills identified an urgent need for higher-level skills in order for the United Kingdom to remain competitive; the Every Child Matters agenda demands that every young person gets a good start in life and is equipped with the skills that they need in order to thrive in the global economy; the Government demands that all those working with children and young people should work together in partnership to improve the lives of those children and young people.

Over the next five years local authorities are charged with meeting new and significant responsibilities and challenges in relation to the 14-19 agenda. These challenges include the re-commissioning of Connexions, the re-commissioning of Business Education links, commissioning 16-19 education provision, ensuring the 14-19 Curriculum Entitlement (including Diplomas and Apprenticeships) and managing the demands which will inevitably stem from the raising of the participation age.

In order to respond to these changes, Rotherham has established a Rotherham 14-19 Learning Plan 2008 to 2013 which sets out the proposals for transforming education for 14-19 year olds within the Borough and takes full account of the current and proposed legislation.

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

- the emphasis upon engaging with young people, ensuring their participation in learning and raising skill levels; it was not simply a matter of requiring young people to stay on at school for further study;
- some of the funding would be transferred from the Learning and Skills Council;
- flexibility of learning provision was very important;
- the role of the Sub-Regional Group of the four local authorities in South Yorkshire in commissioning the 16-19 age group learning provision;
- the use of different learning environments, eg: specialist colleges, ICT and on-line virtual learning environments;

- learning provision to be situated in locations accessible to young people, to try and prevent unnecessarily lengthy journeys to places of learning;
- the provision of the traditional adult community learning (typically, evening classes) would be delivered by a separate agency, currently overseen by the Learning and Skills Council.

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

(2) That a progress report about the 14 to 19 Learning Strategy be submitted to a meeting of this Scrutiny Panel in twelve months' time.

57. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROVISION AND FUNDING

Further to Minute No. 70 of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 28th November, 2008, consideration was given to a report presented jointly by the Programme Director, Building Schools for the Future and the Manager of Special Educational Needs and Assessment Services, concerning the mainstream funding for Special Educational Needs (SEN). The report stated that funding for high incidence SEN continues to be driven through formula factors for each school, in addition to the mainstream school budget. Schools which have pupils with low incidence exceptional needs continue to receive a top-up allocation based upon Descriptors discussed and recommended via the Special Educational Needs Panel.

Some funding is retained centrally for:-

- : support services;
- : children with exceptional needs, who, with additional central funding may continue to have their needs met within Rotherham schools under 'The Closer the Better' agenda;
- : extra district SEN placements through single, joint or tripartite funding arrangements.

Special Schools continue to achieve their specialisms, thus supporting all of the Borough's children and young people more effectively.

The report also included details of:-

- : the developing role of special schools;
- : mainstream SEN funding and the total SEN budget;
- : the impact of funding changes;
- : training linked to SEN delegation;
- : notional SEN funding delegated to mainstream schools (Section 52 Schools Statements and including unit allocations).

The Scrutiny Panel's debate of this issue included the following salient points:-

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- Rotherham's performance in approving statements of special educational needs for assessed pupils, compared to other similar local authorities;
- providing parents with reasons for refusing statements to assessed pupils;
- parental awareness of the right to request an assessment of special educational needs for their children;
- publication of information about SEN provision on the Borough Council's Internet web site;
- assessments of pupils collecting appropriate information about pupils from a range of professional staff;
- schools' SEN provision is assessed during Ofsted inspections, during which there is consultation with parents;
- the funding of provision for low incidence SEN is being reviewed currently.

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

(2) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Panel describing the Voice and Influence survey of parents of Rotherham school pupils.

58. TRANSFORMING ROTHERHAM LEARNING / BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE - UPDATE

Further to Minute No. C52 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 15th July, 2009, consideration was given to a report presented by the Programme Director, Building Schools for the Future summarising the progress being made with the Transforming Rotherham Learning Strategy through Building Schools for the Future (BSF).

The report stated that there had positive initial feedback from Partnerships for Schools after the submission of Rotherham's Strategy for Change Part 1 on 25th August, 2009. Work had now begun on the Outline Business Case, which is due to be submitted on 26th January, 2010 with the intention of going out to the market to procure a Local Education Partnership in April, 2010.

The Scrutiny Panel noted that the first phase of BSF would produce £80 millions of investment and a further £8 millions of investment for ICT. There would be significant new build at Maltby, Swinton, Saint Pius, Oakwood and Aston Secondary Schools. Additionally, Hilltop Special and a new Maltby Hall/ Lilly Hall primary school (funded through the Primary Capital Programme) would be co-located with the secondary school (to be

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the Maltby Academy from January, 2010). There would also be considerable ICT investment for all of the latter schools and the Abbey and Milton Schools, together with additional investment for the Council's central services, where all schools in their Learning Communities should benefit.

