

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

Venue: Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham.

Date: Friday, 8 January 2010

Time: 9.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for Absence.
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Questions from the press and public
6. Matters Referred from the Youth Cabinet
7. Communications

FOR MONITORING

8. Children and Young People's Services - Revenue Budget 2009/2010 Monitoring Report (copy attached) (Pages 1 - 8)

MINUTES

9. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 27th November, 2009 (copy attached) (Pages 9 - 14)
10. Minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services (copies attached) (Pages 15 - 28) held as follows:-
 - 18th November 2009
 - 24th November 2009
 - 2nd December 2009

- 8th December 2009
- 16th December 2009

11. Minutes of a meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel held on 2nd December, 2009 (copy attached) (Pages 29 - 33)
12. Minutes of a meeting of the Children's Board held on 9th December, 2009 (copy attached) (Pages 34 - 41)
13. Minutes of a meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 20th November, 2009 (copy attached) (Pages 42 - 47)

Consideration of the following item will begin at 10.00 a.m.

FOR DISCUSSION

14. Rotherham Parenting Strategy (report attached) (Pages 48 - 80)
15. 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)
16. Minutes of a Meeting of the Children and Young People's Services - Value for Money Budget Review Group held on 30th November 2009 (copy attached) (Pages 81 - 84)

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Friday, 5 February 2010**

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. K. Muscroft,
Mr. M. Hall, Father A. Hayne, Mr. C. A. Marvin,
Mrs. L. Pitchley and Mrs. P. Wade.

1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 8 th January 2010
3.	Title:	Revenue Budget Monitoring Report as at 30th November 2009
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary

This report provides details of expenditure, income and the net budget position for the Children and Young People’s Service compared to the profiled budgets for the period ending on 30th November 2009 and the projected year end outturn position for 2009/10.

Currently the Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £4.084m.

6. Recommendations

Members are asked to note:

The current forecast outturn position for the Directorate based on actual costs and income to 30th November 2009 and forecast costs and income to 31st March 2010.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1.1 Strategic Management and Support Services and Management Costs – Forecast overspend £382k (offset by BSF capitalisation £688k)

These budgets are insufficient to meet current costs relating to CYPS staffing and central support costs relating to the need to maintain performance in locality teams and business support.

Changes to accounting regulations, now confirmed, require PFI and similar capital schemes, e.g. Building Schools for the Future, to be brought onto the Council's balance sheet as an asset. This change has enabled the Council to charge development costs incurred in the course of creating such an asset to a capital budget. This has released £688k revenue funding to offset Strategic Management budget pressures and contribute £306k to mitigate the overall forecast pressure on the Children and Young People budget in the current year.

7.1.2 Access to Education – Forecast overspend £81k

£58k of this forecast overspend relates to the provision of transport for looked after children due to the increase in numbers. The remainder is additional staff costs resulting from non-achievement of the vacancy factor.

7.1.3 Youth and Community – Forecast overspend £8k

The current forecast overspend is as a result of a projected under-recovery of income from the Outdoor Education Service of £69K which will be offset by forecast underspends within the Youth Service. As part of setting the budget for 2009/10 the income budgets for the Outdoor Education Service were increased, requiring the facilities to operate on a self financing basis but this has proved difficult to achieve in the current economic climate.

7.1.4 Commissioning and Social Work – Forecast overspend £1.731m

The forecast overspend on commissioning and social work is attributable to Section 17 payments (Prevention of Children Entering Care), Section 23 payments (expenses relating to Looked After Children), legal fees, Residence orders, Direct payments & special guardianship allowances, interpretation and agency costs:

Section 17

The number of children in need cases at the start of the financial year was 1,768, this is now 1,678. This was budgeted at £50 per child giving a total budget of £97K. This budget is forecast to be 96% overspent with a current forecast of £190K. Additionally there is a projected spend of £61k on payments to women and their children with no recourse to public funds. Previously these costs were paid from the Section 17 budget, but currently form part of the overspend.

Section 23

The number of looked after children at the end of March 2009 was 407. This was budgeted at £81 per child giving a total budget of £33K. This budget is forecast to be 309% overspent with a current forecast of £135K. The number of out of authority placements results in higher travel costs for contact arrangements.

Interpretation Costs

This forecast overspend of £60k is a result of the increased EU migrant population and family assessments and care proceedings being communicated effectively. Failure to have accurate translation in child protection would leave children vulnerable and would lead to significantly increased court and legal costs as we have to present a fully prepared case.

Legal Fees

The increase in Looked After Children numbers this year has resulted in an increase in legal activity which is currently being projected at £254K overspend. This has been reduced by the agreement to appoint an additional solicitor instead of paying external fees.

Residence Order, Special Guardianship & Direct Payment Allowances

The forecast overspend of £243K is due to an increase in new allowances over and above projected numbers.

Agency

Due to the high level of care proceedings being undertaken by locality social work teams there has been a need to employ agency staff in order to ensure contact hours with clients are maintained. This includes costs for the additional administrative and Family Support Workers in response to the Contact and Referral Assessment inspection undertaken in August. The vacancy rate for fieldwork (locality and children's disability) at Team Manager level is currently at 41.2% (7 FTE) and Social Workers is 37.2% (30.7 FTE). (+£376k). Vacancy level for Locality Managers is 30.4%. Further detail on agency spend is included in 7.1.7

There are also forecast overspends of £542k on recruitment, premises, transport, supplies & services and non achievement of the vacancy factor.

7.1.5 Children Looked After – Forecast overspend £1.961m

The forecast overspend in this area of £2.981m has been offset by re-distribution of £1.320m of forecast underspends and additional grant funding from Special Education Provision (£304k), Specific Grant Support (£235k), Non Schools DSG (£30k), Student Support/Pensions (£35k), Delegated Services (£410k) and BSF Capitalisation (£306k).

The number of children in residential out of authority placements is 23. The budgeted number of 14 placements were set at a unit cost of £2,984 a week. The current unit cost of £3,552 per week and the 9 placements above budget has resulted in an additional cost of £1.167 m.(+53.6% above budget).

The number of children in Independent foster care is 98. The budgeted number of 77 placements were set at a unit cost of £446 a week. The current unit cost of £902 per week and the 21 placements above budget has resulted in an additional cost of £2.281m (+127.5% above budget). The forecast overspend in this area has been partially offset by anticipated savings in in-house fostering allowance costs (-£645k).

Plans continue to be progressed to recruit additional in-house foster carers. 15 new foster carers have been approved up to November (a net increase of 4 carers for the year to date). By March a net increase of 14 foster carers (35 approvals and 21 de-registrations) is expected. The current financial forecast reflects the assumptions about services to be provided by the new foster carers.

The number of looked after children requiring placements has risen from 345 at the end of March 2008 to 407 at the end of March 2009. As at the end of November this number is 397, an increase of 52 (15%) since the end of March 2008.

Retainers

During 2009/10 a number of court proceedings have resulted in the Judge directing CYPS to confirm that a placement has been secured for the children prior to the conclusion of the proceedings. Given the limited in-house provision this has led to an increasing number of retainers being paid to independent foster agencies and residential care providers. £8,425 has been paid to date to retain placements for 9 children, with only one of the placements actually taken up. A further £9,969 has been committed for a placement due to start after Christmas making the total cost of retainers £18,394.

Residential retainers £12k, projected spend £3.345m - equates to 0.36% of spend

Fostering retainers £7k, projected spend £4.080m - equates to 0.17% of spend.

Potential Reduction in forecast position

A potential reduction of £111k has been identified but is subject to the outcome of court proceedings and the availability of more suitable placements becoming available.

Other Children Looked After Services £478k

Other forecast overspends in this area include Residential Homes £407k mainly due to agency cover for residential social worker shortages and the Fostering Team £89k which is offset by £18k forecast savings across the service.

7.1.6 Other Children & Families Services – Forecast overspend £303K

There has been an increase in adoption activity resulting in additional costs of £407k. To date 16 children have been adopted with a further 31 placed with their prospective adopters. In addition, adoptive families are being sought for 51 children for who have a SHOBPA decision (i.e. should be placed for adoption approved). It is anticipated that 30 children will be adopted by 31 March 2010. This has been partially offset by underspends on the Supporting People budget (-£72k) and contributions from partners (-£32k)

7.1.7 Agency Savings

Members, through the Value for Money Review Panel, have requested that regular updates are provided on Agency spend within budget monitoring reports. The following table shows an analysis of Agency spend in 2009/10 to the end of November for the Directorate.

		2009/10								
	2008/09 Outturn	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	8 month cumulative
£'000	742	67	35	91	77	96	140	145	191	842

These costs are due to high sickness levels, the increase in Looked After Children Numbers and in response to the Contact Referral Inspection

7.1.8 The Directorate will make every effort to ensure continued strict budget management and monitoring is maintained to try to reduce the forecast outturn position. In addition to tight vacancy management the Directorate has implemented a moratorium on uncommitted, non-essential, non-pay expenditure.

7.1.9 Details of the revenue budget position for the Children and Young People's Directorate for the monitoring period ending on 30th November are shown in Appendix A attached.

7.1.10 A simplified version of Appendix A is included at Appendix B.

8 Finance

The financial issues are discussed in section 7 above and included in Appendix A and B.

9 Risks and Uncertainties

Principal risks and uncertainties relate to the needs led budgets for looked after children.

The number of looked after children has increased since last year and we would hope that this growth will not continue.

The recruitment of in house foster and adoptive carers remains a challenge and we must always ensure a high quality of placements. 15 new foster carers have been recruited up to November and it is expected that an additional 21 will be approved by the end of March.