The Scrutiny Panel discussed the following salient issues:-

- the implications of Trust status for the governance of schools;
- learning communities of schools;
- provision for physical education and sports;
- raising levels of pupil achievement;
- scrutiny review of community use of school facilities;
- admission criteria for pupils' entry into schools.

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

(2) That a further progress report about Transforming Rotherham Learning Strategy through Building Schools for the Future be submitted to a meeting of this Scrutiny Panel in six months' time.

59. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FIRST QUARTER REPORT 2009/2010

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Performance Manager which detailed the Children and Young People's Services performance at the end of the first quarter 2009/10 (June 2009). The report provided analysis against targets, direction of travel against previous performance and where possible comparisons with this Council's statistical neighbours and national data.

Members noted that the format of the report had changed to provide more analysis and assessment of comparison and direction of travel, which will be valuable to managers, Directors and Elected Members under the Comprehensive Area Assessment regime.

Members noted the arrangements concerning performance clinics and also that invitations would be made to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel to attend those clinics.

Discussion took place on:-

- the progress of the work to prevent childhood obesity (Minute No. 107 of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 6th March, 2009, refers);

- the stability of placements for looked after children.

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

60. SCRUTINY REVIEW - FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR THE YOUTH SERVICE

Further to Minute No. 71 of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 28th November, 2008, consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Children and Young People's Services Community Services containing the responses by Children and Young People's Services to the recommendations of the Youth Service Scrutiny Review (Minute No. B116 of the Cabinet meeting held on 12th November, 2008 refers). The report made reference to the terms of reference for this review (legal responsibility; effectiveness of Young People's Service; Involving Young People; Financial issues) and also included the Cabinet's response to the recommendations.

The Scrutiny Panel discussed the progress being made against the recommendations of this Scrutiny Review (entitled 'Future Challenges for the Youth Service') during the past twelve months.

Reference was made in the report to the intention to engage consultants (at no cost to the Borough Council) who would facilitate the development of a strategy relating to the spaces and facilities offered for use by young people throughout the Borough area. Members also noted:-

- the current and likely future impact upon the Youth Service of the Borough Council's deliberations;

- the funding obtained for the provision of a youth facility in the Rotherham town centre under the Government's 'My Place' initiative; and

- the development of the Internet web site facility 'the Directory of Services and Activities for Children, Young People and their Families in Rotherham'.

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

(2) That a report about the consultants' study of spaces and facilities for young people be submitted to a meeting of this Scrutiny Panel early in 2010.

(3) That a progress report be submitted to the next meeting of this Scrutiny Panel about the Internet web site facility 'the Directory of Services and Activities for Children, Young People and their Families in Rotherham' (Minute No. 90 of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 7th March, 2008, refers).

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - 02/10/09 8C

61. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 4th September, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

62. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET MEMBER AND ADVISERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES HELD ON 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services, held on 9th September, 2009, be noted.

63. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S BOARD HELD ON 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Children's Board held on 16th September, 2009 be noted.

64. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 11th September, 2009, be noted.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SCRUTINY SUB-PANEL
Wednesday, 23rd September, 2009

Present:- Councillor G. A. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Barron, Burton, J. Hamilton and Jack; and Mrs. A. Lidster (co-opted member).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dodson, Gosling, McNeely, P. A. Russell and Trickett (co-opted member).

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

13. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8TH JULY, 2009

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel, held on 8th July, 2009, be approved as a correct record.

14. WIDENING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN IN LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE

Further to Minute No. 9 of the meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel held on 8th July, 2009, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Manager of the Get Real Team, concerning the support and encouragement provided for children who live in state care to stay on at school or college after the official school-leaving age.

The report stated that the Government's Care Matters agenda, set out in the Green Paper and the subsequent White Paper "Time for Change" (2007) outlined the support which young people could expect when entering higher education. This support includes:-

: applicants coming from care backgrounds can be identified and supported during the admission process and once they begin their studies;

: introducing a national bursary, requiring local authorities to provide a minimum of £2,000 for all young people in care who go on to University;

: giving young people a choice of vacation accommodation while they are studying.

In addition, under Section 20 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008, schools have a duty to appoint a Designated Teacher and Designated Governor to have responsibility to promote the educational achievement of looked after children who are registered pupils at the school (the designated teacher duty became a statutory role from 1st September 2009).

Included with the report was a copy of the document entitled "Going to University from Care", published by the Institute of Education (University of London).

The Scrutiny Sub-Panel also heard from Mary-Ann Barton (Action for Children Bridges Project) and from Ian Munton (University of Sheffield), who spoke about the support provided for Looked After Children who wished to go on to study at University.

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

- financial support for Looked After Children studying at University;
- choice of University, either local or much further afield;
- Personal Education Plans and raising the aspirations of looked After Children;
- student retention rates;
- housing for Looked After Children who return from University during holiday periods;
- links with local Colleges in Rotherham;
- this Council's performance in relation to the various recommendations of the document entitled "Going to University from Care", published by the Institute of Education.

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

(2) That the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services be requested to examine and report back to this Scrutiny Sub-Panel whether any service alterations are required in order to improve the provision of support for Looked After Children who aspire to continue with their education beyond statutory school leaving age and particularly in respect of:-

- maintaining housing priority for those students who study out of the area and may wish to return on the conclusion of their course;
- post 16 academic support from the Get Real Team.

(3) That the development of links with local Colleges through Local Authority nominated Governors be supported.

15. 'CARE MATTERS' - UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Looked After Children Service Manager, concerning the developments within the Department for Children, Schools and Families' agenda, the results of an initial gap analysis of Rotherham provision in respect of the Care Matters agenda and progress made to improve provision for Rotherham's looked after children.

The report stated that the Care Matters agenda contains a range of required actions for local authorities and timescales for implementation.

The submitted report provided details of progress made after the full review of the Care Matters agenda and the gap analysis of service provision within Rotherham. This agenda has implications for the whole of Children's and Young People's Services Directorate. Service provision is considered to be good and many aspects of the proposed legislation are incorporated within existing practice. Where gaps have been identified, action plans have been developed to ensure compliance. Details of the actions being taken were included in the report.

Discussion took place on the various key aspects of the Care Matters agenda and the actions being taken by the Borough Council:-

- corporate parenting;
- family and parenting support;
- care placements;
- delivering a first class education;
- promoting the health and well-being of looked after children;
- the transition to adulthood of looked after children;
- the role of the social work practitioner.

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

(2) That the various actions, as described in the report now submitted, to ensure compliance with the Government's Care Matters agenda, be endorsed.

(3) That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel detailing the statutory role of the designated teacher for looked after children.

16. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PROFILE

The Looked After Children Service Manager submitted a report providing the quarterly statistics and profile of the number of looked after children and young people in Rotherham. The report stated that, as at 7th September 2009, there were 400 looked after children, 28 of whom were supported by the children's disability team. This number was an increase from 353 children in June 2008 and 391 in March, 2009, but a decrease

from 409 in June, 2009.

Statistics were included in the report of the type of care received by looked after children and young people, their age range, type of care order and ethnic backgrounds.

Discussion took place on the reported figures and how they were recorded and validated on the computer record system (SWIFT).

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

17. INSPECTION OF FOSTERING SERVICES

Consideration of this item was deferred until the next meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel, to be held on 2nd December, 2009, to enable the updated action plan to be reported.

18. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended (information likely to reveal the identity of an individual).

19. ISSUES EMERGING FROM REGULATION 33 REPORTS CHILDREN'S HOMES. (REPORT ATTACHED)

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Operations Manager, Provider Services containing a summary of the main issues and events occurring in Children's Homes during the period June to August, 2009. The report referred to the mainstream Children's Homes which are:

- Goodwin Crescent Children's Home at Swinton;
- St. Edmunds Avenue Children's Home at Thurcroft;
- Silverwood Children's Home, East Herringthorpe;
- Woodview Children's Home, Kimberworth Park (formerly Studmoor Road).

The report and appended action plans provided information about the visits and reports made under Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001.

Reference was made to the implications of the inspections of the children's homes undertaken by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted).

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

20. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN COUNCIL

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Looked After Children Service Manager outlining the duties placed upon local authorities within the Care Matters agenda to put into place new processes to hear the voice of the looked after child and to ensure that their needs are listened to and responded to. The report also detailed the progress made towards these requirements, in Rotherham.

The report included details of the membership of the Looked After Children (LAC) Council. The work of the LAC Council has included:-

- work on the Borough Council and LAC Council's 'pledge' to Looked after Children;
- networking with other LAC Councils;
- a visit to London as part of the London Ministerial Stock;
- development of a magazine for Looked after Children (the Magazina);
- Summer holiday activities and planning for a residential outing in Derbyshire later this year.

Agreed:- That the report be received and the good progress of the Looked After Children Council be noted.

1DCABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES -
06/10/09

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES
Tuesday, 6th October, 2009

Present:- Councillor S. Wright (in the Chair); and Councillor Currie.

Also in attendance : Councillor Littleboy.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Havenhand and Tweed.