A Resource Panel is in place which is reviewing 4 children's placements per week. The initial reviews are focussing on those placed in In-house residential placements with a view to considering the needs of the children and their care plans to determine the possibility of moving children currently in out of authority placements in to In-House provision. To date 6 residential and 12 fostering placements have ended as a result of the reviews.

Our decisions to place children with independent fostering agencies and in residential out of authority establishments will always be in the context of the best interests of our children. The budget need can only be an estimate given its volatile nature. For example, one out of authority residential placement can cost up to £250,000 per annum.

Legal costs will also remain at a high level. If children assessed as being in need of protective care are not made subject to Interim Care Orders, and subsequently Care Orders, the local authority is leaving children potentially at risk of significant harm.

10 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget within the revised limits determined by Council in March 2009 is vital in achieving the objectives of the Council's Policy agenda. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the council's overall performance.

11 Background Papers and Consultation

- Report to Cabinet on 25 February 2009 –Proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2009/10.
- The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2008 - 2011.

This report has been discussed with the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Service and the Strategic Director of Finance.

Contact Name:

Joanne Robertson - Finance Manager - Children & Young People's Service
Financial Services

Ext: 22041 Email: joanne.robertson@rotherham.gov.uk

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES																		
EXPENDITURE/INCOME TO DATE (As at 30 November 2009)										NET PROJECTED OUT-TURN								
Last Reported Projected Variance	Service Division	Expenditure			Income			Net			Annual Budget	Projected Out-turn	Current projected year end Variance Over (+)/ Under (-) spend	Current Financial RAG Status	Financial Impact of Management Action	Revised Projected Year end Variance Over(+)/Under(-) spend	Revised Financial RAG Status	* Note
		Profiled Budget	Actual Spending	Variance (Over (+) / Under (-) Spend)	Profiled Budget	Actual Income	Variance (Over (+) / Under (-) Recovered)	Profiled Budget	Actual Spend	Variance (Over (+) / Under (-) Spend)								
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		
0	Individual Schools Budget - Dedicated Schools Grant	127,015	127,015	0	(117,743)	(117,743)	0	9,272	9,272	0	0	0	0	Green				
0	Non-Schools - Dedicated Schools Grant	10,745	10,925	180	(3,625)	(3,498)	127	7,120	7,427	307	285	255	(30)	Green	30	0	Green	1
467	Strategic Management	3,481	3,102	(379)	(466)	(432)	34	3,015	2,670	(345)	5,352	5,001	(351)	Amber	351	0	Green	2
0	School Effectiveness	1,217	1,232	15	(458)	(303)	155	759	929	170	1,126	1,126	0	Green		0		
74	Access to Education	2,529	2,028	(501)	(117)	(95)	22	2,412	1,933	(479)	3,587	3,668	81	Amber	0	81	Amber	3
0	Special Education Provision	2,927	3,486	559	(1,818)	(1,805)	13	1,109	1,681	572	1,577	1,273	(304)	Green	304	0	Green	4
40	Specific Grant Support	7,893	7,719	(174)	(6,278)	(6,148)	130	1,615	1,571	(44)	25	(210)	(235)	Green	235	0	Green	5
69	Youth & Community	5,957	5,997	40	(3,245)	(3,159)	86	2,712	2,838	126	2,760	2,768	8	Amber		8	Green	6
0	Student Support / Pensions	3,681	3,555	(126)	(1,397)	(1,284)	113	2,284	2,271	(13)	1,670	1,635	(35)	Green	35	0	Green	7
0	Delegated Services	6,592	6,638	46	(6,321)	(6,446)	(125)	271	192	(79)	(23)	(433)	(410)	Green	410	0		8
1,275	Commissioning & Social Work	5,678	6,352	674	(338)	(390)	(52)	5,340	5,962	622	7,802	9,533	1,731	Red		1,731	Red	9
2,514	Children Looked After	7,193	9,294	2,101	(504)	(140)	364	6,689	9,154	2,465	10,105	13,386	3,281	Red	(1,320)	1,961	Red	10
0	Family Support Services	4	0	(4)	(3)	(3)	0	1	(3)	(4)	0	0	0	Green		0		
0	Youth Justice	610	638	28	(57)	(314)	(257)	553	324	(229)	596	596	0	Green		0		
0	Other Children & Families Services	1,776	1,643	(133)	(7)	(21)	(14)	1,769	1,622	(147)	2,637	2,940	303	Amber		303	Amber	11
59	Support Services & Management Costs	446	510	64	(49)	(45)	4	397	465	68	571	616	45	Amber	(45)	0	Amber	12
0	Asylum Seekers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Green		0		
0	Children & Families Grant	1,345	1,325	(20)	(978)	(943)	35	367	382	15	0	0	0	Green		0		
4,498	Total for Service	189,089	191,459	2,370	(143,404)	(142,769)	635	45,685	48,690	3,005	38,070	42,154	4,084		0	4,084		

Reason for Variance(s), Actions Proposed and Intended Impact on Performance

NOTES Reasons for Variance(s) and Proposed Actions

Reasons for Variance

- 1 Additiona income generation from Maltby Academy
- 2 Overspend on central support charges & not being able to meet the Vacancy Factor offset by Capitalisation of Building Schools for the Future funding
- 3 Overspend on transport costs for Looked After Children - needs led & unmet vacancy factors
- 4 Reduced requirement for Complex Needs placements
- 5 Underspend/redistribution of Grants
- 6 Under recovery of income on Outdoor Education venues offset by underspends within the Youth service
- 7 Underspend on Pensions
- 8 Increase in Income Targets on traded services
- 9 Overspend on Legal costs, staffing, agency, VPN costs & Section 17 & 23 spend - needs led
- 10 Overspend on Out of Authority Fostering and Residential placements - needs led
- 11 Supporting People reduced contribution confirmed but offset by an increase in adoption activity
- 12 Increased accommodation costs & not being able to meet the vacancy factor

Proposed Actions to Address Variance

- 1 Forecast underspend to be used to cover overspend elsewhere
- 2 Forecast underspend to be used to cover overspend elsewhere
- 3 Spend to be continuously reviewed to try to reduce overspend
- 4 Forecast underspend to be used to cover overspend elsewhere
- 5 Forecast underspend to be used to cover overspend elsewhere
- 6 Spend to be continuously reviewed to try to reduce overspend
- 7 Forecast underspend to be used to cover overspend elsewhere
- 8 Additional Income to be used to offset overspends elsewhere
- 9 Spend to be continuously reviewed to try to reduce overspend
- 10 Forecast overspend to be partially covered by underspend elsewhere & plans are in place to review all placements and increase foster care recruitment
- 11 Spend to be continuously reviewed to try to reduce overspend
- 12 Spend to be continuously reviewed to try to reduce overspend

Performance

There is no adverse impact on Performance Indicators as a result of the forecast underspend on these grants.
 There is no adverse impact on Performance Indicators as a result of the forecast underspend on these grants.
 There is no adverse impact on Performance Indicators as a result of the forecast underspend on these grants.
 There is no adverse impact on Performance Indicators as a result of the forecast underspend in this area.
 There is no adverse impact on Performance Indicators as a result of the forecast underspend in this area.
 There is no adverse impact on Performance Indicators as a result of the forecast overspend in this area.
 There is no adverse impact on Performance Indicators as a result of the forecast overspend in this area.
 There is no adverse impact on Performance Indicators as a result of the forecast overspend in this area.
 There is no adverse impact on Performance Indicators as a result of the forecast overspend in this area.
 The related Performance Indicator is NI 62 - Stability of Placements of looked after children. The Directorate will
 There is no adverse impact on Performance Indicators as a result of the forecast underspend in this area.
 There is no adverse impact on Performance Indicators as a result of the forecast overspend in this area.

**ROTHERHAM MBC
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING**

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES									
EXPENDITURE/INCOME TO DATE (As at 30 Nov 2009)		NET PROJECTED OUT-TURN							
Last Reported Projected Variance	Service Division	Annual Budget	Projected Out-turn	Current projected year end Variance Over (+)/ Under (-) spend	Current Financial RAG Status	Financial Impact of Management Action	Revised Projected Year end Variance Over(+)/Under(-) spend	Revised Financial RAG Status	* Note
£000		£000	£000	£000		£000	£000		
0	Individual Schools Budget - Dedicated Schools Grant	0	0	0	Green				
0	Non-Schools - Dedicated Schools Grant	285	255	(30)	Green	30	0	Green	1
467	Strategic Management	5,352	5,001	(351)	Amber	351	0	Green	2
0	School Effectiveness	1,126	1,126	0	Green		0		
74	Access to Education	3,587	3,668	81	Amber	0	81	Amber	3
0	Special Education Provision	1,577	1,273	(304)	Green	304	0	Green	4
40	Specific Grant Support	25	(210)	(235)	Green	235	0	Green	5
69	Youth & Community	2,760	2,768	8	Amber		8	Green	6
0	Student Support / Pensions	1,670	1,635	(35)	Green	35	0	Green	7
0	Delegated Services	(23)	(433)	(410)	Green	410	0		8
1,275	Commissioning & Social Work	7,802	9,533	1,731	Red		1,731	Red	9
2,514	Children Looked After	10,105	13,386	3,281	Red	(1,320)	1,961	Red	10
0	Family Support Services	0	0	0	Green		0		
0	Youth Justice	596	596	0	Green		0		
0	Other Children & Families Services	2,637	2,940	303	Amber		303	Amber	11
59	Support Services & Management Costs	571	616	45	Amber	(45)	0	Amber	12
0	Asylum Seekers	0	0	0	Green		0		
0	Children & Families Grant	0	0	0	Green		0		
4,498	Total for Service	38,070	42,154	4,084		0	4,084		

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
Friday, 27th November, 2009

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

Also in attendance were co-opted members:- Mr. M. Hall, Father A. Hayne (Diocese of Hallam), Mr. M. Burn (Diocese of Sheffield), Mr. C. A. Marvin, Mrs. J. Blanch-Nicholson, Mrs. T. Guest and Parish Councillor Mrs. P. Wade.