55. APPOINTMENT OF LEA SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Pursuant to Minute No. C50 of January 2000, consideration was given to nominations received to fill Local Authority vacancies on school governing bodies.

Resolved:- (1) That, with the effective date of appointment as shown, the following appointments be made to school governing bodies, subject to satisfactory checks being undertaken:-

New Appointments

Brampton Cortonwood Infant	Mr.	Brian	Steele
	06.10.2009		
Canklow Woods	Ms.	Margaret R.	Britton
	06.10.2009		
Ferham Primary	Mrs.	B. Monce	Speight
	06.10.2009		
Meadow View Primary	Councillor	Kathleen	Simms
	06.10.2009		
Swinton Brookfield Primary	Mr.	Horace C.	Atkin
	06.10.2009		
Thurcroft Junior	Mrs.	Jane	Slater
	06.10.2009		
Brampton The Ellis Infant	Mr.	Michael	Sherwood
	06.10.2009		
Aston Comprehensive	Mrs.	Julie	Mepham
	06.10.2009		
Brinsworth Comprehensive	Mr.	Richard G.	Clegg
	06.10.2009		
Oakwood Technology College	Mrs.	Sandra	Gilling
	06.10.2009		
Wales High	Mrs.	Gail	Foster
	06.10.2009		

Re-appointments

Aughton Primary	Mr.	Michael	Woodhouse
	01.11.2009		

Brinsworth Manor Infant	Mrs.	Margaret	Adams
	11.10.2009		
Saint Pius X Catholic High, Wath	Mr.	Anthony	Hawkins
	18.11.2009		

(2) That a review be undertaken of the criteria for the appointment of LEA representatives to school governing bodies.

56. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Resolved:- That future meetings to consider nominations to fill Local Authority vacancies on school governing bodies take place on the following dates:-

- Tuesday 24th November, 2009
- Tuesday 8th December, 2009
- Tuesday 12th January, 2010
- Tuesday 2nd February, 2010
- Tuesday 16th February, 2010
- Tuesday 23rd March, 2010
- Tuesday 20th April, 2010

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES
Wednesday, 7th October, 2009**

Present:- Councillor S. Wright (in the Chair); and Councillor Havenhand.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Currie and Tweed.

57. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th September, 2009 be approved as a correct record.

58. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S BOARD HELD ON 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Children's Board held on 16th September, 2009 be noted.

59. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE PROJECT BOARD HELD ON 30TH JUNE, 2009

Consideration was given to the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Building Schools for the Future Project Board, held on 30th June, 2009.

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes be noted.

60. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2009/2010

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Finance Manager detailing the expenditure, income and the net budget position for Children and Young People's Services compared to the profiled budgets for the period 1st April until 31st August 2009 and the projected year end outturn position for 2009/2010. The report stated that, currently, the Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £4,498,000.

Members debated the continuing pressures on the Directorate budget.

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

(2) That the current 2009/2010 forecast outturn position for the Children and Young People's Services Directorate, based on actual costs and income to 31st August, 2009 and forecast costs and income to 31st March, 2010 be noted.

(The Chairman authorised consideration of the following item at this meeting, to ensure compliance with the required timescale for the appointments)

61. MALTBY ACADEMY - APPOINTMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND GOVERNING BODY

Consideration was given to the appointment of LEA representatives to (i) the Board of Trustees and (ii) the Governing Body of the Maltby Academy.

Resolved:- (1) That Councillor Amy Rushforth be appointed as the LEA representative on the Board of Trustees of the Maltby Academy with immediate effect.

(2) That Councillor Amy Rushforth and Mr. Graham Sinclair (Programme Director, Building Schools for the Future) be appointed as LEA representatives on the Governing Body of the Maltby Academy for a term of four years commencing on Monday, 4th January, 2010.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
25th September, 2009

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Austen, Barron, License and P. A. Russell.

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

56. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

57. SCRUTINISING THE BUDGET

Andrew Bedford, Strategic Director of Finance, presented the submitted report indicating that the Council's financial position, alongside all local authorities, would come under increasingly intensive pressure over the next few years. A combination of increasing demand for services, resulting from, for example, demographic changes and a tightening of public spending would mean Councils would have to look closely at how robust control was maintained over the budget, how spending was aligned to priorities and how value for money was achieved. These should all be priority areas for scrutiny focus. It was also important that Members had their information relating to the Council's finances refreshed on a regular basis.

The report referred to joint working between Scrutiny Support and Financial Services to highlight the 2010/11 budget process and scrutiny arrangements and to provide refresher sessions for Members on how budget setting and budget management works in the Authority.

The report covered:-

- Budget content.
- Budget scrutiny.
- Refresher sessions for Members.

Andrew gave a general update on the budget highlighting the significant challenges, key points and budget gap.

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

- Children and Young People's Services budget.
- Areas of finance to cover in the refresher sessions.
- Need for a structured approach to meet the challenges.
- Importance of information sharing and communication.
- Attendance at the refresher sessions.
- VAT implications on budget.
- Timetable for refresher sessions.

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

(2) That the proposals for offering financial management refresher sessions for Members be supported.

(3) That the timescale for the preparation of the 2010/11 budget and key issues relating to the budget be noted.

58. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2009 - 2012

Mark Gannon, Transformation and Strategic Partnerships Manager, presented the submitted report which set out the details of the refreshed Procurement Strategy that had been updated to cover the period 2009-2012.

The Council's previous Procurement Strategy 2006-2009 successfully delivered improvements across a number of areas of procurement activity. The refreshed Procurement Strategy built upon these improvements to cover the period 2009-2012.

Delivering the overall vision of the Procurement Strategy had been built around nine themes. These were:

- **Theme 1** : Supporting the Local Economy
- **Theme 2** : Voluntary and Community Sector
- **Theme 3** : Equality and Diversity
- **Theme 4** : Fairtrade and Trade Justice
- **Theme 5** : Environmentally Friendly Procurement
- **Theme 6** : Legal Procurement
- **Theme 7** : e-Procurement
- **Theme 8** : Achieving Value For Money
- **Theme 9** : Building Capacity

The Strategy was supported by an Implementation Plan (attached for reference) with actions mapped against each of the Strategy themes. A

number of the actions had already been implemented and work was ongoing on the majority of the other actions. The Implementation Plan was tracked through the Procurement Panel which had representation from across the Council and key partners.

The Strategy was approved by the Cabinet on 29th July, 2009.

The strategy was a critical element in ensuring the Council continued to develop its procurement activity so that it was as efficient and effective as possible and could continue to generate procurement savings to contribute to the Council's Gershon targets.

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

- supporting the local economy and any barriers identified regarding small and medium sized enterprises
- need to be more supportive of local procurement whilst appreciating the need to make savings
- 'Meet the Buyer' events
- tracking of spend levels regarding organisations engaging with the Authority
- need to be more proactive and not just direct organisations to the website
- 'Meet the Seller' events
- RBT Connect Ltd. savings levels through procurement
- 'maverick' procurement
- environmentally friendly procurement : contact with local farmers
- shared services
- balance of activity regarding voluntary sector and small/medium enterprises

Resolved:- (1) That the draft Procurement Strategy 2009-2012 be supported.

(2) That the Implementation Plan which supports delivery of the Strategy be noted.

(3) That the Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) Website Summary, as

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now submitted at Appendix 1 to the report, that was undertaken in support of this Strategy, be noted.

59. PROCUREMENT LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report setting out details of the indicators, targets and performance for quarter one of the current financial year.

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

- three were status green
- six were status amber with performance on target
- two were for information/monitoring only without targets
- two had reporting yet to commence
- five would report later in the year

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

- timeframe of the supplied data
- LPI2 : To increase the Council's percentage of core trade spend with SMEs by 5% to match the sub-regions average of 56% by April, 2008

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

60. PAYMENT OF INVOICES WITHIN THIRTY DAYS - FORMER BVPI8

Further to Minute No. 7 of the meeting of this Committee held 12th June, 2009, Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report which detailed BVPI8 and how it measured the payment of undisputed invoices within thirty days.

The Council had agreed the following average annual target for performance of BVPI8 with RBT:

2009/10 97.5%

Outturn performance for recent years had achieved:

2006/07	91%
2007/08	94%
2008/09	92%

Recent performances for the new financial year had achieved:-

April	96.65%
May	96.44%
June	93.47%
July	94.37%
August	93.78%

Year to date performance currently stood at 94.74%.

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

(2) That Children and Young People's Services be the next directorate to attend this Committee to explain issues within their respective programme area.

61. RBT QUARTER 1 - PERFORMANCE

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

A Performance Management Framework refresh had been undertaken which involved assessing all operational measures for the RBT service areas to ensure that they remained relevant and that targets were appropriate, specifically relevant for the Customer Access workstream. This resulted in further negotiations with RBT to enhance the suite of measures. Revised measures were approved and implemented in July.

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

- VOIP telephony issues
- need for a spreadsheet of internal telephone numbers to be supplied to elected Members
- Business Continuity Planning : need for scrutiny panels to received information in relation to their respective areas
- performance clinics
- Macmillan Cancer Welfare Benefits Service

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

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(2) That progress reports regarding performance clinics be submitted at six monthly intervals

(3) That the issues relating to (a) spreadsheet of internal telephone numbers and (b) Business Continuity Planning information to scrutiny panels be pursued.