Apologies for absence were received from:- The Mayor (Councillor Ali) and Councillors Burton, Donaldson, Kaye, License, Rushforth, Sharp and Sims.

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D. Hughes declared a personal interest in item number 83 (Education and Awareness Programme (School Year 2008/2009 – SHIELD South Yorkshire HIV Support Group) as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the SHIELD organisation.

80. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

81. MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE YOUTH CABINET

The Scrutiny Panel noted that the Youth Cabinet was making good progress with its study of the Personal and Social Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. The Youth Cabinet had already met with the teacher co-ordinators of this subject in various schools and later today there was a meeting with parent-governors.

82. COMMUNICATIONS

(1) The Scrutiny Panel welcomed Mr. Michael Burn, co-opted member from the Diocese of Sheffield, to his first meeting.

(2) Scrutiny Panel members were invited to attend the official opening of the new Cyber Café at Treeton Youth Club, to be held on Saturday, 12th December, 2009.

83. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMME (SCHOOL YEAR 2008/2009) - SHIELD SOUTH YORKSHIRE HIV SUPPORT GROUP

Consideration was given to a report presented by Zoe Davies (Client Services and Education Manager) of SHIELD, the South Yorkshire HIV Support Group, concerning the HIV Education and Awareness Programme delivered during the 2008/2009 school year.

The report stated that the aim of the Education and Awareness

Programme is to make the HIV issue real to young people and the public at the local level. Through these projects young people and members of the public increase their own personal knowledge and consequently in the future make better life choices whether their own sexual practices or their perception of people living with HIV. The aims of the programme and the work in schools were summarised in the report submitted.

Members noted that the SHIELD organisation appreciated the Council's support for the delivery of the education and awareness programme in Rotherham schools and colleges of further education. Some funding was provided by Area Assemblies for healthy schools projects. However, SHIELD did not yet have any confirmed sources of future funding for the longer term.

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

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

84. ROTHERHAM'S SEXUAL HEALTH STRATEGY - UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 66 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 Melanie Simmonds, Sexual Health Lead at NHS Rotherham, which described the progress being made with the Rotherham Sexual Health Strategy. The report stated that the rise in rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), both nationally and regionally, was continuing to be mirrored in Rotherham.

The report stated that, although there has been an increase in sexual health awareness work, there are still relatively low levels of public awareness about the risks and consequences of unprotected sex. The draft strategy approved by the Board of NHS Rotherham is due to be finalised based on the findings of the Sexual Health Needs Assessment which is currently being carried out and is due to be completed by March, 2010. It is envisaged that this process will confirm the proposed strategy and management model, which was documented in the draft. Amendments to the structure for overseeing the implementation of the strategy have begun and will be in place at the start of the next financial year. This will ensure that the principles of World Class Commissioning are utilised to develop high quality, value for money sexual health services.

The current sexual health services are being evaluated as part of the sexual health needs assessment. The findings will inform the review and update of service specifications with the aim of delivering services that offer choice, flexibility, and work in partnership in the best interests of their clients, as well as being cost effective.

The Scrutiny Panel noted that the communications strategy and

3C CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - 27/11/09

campaign, intended to increase awareness of the sexual health services in Rotherham, was effective and would be evaluated in full during September, 2010.

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

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

(3) That the report, referred to at (2) above, include details of the evaluation of the communications strategy and campaign, due to be undertaken during September, 2010.

85. ROTHERHAM'S TEENAGE PREGNANCY STRATEGY - UPDATE

Further to Minutes No. 67 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 Keri Duffy, Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Co-ordinator at NHS Rotherham, which described the progress being made with the Rotherham Teenage Pregnancy Strategy.

The Scrutiny Panel discussed details of:-

- targeted preventative interventions;
- increasing access to contraception;
- working with parents to support their children around relationships and sexual health issues;
- various successful initiatives (eg: at Maltby, the 'S Word' services and specific nursing services).

Reference was made to the pilot project in Maltby, which would be introduced to other parts of the Borough area.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and the progress of the Rotherham Teenage Pregnancy Strategy be noted.

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

86. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PLAN - OCTOBER HIGHLIGHT REPORT

Further to Minute No. 78 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on 18th November, 2009, consideration was given to a report presented by the Senior Director, Schools and Lifelong Learning concerning the Children and Young People's Services' Improvement Plan summary. The Scrutiny Panel noted that detailed regular monitoring takes place against a number

of actions across several themes.

The report stated that the full improvement plan has been formatted to ensure accuracy in tracking the achievements made in the monitoring period and the calculation of actions completed.

The Scrutiny Panel also considered the highlight report for October, 2009. This report detailed the items achieved during that month, overdue items and the items planned for the forthcoming month. Risks and Issues of concerns were also illustrated.

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

(2) That the progress being made with the Children and Young People's Services' Improvement Plan, as now reported, be noted.

87. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORT 2009/10 - QUARTER 2

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Performance Management Officer outlining the performance of the Children and Young People's Services' Directorate at the end of the second quarter 2009/10 (September 2009). The report and accompanying appendices provided analysis against targets, direction of travel against previous performance and where possible comparisons with statistical neighbour and national data.

Resolved:- That the report and accompanying Assessment and table be received and their contents noted.

88. THE WELCOME OFFER TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Further to Minute No. 80 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on 18th November, 2009, consideration was given to a report presented by the Head of School Effectiveness stating that, during 2008/2009 the Local Authority responded to significant and increasing challenges to its provision for children and young people arriving in Rotherham, principally from the newly incorporated European Economic Community countries, by fundamentally reorganising its education services to this most vulnerable of groups. The report provided an assessment of progress in relation to this strategy approximately two terms into its inception.

Reference was made to the progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the scrutiny review of newly arrived children and families in Rotherham.

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

5C CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - 27/11/09

(2) That the progress made in the introduction of the 'Welcome Offer' in the context of schools and the Local Authority meeting the needs of this group of pupils be noted.

(3) That the work of schools in continuing to develop their provision to address the needs of these acutely vulnerable pupils and their families be endorsed.

(4) That the good work of the Vulnerable Groups Team in this important area be recognised.

(5) That the development of a coordinated strategy across all the appropriate Council services, on behalf of this vulnerable group, be supported.

(6) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel describing the progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the scrutiny review of newly arrived children and families in Rotherham and invitations be extended to school head teachers to attend the meeting for consideration of the report.

89. ROAD SAFETY OUTSIDE SCHOOLS - PROGRESS OF JOINT SCRUTINY REVIEW

Further to Minute No. 7 of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 5th June, 2009 and Minute No. C70 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 29th July, 2009, consideration was given to a report presented by the Transportation Unit Manager detailing the progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the scrutiny review into concerns about road traffic safety outside schools in the Rotherham Borough area.

Discussion took place on the progress of each recommendation and in particular, liaison with Area Assemblies and Parish Councils and the monitoring of school travel plans within schools.

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

(2) That the review and associated action plan be disseminated to Area Assemblies and Parish Councils for consideration.

(3) That this Scrutiny Panel continue to be informed of the progress of the implementation of the recommendations of this scrutiny review, at intervals of six months.

90. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 30TH OCTOBER, 2009

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Children and

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - 27/11/09 6C

Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 30th October, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

91. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE CABINET MEMBER AND ADVISERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES HELD ON 21ST OCTOBER, 2009 AND ON 4TH NOVEMBER, 2009

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services, held on 21st October, 2009 and on 4th November, 2009, be noted.

92. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 23RD OCTOBER, 2009 AND ON 6TH NOVEMBER, 2009

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 23rd October, 2009 and on 6th November, 2009, be noted.

93. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

94. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - VALUE FOR MONEY BUDGET REVIEW GROUP HELD ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2009

The Scrutiny Panel noted the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Value for Money Budget Review Group held on 5th November, 2009.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES
18th November, 2009**

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Tweed.

D75. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4TH NOVEMBER, 2009

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th November, 2009 be approved as a correct record.

D76. PARENTING STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Leader, Attendance and Parenting, concerning the parenting strategy, the aim of which is to make sure that every parent in Rotherham has the confidence and skills they need to give their child the best possible start in life.

The report stated that the strategy is a working document highlighting progress and priorities to date. Plans are being developed through the multi-agency strategy steering group which will be enhanced by the inclusion of parents to ensure that parents have a voice and may influence the work of all stakeholders in the delivery of parenting services. The Rotherham Parenting Strategy document was appended to the report submitted.

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

(2) That the Rotherham Parenting Strategy, as now submitted, be approved.

D77. OVERARCHING INFORMATION SHARING PROTOCOL

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Joint Agencies Information Sharing Officer (Children and Young People's Services) concerning the Rotherham Overarching Information Sharing Protocol which provides a framework that promotes and enables partner organisations in Rotherham, specifically those working with children, young people and their families to use best practice, processes and decision making when sharing information. The protocol places the service user and their families at the centre of how their information is processed in line with their rights to privacy and confidentiality, whilst promoting welfare and safeguarding through appropriate sharing of information.

The protocol was originally approved by the Children's Board in November 2007 and has been revised and updated to take account of recent legislation, best practice guidance and widening participation from

partner organisations.

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

(2) That the report be referred to the Children's Board for further consideration.

D78. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PLAN – OCTOBER HIGHLIGHT REPORT

Further to Minute No. 47 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on 9th September, 2009, consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Resources, Planning and Performance concerning the Children and Young People's Services' Improvement Plan summary. Members noted that detailed regular monitoring takes place against a number of actions across several themes.