(4) That, with regard to the Macmillan Cancer Welfare Benefits Service, details of the service and information regarding the launch date be provided to elected Members.

62. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

63. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor J. Hamilton reported that the latest meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel had considered:-

- a presentation on the Safer Rotherham Partnership performance update
- scrutiny of crime and disorder partnerships, Police and Justice Act 2006
- change to executive arrangements
- future review of devolved budgets

(b) Councillor McNeely reported on a meeting regarding 2010 Rotherham Ltd.

(c) Councillor Swift reported the need to arrange the requested meeting regarding the flood situation and invite the appropriate utilities.

(d) Councillor Jack reported that parish council progress reports on the flooding situation should be made available to Councillor Swift as chair of the Rother Valley West Area Assembly and she would request the clerk to provide reports accordingly.

(e) Councillor Whelbourn reported:

- on a useful second meeting of the Yorkshire South Tourism

Board which he chaired in Barnsley on 23rd September, 2009

- on the need today to cancel the Health Welfare and Safety visits due to poor attendance. It was agreed that Scrutiny Panels should be reminded and encouraged to ensure their respective representatives attended future meetings and visits.

64. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

65. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

**66. RBT QUARTER 1 - APRIL TO JUNE, 2009 - PERFORMANCE UPDATE
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Mark Gannon, Transformation and Strategic Partnerships Manager, presented the submitted report summarising RBT's performance in respect of procurement savings achieved and the Revenues and Benefits Service in the first quarter of the current financial year.

The report covered:-

- savings performance
- addressable spend tracking
- Council Tax
- NNDR
- other service measures
- national collection statistics for 2008/09

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

- savings performance against targets

- economic downturn effect on Council Tax base
- recovery procedures and balance between obtaining money and helping businesses face current challenges
- safeguards to prevent overcharging

Resolved:- That RBT's performance against contractual measures and key service delivery areas for April, May and June, 2009 be noted.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
Friday, 9th October, 2009

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jack.

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

68. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS.

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

69. LOCALISED FLOODING IN JUNE, 2009

Graham Kaye, Principal Engineer, outlined the matters set out in the report circulated.

A progress report was provided on the flash flooding event of June, 2009, together with actions taken by the Council to date and proposals to improve further resilience against future flooding.

On 9th September, 2009 a detailed report on the flash flooding event of June, 2009, together with actions taken by the Council to date and proposals to improve further resilience against future flooding, was approved by Cabinet Members. A copy of the Post Incident Report and Initial Investigations Report was attached in Appendix A to the report.

The Post Incident and Initial Investigations Report described the incidents that affected the Borough of Rotherham. Section 3 provided detail of the initial investigation works that had been carried out by the Streetpride Drainage Team into the cause of the flooding and any possible initial recommendations and schemes to improve the flooding problems. It did not describe in detail what the Council and other responding agencies did but it did include a description of events that led to the incidents, together with a summary of the Council's response and recovery actions.

Sections 3 and 6 of the report listed observations and initial recommendations to improve the existing flood prevention and any future response to incidents of this nature in the Borough of Rotherham.

In September, 2009, two additional temporary Agency Drainage Engineers had been employed by the Council to carry out the next stage of the feasibility study and to analyse and identify solutions to minimise the risk of future flooding in the areas detailed in the Post Incident and Initial Investigations Report.

The feasibility works commenced in September, 2009 and were likely to extend until March, 2010. It was the intention of the Council to update Ward Members, Members of Parliament, Parish Councillors and residents affected by the floods regarding the progress of the works on a regular basis. The Council's Communications Unit, Media and Public Relations, would assist in forwarding all relevant updates and information, to Ward Members, Members of Parliament, Parish Councillors and residents.

To date feasibility works had commenced in Aston and Laughton Common. Topographical surveys and Closed Circuit Television Surveys were being carried out throughout Rotherham in areas affected by the June, 2009 floods. The topographical surveys had now been completed ahead of programme and all Closed Circuit Television Surveys and manhole surveys were programmed to be completed by mid October, 2009.

The Council's Drainage Section and Media and Public Relations had met with Ward Members, Kevin Barron, Aston Parish Council Members and residents in Aston and Laughton Common to update them on the progress of the works and the aims of the feasibility studies. Over the coming weeks contact would be made with Ward Members, Members of Parliament, Parish Councillors and residents in all other areas affected by the floods, such as Swallownest, Aughton, Treeton, Herringthorpe, Todwick, Clifton, Thrybergh, and Thurcroft.