The report stated that the full improvement plan has been formatted to ensure accuracy in tracking the achievements made in the monitoring period and the calculation of actions completed.

Members also considered the highlight report for October, 2009. This report detailed the items achieved during that month, overdue items and the items planned for the forthcoming month. Risks and Issues of concerns were also illustrated.

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

(2) That the progress being made with the Children and Young People's Services' Improvement Plan, as now reported, be noted.

D79. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORT – 2009/10 – QUARTER 2

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Performance Management Officer outlining the performance of the Children and Young People's Services' Directorate at the end of the second quarter 2009/10 (September 2009). The report and accompanying appendices provided analysis against targets, direction of travel against previous performance and where possible comparisons with statistical neighbour and national data. Discussion took place on the arrangements for performance clinics.

Resolved:- (1) That the report and accompanying Assessment and table be received and their contents noted.

(2) That the arrangements for the performance clinics, as detailed in the report now submitted, be approved.

D80. THE 'WELCOME OFFER' TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Head of School Effectiveness stating that, during 2008/2009 the Local Authority responded to significant and increasing challenges to its provision for children and young people arriving in Rotherham, principally from the newly incorporated European Economic Community countries, by fundamentally reorganising its services to this most vulnerable of groups. The report provided an assessment of progress in relation to this strategy approximately two terms into its inception.

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

(2) That the progress made in the introduction of the 'Welcome Offer' in the context of schools and the Local Authority meeting the needs of this group of pupils be noted.

(3) That the work of schools in continuing to develop their provision to address the needs of these acutely vulnerable pupils and their families be endorsed.

(4) That the good work of the Vulnerable Groups Team in this important area be recognised.

(5) That a further interim assessment be submitted to the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services before the end of the 2009/2010 school year.

D81. THE CHILDREN'S FUND 2008/2009

Further to Minute No. 132 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on 26th March, 2008, consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Resources, Planning and Performance concerning the commissioning strategy and application process for the procurement of activity supporting the Children's Fund preventative services priorities. The submitted report provided details of the performance of those commissioned services both in terms of spend to profile and achievement of agreed impact measures.

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

(2) That the information on the outcomes of the first full year of the current Children's Fund allocations be noted.

D82. THE EXTRA MILE PROJECT

Further to Minute No. 63 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on 21st October,

2009, consideration was given to a report presented by the Lead Adviser, School Effectiveness Service concerning the national 'Extra Mile' project which was being funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to try and raise the attainment of children from disadvantaged backgrounds. The report detailed the background, progress to date and initial recommendations of the project.

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

(2) That the gap in attainment between pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers, at all key stages, be noted.

(3) That the drive to encourage all schools to narrow the gap by addressing the needs of vulnerable pupils and their families be endorsed.

(4) That the work of the project group which aims to improve future outcomes in the academic attainment of children from disadvantaged backgrounds be acknowledged.

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES
Tuesday, 24th November, 2009

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Currie, Havenhand and Tweed.

D83. 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

Aston Fence Junior and Infant	Mrs. Joanne Lancashire	24.11.2009
Blackburn Primary	Mr. Ian Jones	24.11.2009
Dinnington Community Primary	Mrs. Pauline Davies	24.11.2009
Kiveton Park Meadows Junior	Mr. David E. A. Moorhouse	24.11.2009
Maltby Craggs Junior	Mrs. Deborah Fletcher	24.11.2009
Swinton Fitzwilliam	Mrs. Aileen Westoby	24.11.2009
Swinton Queen	Mr. Christopher Read	24.11.2009
Thorpe Hesley Junior	Mrs. Helen Whitworth	24.11.2009
Clifton Comprehensive	Mr. John Hirst	24.11.2009
The Willows Special School	Mrs. Elizabeth Cummins	24.11.2009

Re-appointments

Anston Brook Primary	Mr. Malcolm Beech	05.12.2009
Rawmarsh Ashwood Primary	Councillor Glyn Whelbourn	17.11.2009
Thurcroft Infant	Mr. Malcolm Beech	05.12.2009
Rawmarsh Children's Centre	Councillor Glyn Whelbourn	05.12.2009

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES
Wednesday, 2nd December, 2009**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Currie and Tweed.

**D84. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 18TH
NOVEMBER, 2009 AND ON 24TH NOVEMBER, 2009**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meetings held on 18th November, 2009 and on 24th November, 2009, be approved as correct records.

**D85. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD - TERMS OF
REFERENCE**

Further to Minutes Nos. 123 and 124 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on 11th February, 2009, consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services concerning the proposed revised terms of reference for the Children and Young People's Board.

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

(2) That the revised terms of reference for the Children and Young People's Board, as now submitted, be approved.

(3) That the terms of reference be reviewed in the light of any legislative changes arising from the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Bill 2009.

**D86. CHILDREN'S BOARD SEMINAR – 16TH JULY, 2009 - FOLLOW UP
ACTIONS**

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Resources, Planning and Performance, stating that on 16th July 2009, the members of the Children's Board attended a seminar with Directors from the Borough Council, NHS Rotherham and Rotherham Community Health Service. The seminar was facilitated by Children First and three key themes were considered:-

[a] the vision for Rotherham Children and Young people's Services;

[b] the review action plan and governance arrangements; and

[c] leadership and performance management.

The report described the key outputs from the seminar and included an action plan showing follow up activity.

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

D87. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN'S TRUSTS

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Resources, Planning and Performance, stating impending legislation, contained in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill 2009, would introduce statutory requirements for Children's Trust Boards. The report highlighted the main implications and proposals to self-assess against these future requirements. It was noted that the Audit Commission had designed a self-assessment tool for Children's Trusts.

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

(2) That the proposed self-assessment be endorsed.

(3) That the report be submitted to the meeting of the Children's Board to be held on 9th December, 2009.

D88. THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE LORD LAMING REPORT - THE NEXT STAGE

Further to Minute No. 49 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on 9th September, 2009, consideration was given to a report presented by the Interim Safeguarding Children's Board Manager on the implications of the findings of the Lord Laming report about the protection of children from harm. The multi-agency action plan, which was appended to the submitted report, had been given a 'RAG Status' (Red, Amber, Green) based on a further assessment of Rotherham's continuing position. There were other attached documents containing proposed ways in which the relevant agencies might develop their services and demonstrate compliance with their statutory duties.

Resolved:- That the report and action plan be received and their contents noted.

D89. JOINT PROCEDURE FOR CASE WORK SUPERVISION - UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report presented by Yvonne Weakley, Head of Children and Young People's Services (Rotherham Community Health

**3DCABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES -
02/12/09**

Services) providing an update of progress with case work supervision following the implementation, during April 2009, of a jointly produced Case Work Supervision Procedure. The new procedure built on existing supervision arrangements for social care staff and was intended to complement existing Child Protection and Clinical Supervision Procedures used within health services. The procedure was created to support team managers working within a unified management arrangement to confidently supervise front line staff from a variety of backgrounds (ie: social care, education and health) in the management of cases of concern requiring enhanced services.

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

(2) That the progress with the implementation of the Case Work Supervision Procedure across Children and Young People's Services from April 2009 be noted.

(3) That appropriate amendments to the procedure, reflecting the need to proceed with single agency case work supervision, be supported and the further work required to embed the procedure fully be noted.

D90. IMPROVING INFORMATION SHARING AND MANAGEMENT (IISAM) PROGRAMME

Further to Minute No. 170 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on 29th April, 2009, consideration was given to a report submitted by the Systems and Change Manager updating the progress within the Improving Information Sharing and Management (IISaM) Programme. The report stated that the IISaM Programme included the implementation of ContactPoint, electronic enablement of the Common Assessment Framework, Integrated Children's System and Information Sharing. In addition, the programme covered the Connexions Client Caseload Information System (CCIS).

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

(2) That a further progress report be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services.

D91. AUDIT COMMISSION - 'VALUABLE LESSONS' – IMPROVING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY IN SCHOOLS

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Resources and Business Strategy Manager stating that, during July 2009, the Audit Commission had published a report, entitled 'Valuable Lessons,' about improving economy and efficiency in schools. Forecasts for public expenditure beyond 2010/2011 suggest tighter funding for schools. The Audit Commission proposed that local authorities have a role in three key

areas of school support where the focus on economy and efficiency might be strengthened: (i) financial support; (ii) staffing and purchasing in schools; and (iii) accountability for value for money. A suggested action plan, in respect of these three areas of work, was included with the submitted report.

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

(2) That the action plan, as now reported, arising from the Audit Commission's recommendations be implemented.

(3) That a further progress report be provided to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services.

D92. CUSTODY FOR UNDER EIGHTEEN YEAR OLDS

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Youth Offending Services Manager concerning the increased use of custody for under eighteens in Rotherham. The report sought to identify any changes in sentencing practice and, to achieve this, custodial sentences for the period April 2005 to September 2009 had been analysed by gender, number of previous disposals, seriousness of offence (gravity score) and for the past two and a half years, offence type by offence types.

The analysis of these figures had highlighted various issues and indicated that although the use of short custodial sentences is now more prevalent than it was in 2005/06, the average number of previous disposals has increased. Although the concerns expressed in 2007 about the number of custodial sentences imposed for offences of violence and Public Order Act offences remain, a broader range of offences are currently attracting custody.

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

(2) That the Youth Offending Service continues to monitor and put in place measures to reduce the use of custody.

D93. YOUTH REHABILITATION ORDER AND THE SCALED APPROACH

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Youth Offending Services Manager, stating that the Youth Justice component of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 came into effect on 30th November, 2009. The Act introduced a new generic community sentence for young people who offend, the Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) and the new threshold for custody. Replacing nine existing sentences, the YRO will combine eighteen requirements within one sentence. To support the YRO, the Youth Justice Board had developed a new model for working for youth justice. Known as the Scaled Approach, this will match

the intensity of intervention to the assessed likelihood of re-offending and serious harm to others.

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

**D94. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE
FUTURE PROJECT BOARD HELD ON 10TH NOVEMBER, 2009**

Consideration was given to the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Building Schools for the Future Project Board, held on 10th November, 2009.

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

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES
Tuesday, 8th December, 2009

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Havenhand and Tweed.

D95. 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:- 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

Anston Park Junior	Mr. Graham Mitchell	08.12.2009
Brinsworth Manor Junior	Mr. C. A. (Tony) Marvin	08.12.2009
Clifton, a Community Arts School	Mr. Michael Swindells	08.12.2009
Dinnington Comprehensive	Mrs. Elaine Valentine	08.12.2009
Oakwood Technology College	Mr. Antony Drane	08.12.2009
Maltby Academy	Mr. Jim Fletcher	04.01.2010

(in place of Mr. G. Sinclair, Minute No. 55 of 6th October, 2009 refers)

Re-appointment

Dinnington Community (Primary) Councillor Jane Havenhand 06.12.2009

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES
Wednesday, 16th December, 2009**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Havenhand and Tweed.

**D96. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 2ND DECEMBER,
2009 AND ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2009**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meetings held on 2nd December, 2009 and on 8th December, 2009, be approved as correct records.

**D97. PROPOSAL TO MERGE THE THRYBERGH RAINBOW CHILDREN'S
CENTRE AND THE DALTON WILLOW TREE CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager, stating that a review had been undertaken of the Children's Centre programme, which had highlighted a number of Centres with small reach areas based on servicing very particular communities. The review had been undertaken in the context of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, which had received Royal Assent on 12th November, 2009.

The report described a proposal to merge the Thrybergh Rainbow Children's Centre and the Dalton Willow Tree Children's Centre to form one main Children's Centre with a satellite base. Thrybergh was proposed as the main Centre, with Dalton as a satellite. The proposal would reduce the total number of designated Children's Centres in Rotherham from 23 to 22. The proposals would help to ensure the longer term financial sustainability of Children's Centre provision across the Borough.

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

(2) That the Thrybergh Rainbow Children's Centre shall merge with the Dalton Willow Tree Children's Centre.

(3) That the Thrybergh Rainbow Children's Centre shall be established as the main centre for that area, with the Dalton Willow Tree Centre continuing as a satellite base.

**D98. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2007 TO 2010 -
PROGRESS UPDATE**

Further to Minute No. 159 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and

Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on 8th April, 2009, consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Resources, Planning and Performance and by the Policy, Planning and Research Manager, summarising progress against the commitments within the Children and Young People's Plan 2007-2010. It was noted that quarterly progress reports are collated for each commitment outlined in the Children and Young People's Plan 2007-2010. The previous progress reports (October 2008 and April 2009) showed that significant progress had been achieved across the Children and Young People's Service and with the Authority's partners in relation to the commitments agreed within the Children and Young People's Plan. The latest update (October 2009, covering the period April to September, 2009) shows that this progress is continuing.

Members discussed the progress of the Children and Young People's Plan commitments, which were reported using Red, Amber, Green notation to indicate the status of individual commitments. It was noted that consultation was currently taking place in preparation for the publication of a new Children and Young People's Plan during the Summer, 2010.

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

D99. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Further to Minute No. D78 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on 18th November, 2009, consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Resources, Planning and Performance concerning the Children and Young People's Services' Improvement Plan summary. Members noted that detailed regular monitoring takes place against a number of actions across several themes. There was also reference to the role of the Improvement Panel, chaired by the Council's Chief Executive.

Members also considered the highlight report for November, 2009. This report detailed the items achieved during that month and the items planned for the period December and January. Risks and Issues of concerns were also illustrated.

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

(2) That the progress being made with the Children and Young People's Services' Improvement Plan, as now reported, be noted.

D100. 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 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended (information relating to an individual).

D101. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN DECISION - MRS. S

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Complaints Manager outlining the findings and decisions of the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) on a complaint made by Mrs S. The report included details of the way in which the complaint had been progressed through the Children and Young People's Services' Directorate.

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

(2) That the findings and decisions of the Local Government Ombudsman, as contained in the report now submitted, be accepted.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SCRUTINY SUB-PANEL
Wednesday, 2nd December, 2009

Present:- Councillor G. A. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Barron, Dodson and McNeely; Mr. D. Trickett (co-opted member)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Austen, Burton, J. Hamilton, Jack, P. A. Russell and from Mrs. A. Lidster.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**22. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23RD
SEPTEMBER, 2009**

Agreed:- (1) That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel, held on 23rd September, 2009, be approved as a correct record.

(2) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel in respect of Minute No. 14 of the 23rd September 2009 Sub-Panel meeting (housing priority and post 16 academic support for looked after children studying in further and higher education).

(3) That future agendas for meetings of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel shall include a glossary of the definition of the terms in use in the various subject reports submitted to the Sub-Panel meetings.

**23. THE ROLE OF THE COUNCILLOR AS CORPORATE PARENT –
SCRUTINY REVIEW UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Senior Scrutiny Adviser which referred to the scrutiny review, undertaken during 2005 by the former Social and Community Support Scrutiny Panel, into the Role of Councillors as Corporate Parents. Since that scrutiny review, the Care Matters White Paper had been published in 2006, initiating a continuing programme to improve outcomes for children and young people in care. The recommendations arising from the scrutiny review and how these relate to the wider governance arrangements for corporate parenting have not been re-examined in recent years. As part of its work programme, the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel agreed to revisit the 2005 review to examine whether the recommendations are still fit for purpose and accord with accepted good practice.

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

(2) That a working group of councillors be established to revisit the 2005

scrutiny report on the 'Role of the Councillor as Corporate Parent', and review current corporate parenting activity, drawing upon national best practice and inspection guidance; the membership of this working group shall comprise Councillors Austen, Burton and Dodson and others to be appointed.

(3) That the recommendations emerging from this working group review be reported to a future meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel and forwarded to the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services for consideration.

24. INSPECTION OF FOSTERING SERVICES

Further to Minute No. 23 of the meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel held on 25th March, 2009, consideration was given to a report presented by the Looked After Children Service Manager concerning the inspection of Rotherham's Fostering Services which had taken place during the week commencing 22nd June, 2009. This report summarised the findings of the inspection, listed the actions required to improve provision and the recommendations made to improve provision and also described the resource implications.

The inspection recorded an overall outcome of Satisfactory, with 'good' scores across four areas. The inspectors commented positively on the progress made during the last year, especially in reducing the number of placements requiring an exemption to acceptable numbers and in the development of a robust risk assessment procedure.

The Scrutiny Sub-Panel noted that there were a number of actions required by the Service and an action plan is in place to address this work. Discussion took place on the significant budget pressures upon the fostering services.

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

(2) That the various actions outlined in the submitted action plan be endorsed.

(3) That a further report describing the progress of the various actions be submitted to the meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Panel to be held on Wednesday, 30th June, 2010.

25. LOCAL AUTHORITY DUTY TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE 16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Looked After Children Service Manager concerning a recent (May, 2009) Law Lords judgement (G vs Southwark), which considered how local authorities support homeless 16 and 17 year olds. The legal case tested the circumstances in which local authorities should provide accommodation for this age group and the legislation that should apply. The judgement

concluded that the duties of local authorities to accommodate children in need cannot be circumvented by referring the young person to the housing authority. The case has profound implications for local authority children's services.

The report also referred to the position of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people, including support arrangements, accommodation support, support in relation to their status as looked after children and financial arrangements, as informed by a 2003 High Court judgement, (R v London Borough of Hillingdon and the Secretary of State for Education and Skills).

Discussion took place on the financial implications of this Law Lords judgement. Members requested clarification of the amounts of grant claimed by local authorities providing services for unaccompanied asylum seeking young people. There was also reference to a seminar for local authority children's services, organised by the Home Office and taking place in Manchester on 7th December, 2009, to consider further the implications of the Law Lords judgement.

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

(2) That further information about this matter be reported to the next meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel.

26. 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 20th November 2009, there were 398 looked after children, 29 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.

Further discussion took place on the reported figures and how they were recorded and validated on the computer record system (SWIFT). Reference was also made to the number 'not recorded'.

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

27. PERCENTAGE OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN LOOKED AFTER CONTINUOUSLY FOR 12 MONTHS AND WHO HAVE MISSED 25 DAYS OR MORE OF SCHOOLING FOR ANY REASON DURING 2008/2009

Consideration of this report was deferred until the next meeting.

28. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

29. CHILDREN'S HOME - 18 ST. EDMUND'S AVENUE, THURCROFT - OFSTED REPORT

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Operations Manager, Provider Services containing a summary of the findings of Ofsted following the unannounced inspection on 5th and 8th October, 2009 of the St. Edmund's Avenue Children's Home, Thurcroft. The report also detailed the response of the Looked After Children service team.

Members noted that this was an unannounced key inspection to check the home's capacity to meet the outcome areas of being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, achieving economic well being and organisation.

The Scrutiny Sub-Panel requested further details of the response of the Looked After Children service team to the various issues raised by the Ofsted inspection.

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

(Exempt under Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Act - information likely to reveal identity of an individual/information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular individual (including the Council))

30. ISSUES EMERGING FROM REGULATION 33 REPORTS OF CHILDREN'S HOMES

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 September to November, 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 (formerly Creswick Road);
- 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.