On completion of the feasibility works detailed information and solutions to minimise the flooding problems would be reported to the Council, Ward Members, Members of Parliament, Parish Councillors and residents so that funding maybe sought to enable all future flood alleviation works identified, to be carried out.

Shortly after the June, 2009 floods, Streetpride Drainage Team, on behalf of Green Spaces, carried out various maintenance works to ditches and an outfall, including diverting a ditch to transfer water away from properties in Windle Court and Shoreland Drive, Treeton.

Major de-silting works had also been carried out to the highway drain in Worksop Road, Swallownest.

Ongoing discussions were taking place between the Environment Agency and Streetpride Drainage Team, into the possibility of providing a pluvial flood warning message to the residents in Aston, Swallownest and Aughton. Pluvial flooding was the result of rainfall generated overland flows before the run-off enters any watercourse or sewer. This new system was only in its trial period but the Government had stressed the need to issue pluvial flood warning messages, in areas where there was a high risk of pluvial flooding. Ward Members, Members of Parliament and residents would be consulted before the Environment Agency's pluvial flood warning system was commissioned.

The Emergency and Safety Team were currently investigating a multi messaging system to keep elected Members and Parish Councillors informed about flood response arrangements during an incident.

The Multi Agency Flood Plan was currently being prepared in line with the guidance from DEFRA and Environment Agency, and would be disseminated to partners in early October, 2009. The plan identified all high risk flood areas within the Borough of Rotherham following the floods of June, 2007 and June, 2009. Aston Cum Aughton and Swallownest had now been included as one of the high risk flood areas. The Multi Agency Flood Plan would be tested as part of the Corporate Exercise due to take place on 21st and 22nd April, 2010.

One of the recommendations in the Post Incident Report was the setting up of a team of key personnel who would be available to assist the affected community immediately after a flooding incident and this was currently being progressed by the Emergency and Safety Team.

In September, 2009, the Council, on behalf of the property owners who were flooded internally after the June, 2009 floods, submitted applications to the Environment Agency for funding through the Property Flood Level Grant. DEFRA had provided the Environment Agency with a £3 million Property Flood Level Grant, for the whole of Yorkshire. If the applications were successful, residents may be eligible for grants which would enable them to protect their homes against future flooding.

There were also costs associated with the production of further public information such as the Council's website and leaflets for dissemination to the local communities before, during and after a flood.

Any requirements for additional revenue funding were not reflected in the current medium term financial strategy.

Failure to progress the observations and recommendations and future improvement works outlined within the attached Post Incident and Initial Investigations Report would leave the Council vulnerable to future events of this nature and seriously affect the Council's future reputation.

In order to carry out further investigation works, 2 additional temporary Agency Engineers had been employed over a 6 monthly period, otherwise the Streetpride Drainage Team would be unable to deliver previously committed schemes and works scheduled for this financial year.

The majority of the surface water overland flooding problems were from privately owned land and would require the full corporation of the landowner(s). The duty of all riparian owners (i.e. private landowners) was to ensure that all flows within a watercourse were not impeded. The Council had a duty to maintain the safety of the highway and had certain permissive powers to ensure that riparian owners carried out their maintenance duties.

Some residents affected by the floods were now demanding that the Council take action to resolve flooding problems. Residents had contacted elected members and Members of Parliament to stress the urgency in eliminating all risks from future flooding problems.

Gary Collins, Yorkshire Water, reported on strategic matters relating to engineering and detailed the local and regional situation. He offered to attend or be represented at relevant Parish Council or public meetings. He also outlined the communications procedures relating to Yorkshire Water.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued that covered the full range of issues relating to the June, 2009 localised flooding.

These were summarised as follows:-

- The biggest problem was flooding from agricultural land
- Communications issues were significant and were being addressed by the Council and its partners
- Reference to specific properties at Aston, Aughton, Swallownest and Treeton
- Concern that remedies had not been provided following the 2007 floods
- A proposal by the Environment Agency to have a trial Pluvial flood relief pilot to control flooding from fields in Aston, Aughton, Swallownest and Treeton
- The effect of flooding of houses and the area surrounding Willows School at Thurcroft
- Anticipated legislation that would cover a wide range of issues including legal responsibilities, responsibilities of property and land owners, planning applications and general developments
- Flood risk assessments for flood plains
- Lack of consideration of flooding in most planning applications
- Houses that had suffered flooding for many years
- Prevention/protection
- Rapid response
- A proposal to have easy access to a list of key service providers and those able to respond to emergencies
- The role of British Rail and the need to take action on various sites in Rotherham
- The role of UK Coal and the need to obtain information on their land and coal mines
- The role of all utilities and service providers
- The Council's legal responsibilities
- Rotherham Borough Council was the designated land drainage authority with certain powers
- Few powers existed to control natural events, including rain water running off slopes and hills
- Ability for flooded owners to take civil action

- An offer from Yorkshire Water to provide a written report on specific areas raised at this meeting
- The need for the Environment Agency, Severn Trent, Network Rail and U.K. Coal to set out their positions relating to these floods
- Capacity for gully cleaning
- Annual schedule for gully cleaning
- The need for a report on how officers and members would make decisions during the August recess
- The need for a guidance note on house insurance
- Information required on the DEFRA property fund grant to be announced shortly
- Consideration of the bigger picture to include how the Government, regional and local agencies plan and take action to prevent wide scale flooding in future
- Climate change and the regularity and volume of heavy rain
- The fallacy of extensive floods being once per 100 years
- Use of Rotherham News to publicise names and telephone numbers of relevant people

Members welcomed the extensive activity taking place to combat flooding but emphasised the need for continual focus to be given to meeting the needs of individuals affected.

Resolved:- (1) That the overall position be noted and the reports be received.

(2) That further meetings of this Committee be held to meet various organisations and receive updates on activity.

(3) That the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel consider matters of detail.

(4) That written reports be submitted to this Committee from the various agencies whenever possible.

70. PAYMENT OF INVOICES WITHIN THIRTY DAYS - FORMER BVPI8 - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Karen Potts, Procurement Champion, Children and Young People's Services (CYPS), outlined the matters set out in the report circulated.

The key themes arising from the reports on Goods Returned Notes (GRN) showed as follows:-

- Each month Children and Young People's Services processed an average of 4,500 invoices of which approximately 100 fell outside the required 30 day timescale.
- Generally CYPS achieved the 2009/10 target of 97.5% of invoices processed within 30 days.
- In August, 2009 performance dropped to 95.24% due to a 25%

increase in late GRNs and the number of invoices processed reducing by almost half. This reflected the Summer holiday period and the term time only nature of a number of services.

The monthly analysis of late GRN transactions had highlighted the following issues:-

- Confusion over automatic reminder messages issued
- Old or incorrect order references quoted by suppliers
- Disputed invoices (including those sent too early by supplier)
- Delays in receiving copy invoice to be able to check details of services provided (usually related to children's care and high value invoices)
- Staffing problems / change of job
- Goods delivered in School holidays (no staff on site to deal with GRN)
- Top ups for call off orders (usually agency staffing or out of authority placements)
- Order errors for energy invoices that did not require receipting
- Occasional staff training issues

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued on the following :-

- Goods received notes
- Start of month, end of month
- Effect of school holidays
- P2P issues
- Invoices in dispute
- Communications and training issues
- Performance clinic
- Need for improvement
- Possibility of meeting targets better than thirty days

Councillor Wyatt, Cabinet Member for Resources, outlined the strategic position including the following:-

- There was a big improvement in performance overall
- This performance indicator was subject to robust review and monitoring
- Procurement achieved substantial cost savings for the Council
- The practical issues raised at this meeting were under consideration by the Procurement Panel

Resolved:- (1) That the position in CYPS be noted, together with action being taken to secure improvements.

(2) That the issues raised be considered by this Committee at future meetings, including when RBT Performance was scrutinised.

(3) That systems issues be reviewed by the Procurement Panel.

71. "11 MILLION TAKEOVER DAY" 2009

Cath Saltis reported that "11 Million Takeover Day 2009" was to be held on Friday, 6th November, 2009.

Members discussed the options for supporting this event and made suggestions on how best to utilise this opportunity.

Resolved:- (1) That "11 Million Takeover Day 2009" be supported.

(2) That the Youth Cabinet be invited to take over this Committee's meeting on 6th November, 2009.

(3) That members of the Cabinet and relevant youth groups be invited to attend.

72. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

73. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor G. A. Russell reported on the following matters from the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel:-

- Children and Young People's Services – Revenue Budget 2009/2010
- 14 to 19 Strategy, including Learning and Skills Council Developments
- Special Educational Needs Provision and Funding
- Transforming Rotherham Learning/Building Schools for the Future – Update
- Children and Young People's Services – Performance Indicators First Quarter

(b) Councillor McNeely reported on activity relating to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel.

(c) Councillor Boyes reported on matters relating to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel, particularly budget issues.

(d) Councillor Austen reported on the activity relating to the Democratic

Renewal Scrutiny Panel.

(e) Reference was also made to the arrangements for Value for Money reviews and the Chairman was asked to raise concerns with the Strategic Director of Finance.

74. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.

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

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