(Exempt under Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Act - information likely to reveal identity of an individual/information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular individual (including the Council))

31. 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:-

- events and activities – preparation and participation (eg: SWAMP circus);
- awareness day;
- approach to the Council's Youth Services to employ a youth worker to work with the Looked After Children Council;
- publication of the second edition of the magazine for Looked after Children (the Magazina);
- investigation of alternative sources of funding for the LAC Council;
- arranging a further meeting with Elected Members of the Borough Council.

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

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

**CHILDREN'S BOARD
WEDNESDAY, 9TH DECEMBER, 2009**

Present:- Councillor Shaun Wright (in the Chair); Dr. Russell Brynes, Andy Buck, Alan Hazell, Martin Kimber, Ann Lawrence, Joyce Thacker, Richard Tweed, Patricia Ward and Janet Wheatley.

Lynn Burns and Julie Westwood attended in respect of specific agenda items.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Children's Board, held on 16th September, 2009, were approved as a correct record.

36. MATTERS ARISING

With regard to Minute No. 25 (Safeguarding Children Board Year End Report), it was noted that the Safeguarding Children Board members were continuing the review of the functioning of that Board.

37. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The Children's Board noted that the South Yorkshire Police 'Operation Central' had resulted in eight persons being remanded to the Crown Court on charges involving the sexual exploitation of young women in the Borough area. The Children's Board placed on record its appreciation of the work of the South Yorkshire Police and partner agencies for the conduct of this sensitive investigation.

38. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD - REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

Further to Minute No. 182 of the meeting of the Children's Board held on 18th February, 2009, consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services concerning the proposed revised terms of reference for the Children's Board.

It was clarified that the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 had received Royal Assent on 12th November, 2009.

It was noted that:-

(a) the NHS Rotherham member was an independently appointed person; and

(b) minutes of meetings of the Children's Board would in future be reported to meetings of the Board of NHS Rotherham.

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

(2) That the updated and revised terms of reference of the Children's Board, as now amended, be approved.

(3) That the terms of reference be reviewed in the light of any legislative changes arising from the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.

39. ECM CONTINUUM OF NEED

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young people's Services stating that the current 'Safe and Well' Protocol and guidance, which was produced in December 2006, was currently being revised into one single document. This document is key to the contact and referral process as it sets out levels of need and guidance on thresholds. One aspect of the revision is the updating of the 'Continuum of Need' which is to be made available for practitioners and managers across all agencies in advance of the completion of the revision. This will be useful to all agencies as a reminder of need and thresholds and will be endorsed by respective Children's Board members for their own agencies. The Every Child Matters (ECM) Continuum diagram was appended to the report submitted.

Discussion took place on the content and style of the Every Child Matters Continuum of Need diagram and it was agreed that the diagram would be amended and re-submitted to the next meeting of the Children's Board.

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

40. CHILDREN'S BOARD SEMINAR - FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Resources, Planning and Performance stating that on 16th July 2009, the members of the Children's Board attended a seminar with Directors from the Borough Council, NHS Rotherham and Rotherham Community Health Service. The seminar was facilitated by Children First and three key themes were considered:-

- [a] the vision for Rotherham Children and Young people's Services;
- [b] the review action plan and governance arrangements; and
- [c] leadership and performance management.

The report described the key outputs from the seminar and included an action plan showing follow up activity.

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

(2) That members of the Children's Board instigate the necessary actions

within their respective organisations.

41. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORT - 2009/10

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Resources, Planning and Performance outlining the performance of the Children and Young People's Services' Directorate at the end of the second quarter 2009/10 (September 2009). The report and accompanying appendices provided analysis against targets, direction of travel against previous performance and where possible comparisons with statistical neighbour and national data.

The Children's Board discussed alternative ways of presenting and reporting performance data and statistics in the future.

Agreed:- (1) That the report and accompanying assessment and table be received and their contents noted.

(2) That the arrangements for the performance clinics, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.

42. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN'S TRUSTS

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Resources, Planning and Performance stating that legislation, contained in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, introduced statutory requirements for Children's Trust Boards. The report highlighted the main implications and proposals to self-assess against these future requirements. It was noted that the Audit Commission had designed a self-assessment tool for Children's Trusts.

Four key features of Children's Trusts are identified in Every Child Matters.

Strategic (2) - Inter-agency governance;
- Integrated Strategy (Children and Young People's Plan);

Executive (1) - Managing integrated processes;

Operational (1) - Integrated frontline service delivery.

Children's Board members acknowledged the importance of concentrating upon statutory requirements and the core priorities of each partner agency and concluded that the self-assessment ought to be undertaken within the overall context of those priorities.

Reference was also made to the revision and updating of the Children and Young People's Plan, which would take place during the early months of 2010.

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

(2) That the use of the proposed self-assessment be endorsed, as now discussed and the outcome reported to a future meeting of the Children's Board.

43. OVERARCHING INFORMATION SHARING PROTOCOL

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Resources, Planning and Performance concerning the Rotherham Overarching Information Sharing Protocol which provides a framework that promotes and enables partner organisations in Rotherham, specifically those working with children, young people and their families to use best practice, processes and decision making when sharing information. The protocol places the service user and their families at the centre of how their information is processed in line with their rights to privacy and confidentiality, whilst promoting welfare and safeguarding through appropriate sharing of information.

The protocol was originally approved by the Children's Board on 21st November, 2007 (Minute No. 90 refers) and had now been revised and updated to take account of recent legislation, best practice guidance and widening participation from partner organisations and specifically:-

- the latest HM Government Information Sharing Guidance;
- DCSF Every Child Matters statement on Information Sharing;
- Lord Laming recommendations on Information Sharing in Children's Trusts;
- the widening participants to the protocol (eg: Safer Rotherham Partnership).

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

(2) That the update version of the Rotherham Overarching Information Sharing Protocol, as now submitted, be approved.

44. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2009 - OCTOBER HIGHLIGHT REPORT

Further to Minute No. 24 of the meeting of the Children's Board held on 16th September, 2009, consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services concerning the Children and Young People's Services' Improvement Plan summary. The Board noted that detailed regular monitoring takes place against a number of actions across several themes.

The report stated that the full improvement plan has been formatted to ensure accuracy in tracking the achievements made in the monitoring period and the calculation of actions completed.

The Children's Board also considered the highlight report for October, 2009. This report detailed the items achieved during that month, overdue items and the items planned for the forthcoming month. Risks and Issues of concerns were also illustrated.

The Strategic Director also reported on the recently announced outcome of the Corporate Area Assessment and of the OFSTED inspection, insofar as they affected Children and Young People's Services. The importance of the support of partner agencies was acknowledged.

Discussion took place on the role and function of the Children and Young People's Services' Improvement Panel, which had recently been established under the Chairmanship of the Borough Council's Chief Executive. It was noted that the Children and Young People's Services Directorate had now introduced best practice (after discussion with other local authorities) in terms of performance monitoring and review (the Salford model). It was agreed that, at future meetings of the Children's Board, members should receive the most up-to-date performance reports, ie: those reports considered by the Improvement Panel.

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

(2) That the progress being made with the Children and Young People's Services' Improvement Plan, as now reported, be noted.

45. GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO LORD LAMING

Further to Minute No. 26 of the meeting of the Children's Board held on 16th September, 2009, consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services stating that the member agencies of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board had considered all of Lord Laming's recommendations alongside the Government's response. The action plan attached to the report followed on from agencies' self assessment and is a composite update of Rotherham's response to Lord Laming's recommendations. On 27th October 2009, the Safeguarding Children Board Manager, in conjunction with the Safeguarding Children Operational Manager, Police and Neighbourhood and Adult Services, co-ordinated and reviewed progress against each of the actions identified within the action plan. Members considered the detail of the refreshed action plan. In order to focus agencies' workload, all recommendations which had achieved a green status had been removed. All recommendations which are amber and/or red have been allocated to a service or agency to progress. It was proposed that Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board continue to monitor the action plan until the end of the financial year, at which point any outstanding issues would be highlighted to the appropriate agency or fora to proceed.

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

(2) That the Children's Board shall continue to monitor the action plan until the end of the financial year (31st March, 2010), at which point any outstanding issues would be highlighted to the appropriate agency to proceed.

46. CUSTODY FOR UNDER 18 YEAR OLDS

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services concerning the increased use of custody for under eighteens in Rotherham. The report sought to identify any changes in sentencing practice and, to achieve this, custodial sentences for the period April 2005 to September 2009 had been analysed by gender, number of previous disposals, seriousness of offence (gravity score) and for the past two and a half years, offence type by offence types.

The analysis of these figures had highlighted various issues and indicated that although the use of short custodial sentences is now more prevalent than it was in 2005/06, the average number of previous disposals has increased. Although the concerns expressed in 2007 about the number of custodial sentences imposed for offences of violence and Public Order Act offences remain, a broader range of offences are currently attracting custody.

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

(2) That the Youth Offending Service continues to monitor and put in place measures to reduce the use of custody.

47. TEENAGE PREGNANCY STRATEGY

Further to Minute No. 127 of the meeting of the Children's Board held on 16th July, 2008, the Children's Board considered the contents of a letter, dated 20 November 2009 and signed jointly by Dawn Primarolo, M.P., Minister for Children, Young People and Families and by Gillian Merron, M.P. Minister for Public Health, concerning the reporting of progress with the Rotherham Teenage Pregnancy Strategy.

The letter stated that the Ministers were pleased to see progress on the following priority issues identified in previous feedback:-

- : review of the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board and structure;
- : targeted interventions with at risk young people;
- : a systematic approach to comprehensive contraception provision.

The Ministers also welcomed the outcome of the further review of the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board and governance arrangements, with a senior strategic commissioning group and an operational group replacing the existing model. In addition, they were encouraged by the

neighbourhood renewal funded pilot project, targeting vulnerable young people in Maltby, being introduced in two other electoral wards in Rotherham, with the recruitment of additional workers and by the developments of comprehensive contraception provision.

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

(2) That the progress of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy continue to be reported to future meetings of the Children's Board.

48. JOINT PROCEDURES FOR CASE WORK SUPERVISION - REVIEW OF PROCEDURES

Further to Minute No. 153 of the meeting of the Children's Board held on 10th December, 2008, consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services providing an update of progress with case work supervision following the implementation, during April 2009, of a jointly produced Case Work Supervision Procedure. The new procedure built on existing supervision arrangements for social care staff and was intended to complement existing Child Protection and Clinical Supervision Procedures used within health services. The procedure was created to support team managers working within a unified management arrangement to confidently supervise front line staff from a variety of backgrounds (ie: social care, education and health) in the management of cases of concern requiring enhanced services.

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

(2) That the progress with the implementation of the Case Work Supervision Procedure across Children and Young People's Services from April 2009 be noted.

(3) That appropriate amendments to the procedure, reflecting the need to proceed with single agency case work supervision, be supported and the further work required to embed the procedure fully be noted.

49. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD HELD ON 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

Key issues and concerns from the minutes of the meeting of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board, held on 11th September, 2009, were discussed.

50. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- (1) That the next meeting of the Children's Board be held on Wednesday, 6th January, 2010, commencing at 5.00 p.m.

(2) That further consideration be given to the starting time of meetings of

the Children's Board.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
20th November, 2009

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

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

The Chairman and Councillor P. A. Russell referred to the Macmillan Coffee Morning fundraising event taking place in the Town Hall and it was agreed by members and officers that each would make a contribution to the fundraising event for the drink served during the meeting.

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

95. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

96. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Colin Earl, Director of Internal Audit and Governance, presented the submitted report which showed the Council's most significant risks and a summary of how they were being managed.

The reporting format had two key features:-

- An 'at a glance' picture showing the pattern of risk assessments for corporate priorities or projects both before and after risk management actions
- A more detailed summary of the risk register that reflected the current risk assessments for each corporate priority or project as at 30th September, 2009.

Changes to the previous style of presenting information and the significant changes to the register since the previous report were outlined.

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

- level of attention given to risks
- requests for information from scrutiny panels
- safeguarding children

- comparisons with previous reports
- level of information contained in the reports

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

(2) That reports on specific risks be submitted to respective scrutiny panels, as appropriate.

97. THE POST OFFICE DEBATE

Ben Knight, Scrutiny Adviser, presented the submitted report on feedback from the North of England 'Post Office Debate', a meeting organised by the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters (NFSP) in Leeds on 5th November, 2009.

The meeting addressed how local and central government and other stakeholders across the north could work better with local post offices for mutual benefit and help ensure that the post office network had a sustainable and vibrant future to continue to provide local access to vital banking, Government, mail/retail services, individuals and small businesses in urban and rural areas alike.

The report covered the Panel membership and a précis of contributions from Panel members.

Also submitted was the NFSP document "Six Steps to a Sustainable Post Office Network".

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

- concern at reports of post offices being required to issue fifty pound notes in benefit/pension payments, particularly with regard to the more vulnerable adults
- proposed range of Council payments and services which citizens could undertake at their local post offices and feasibility of such
- justification for ongoing post office closures
- Free Enterprise Zones in town centres
- services taken away from post offices

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

(2) That a further report be submitted on the feasibility of post offices being able to provide the proposed Council Services /payment facilities as

22D PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE - 20/11/09

now reported. Such report to include services taken away from post offices.

(3) That clarification be sought regarding the alleged practice of post offices being required to issue fifty pound notes as part of benefit/pension payments, with a view to appropriate representations being made to M.Ps.

98. THE FUTURE OF SCRUTINY - TACKLING THE BIG ISSUES

Ben Knight, Scrutiny Adviser, presented the submitted report on feedback from the Local Government Association/Centre for Public Scrutiny conference entitled "The Future of Scrutiny - Tackling the Big Issues" held in London on 30th October, 2009.

Councillor Les Lawrence (Chair, LGA Safer Communities Board) introduced the conference and the following presentations were given:-

- "Councils Leading Communities : Tackling the Big Issues Locally" by Dr. Phyllis Starkey, M.P. (Chair of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee)
- "The Role of Councils in Tackling Crime and Disorder" by Clare Checksfield (Deputy Director of Home and Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's Delivery Unit)
- "Councils Tackling Local Health Problems" by Mike Grady (Senior Research Associate, Marmot Review Team, University College, London)
- "CAA Success – the Role of Scrutiny" by Tim Young (Associate, Centre for Public Scrutiny)

Issues covered included:-

- Rebalancing
- Recession and Economic Climate
- Future of Scrutiny
- Policy Goals
- Challenges for Overview and Scrutiny
- Cross Cutting Challenges on Health Inequalities
- Opportunities to develop the Overview and Scrutiny Role
- Local Government Association Key Messages
- New Agenda for Scrutiny

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

99. YORKSHIRE SOUTH TOURISM

Further to Minute No. 63(e) of the meeting of this Committee held on 25th September, 2009, Bronwen Moss, Scrutiny Adviser, presented the submitted report updating Members of the second meeting of the Yorkshire South Tourism Joint Scrutiny Panel held in Barnsley on 23rd September, 2009. The minutes of the meeting were submitted.

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

- funding arrangements
- linkage of the Joint Scrutiny Panel to the Council's Tourism Panel and Tourism Forum
- value for money and monitoring of Yorkshire South Tourism
- reporting of future minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Panel

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

(2) That the minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Panel be received.

(3) That future minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Panel be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Transportation.

100. MINUTES

Resolved:- (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

(2) That a letter of thanks be sent to the Youth Cabinet for their contribution to another rewarding and successful 11 Million Takeover Day event.

101. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee report as follows:-

(a) Councillor Whelbourn reported congratulations on the Council's achievement of excellent level in the equality framework for local government. The first in the country.

(b) Councillor McNeely reported that the next meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel was expecting to consider:

- Cabinet response to the Choice Based Lettings and Voids scrutiny review
- allocations policy and empty properties

- interest for participation in the review of neighbourhood management

(c) Councillor Austen reported :

- there had been the first scoping meeting regarding the Devolved Budgets review
- protocols for the Crime Reduction Partnership had been developed

(d) Councillor Jack reported that the latest meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel had considered:-

- a presentation on the Personalisation Agenda
- a presentation on the Rotherham Community Health Service
- a presentation on the Annual Report of the Joint Learning Disability Service
- progress of performance clinics into Joint Disability Scheme

(e) on behalf of Councillor Boyes it was reported that the latest meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel had considered:-

- a presentation on the Chesterfield Canal Trust with a view to inclusion in the Rotherham Local Development Framework
- proposals for changes to Streetpride's target response times for a range of work

It was also reported that, following the above meeting, Councillor Boyes had attended a special meeting of the Yorkshire South Tourism Board in Sheffield regarding plans and governance for the future development of tourism in the region and sub-region.

(f) on behalf of Councillor G. A. Russell it was reported that the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel would consider:-

- sexual health
- teenage pregnancy strategy
- update on support for English as additional language learners
- Children and Young People's Services Improvement Plan

It was also reported that the Personal, Social, Health Economic Education curriculum review was going well.

102. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

Rotherham

Parenting

Strategy

Contents Page

1. The Governments Vision	4
2. Definitions	5
3. National Context	5
Every Child Matters	5
Children & Young People's Plan	5
The Children's Plan	5
National Service Framework	5
Extended Services	5
Targeted Youth Support	6
Children's Act 2006	6
The Respect Action Plan	6
The Social Exclusion Action Plan (September 2009)	6
Crime and Disorder Act (1998)	6
Parenting Orders	6
4. Local Context	6
5. Parent/Carer Entitlement	7
6. Parenting Workforce Development	9
Development Strategy	9
Training and Development	9
Priority Groups	10
Consulting with parents	10
7. Engaging with Parents – Parents Forum	11
8. Purpose and Principles	13
9. Governance Arrangements	14
10. Action Plan	15

Introduction

Rotherham's Children and Young People's Services and its partners are working together through the Children and Young People's Plan to improve the outcomes for children and young people in Rotherham. This Parenting Strategy sets out Rotherham's commitment to supporting mothers, fathers and carers, recognising the important influence they can have on a child's development, achievements and self-esteem.

Evidence would suggest that all parents require some support with parenting at some point. This Strategy sets out Rotherham's vision, principles and approach to supporting mothers, fathers and carers ensuring services are seamless and delivered according to their needs, from universal parenting services to in-depth parenting programmes. This support will be delivered across a wide range of agencies, including Children's Centres, early year's settings, extended schools, health settings and via a number of voluntary and community sector organisations.

This Strategy has been developed following consultation with our partner organisations, mothers, fathers and carers living in Rotherham. It is a document written for people and organisations who provide support services and not specifically for parents or carers, although they may find it useful.

The Strategy is also informed by evidence of local needs and priorities and an audit of existing services has been undertaken so that we can understand the extent and quality of existing provision and therefore identify any gaps. A Steering Group has been established with representatives from across Children and Young People's Services, Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the voluntary and community sector to develop and monitor progress against the planned action within the Strategy.

The Government's Vision

The bond between a child and parent(s) is the most critical influence in the child's life. Evidence of the impact of parenting on outcomes for children, communities and society as a whole has brought about a raft of new policies and initiatives to address Parenting, backed up in many cases by legislation introducing new duties, powers and expectations for local authorities and their partners. These policies include

- **2004 National Service Framework for Children and Young People and Maternity**
- **2005 Schools White paper**
- **2006 Education and Inspections Act**
- **The Children's Act 2006**
- **2006 Government Respect Action Plan**
- **2007 Every Parent Matters Agenda**
- **2007 Aiming Higher**

The Strategy will complement and support The Children and Young People's Plan.

The Every Child Matters Agenda puts parents and carers at the heart of the Government's approach to improving the lives of children.

Rotherham is committed to working in partnership to achieve this important aim. These new duties, powers and expectations for local authorities and their partners demonstrate the status of parenting in government policy and sets out the requirements that Rotherham Children and Young People's Services and its partners must consider in developing Parenting Support.

Caring for children and young people can be very complex and parents and carers can sometimes find it difficult to access the support that they need. Parents often report that there are times when they need additional help; this can range from advice and guidance to more intensive support.

Good support **MUST** be available, accessible and relevant. Effective partnerships across agencies including the voluntary and public sector is essential in ensuring that the parents/carers in Rotherham receive the support that they need.

Definitions

For the purpose of the Parenting Strategy the following definitions have been agreed.

Parent/Carer. –a person who is caring for a child or young person and has responsibility for their welfare and development. The definition also includes expectant parents from conception onwards.

Parenting- the process by which a parent/carer fulfils their role in caring for a child or young person.

Parenting Support- any activity intended to support parents/carers in meeting the needs of their children including practical and emotional support.

Child/Young Person – a person under the age of 19, or 25 if the young person has a learning difficulty or disability.

National Context

Government policy has increasingly focused on the vital role of parents/carers. The emphasis has now moved to engaging and supporting parents/carers to fulfil their role in ensuring that their children reach their full potential. This ambition is embedded in a number of national policies including:

Every Child Matters

The Every Child Matters (ECM) agenda embedded in the Children Act 2004 has focused on all providers to improve the five key outcomes for children:

- Stay Safe
- Be Healthy
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Achieve economic wellbeing
- Make a positive contribution

As the ECM agenda developed, what became evident was that there should be a greater focus on parent and family support if there was to be real impact on the lives of children and young people.

Children & Young People Plan

Every Local Authority is required to have a Children and Young People's Plan under the Children's Act 2004. This is an overarching strategic plan which sets out the aims and objectives of Children's Service providers and includes an improvement plan demonstrating how the Local Authority will improve the five outcomes for children. The LA Children's Plan is a plan for integrated services and also provides the basis for the external inspection of Children and Young People's Services

The Children's Plan (Dec 2007) – Building Brighter Futures

The plan strengthens support for all families during formative and early years of children's lives. The plan and the establishment of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) spells out as never before that families will be at the centre of integrated services.

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

NSF Standard 2 focuses on parenting and taking steps to ensure that parents/carers receive the information, service and support that will help them to help their children. Standard 1 promotes health and well-being, identifying needs and intervening early and includes working in partnership with parents and carers to ensure that health and parenting needs are met. Standard 9 highlights the importance of early attachment and bonding between parents and their children as an important factor in the future emotional well-being of their children. Standard 11 focuses on maternity and recognises the importance of both parents to an unborn child and the services which need to be in place locally to help them.

Extended Services

By 2010 every community should have access to a Children's Centre and Extended Services (Schools). Extended Services (Schools) will be required to offer core parenting support including school transition information. They will also be central to the delivery of Parenting Programmes and Family Learning. Children's Centres will provide hubs for information, parenting advice and programmes as well as Family Learning Courses.

Targeted Youth Support (implemented in April 2008)

Targeted Youth Support will offer young people with additional needs an individually tailored package of support, co-ordinated by a lead professional. Depending on assessed needs, this may include interventions that foster a supportive relationship and effective communications between the child and their parents.

Children's Act 2006

Places a duty on Local Authorities (from 2008) to broaden the scope of information provided to ensure that parents of children and young people up to their twentieth birthday, can obtain a full range of information they need to fulfil their parenting role. It also places a requirement on Local Authorities to deliver information services which are accessible to all parents, particularly those who might otherwise have difficulty in accessing the information they need.

The Respect Action Plan (2006) and the Social Exclusion Action Plan (2006)

The Respect Action Plan has highlighted the significance of parenting in addressing anti-social behaviour. It emphasises the importance of preventative and early intervention approaches and the need for intensive family support for those parents whose children are at risk of, or are engaged in, anti-social behaviour.

Different approaches to implementing the Respect principles are being tested.

The Social Exclusion Action Plan (September 2006)

The Action Plan has highlighted the importance of parenting as a factor in improving outcomes for children.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

The Act provides courts with a power and a presumptive duty to direct parents to cooperate with Parenting Skills Programmes where their difficulties in parenting is perceived to have been significant in their child's offending behaviour. Support can and should be offered voluntarily in the first instance as unreasonable failure to comply with directions of the court is a criminal offence.

Parenting Orders (Education) Education and Inspections Act 2006

From September 2007 Local Authorities have been empowered to seek Civil Parenting Orders in serious cases of truancy or poor behaviour. This supplements the discretionary power of the criminal courts to make Parenting Orders within truancy prosecutions under Sections 444(1) and Section 444(1a) Education Act 1996

All these policies will require public services for children and local communities to think about the views and the needs of parents/carers and develop future provision accordingly. This guidance suggests the principles and approaches that offer the best prospect of success, based on research and evidence.

Local Context

The 2001 Census indicated that in Rotherham:

- there were 44,538 households with dependent children
- 12,062 of those households had dependent children between 0-4 (slightly above the average for England and Wales)
- There were 6117 households with dependent children between 0-4 with no adult in employment and this was 1% above the average for England and Wales.

In 2005, Rotherham Local Authority carried out a comprehensive audit of need which identified that the borough had pockets of high deprivation, with many children living in workless households. This in turn puts a strain on benefit agencies and the local economy. Also during 2005, Rotherham Young People's Services and partners involved over 5,500 children and young people of a variety of ages from over fifty organisations across the borough, in order to produce the vision for the Children and Young People's Plan and Well Being Strategy. This process identified a need for young people to receive help so that "our families don't get into trouble". In order to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families it is recognised that good/appropriate parenting is paramount. The Children and Young People's Plan acknowledges this by emphasising a focus on work that makes a difference for children and young people, by "improving support to parents, carers and families".

Rotherham has a teenage pregnancy rate which is higher than the national rate:

- Rotherham has a conception rate of 49.3 (per 1000 girls aged 15-17).
- This is compared with 41.1 for England and Wales
- Latest data for 2005 estimates that there are approximately 370 mothers aged 15-17 in Rotherham.

Teenage pregnancy and parenthood at a young age are associated with the most deprived and socially excluded young people and are frequently linked with difficulties in the lives of young people, such as poor relationships and low self-esteem. Teenage mothers and their children are:

- more likely to live in poverty than older mothers
- more likely to have no qualifications
- have higher levels of depression
- more likely to have higher levels of infant mortality.

In addition, support for parents who misuse drugs is becoming increasingly important due to the impact their drug misuse has on their parenting ability, the risk of harm to their children, the well being of their children and reduces the potential for those children to learn from appropriate and effective role modelling. Substance misuse is also a barrier to parental involvement in schools and children's educational attainment. As research indicates (Sacker et al 2002) parental involvement impacts significantly on children's achievement.

The parenting support, developing out of this strategy, demands that account be taken of the needs of all vulnerable groups, such as those mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, and including those identified later in the Strategy, such as parents with disabled children, parents with drug misusing children, migrant parents/families, asylum seeking parents/families and parents/families from minority ethnic communities. Migrant families and asylum seeking families have their own complex needs, including the placement of their children in a stable schooling environment and learning to speak the English language. Migrant families, in particular, receive no assistance in terms of housing or benefits and therefore have to rely on social landlords and casual employment, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation. The Welcome Centre plays a major part in helping to place children in school and signposting families to English lessons.

Parent/Carer Entitlement

A parent or carer can expect to receive a level of service depending on their needs or the needs of their children. There will be a range of parenting support in each neighbourhood.

Rotherham's Parenting Strategy will be delivering on a four tier intervention model. The four levels are as follows:

- Level 1 – Universal
- Level 2 – Co-ordinated Early Intervention
- Level 3 – Complex Support
- Level 4 – Intensive Support

The table below gives general definitions of each level as well as identifying key agencies delivering support. The list of providers is not exhaustive and will clearly change over time. It is anticipated that the neighbourhoods Parenting Champion will update the information and inform locality teams.

Services listed in levels 1 and 2 should be available in each neighbourhood. They will form the entitlement for the neighbourhood. It is important to stress that we will endeavour to provide a range of services which can be accessed in the neighbourhood, however, resources will dictate whether this is possible. Services in levels 1 and 2 can be accessed as a result of self referral.

The services listed in levels 3 and 4 will be available on the basis of need and as a result of referral. In most cases services at these levels will be provided on a Borough wide model.

It is important that the levels of need should be viewed as a continuum and not as a series of thresholds. Additionally it will be necessary to provide services in a timely way to ensure prevention rather than reaction to the needs of families.

Level	Description	Entitlement	Key Agencies
Level 1 - Universal	Most parents and carers will have their needs met within their family, local community and universal services. In some cases additional needs may be identified, and where these can be met by a single agency, no further action will be necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and guidance in relation to early year's provision, and schools, including transition advice and support. Parenting advice on health related issues, and access to services. Information on all C&YPS. Advice and provision of adult learning Extended Services core offer including parent support Children's Centre support and facilities Childcare access and support Health Visiting and School Nursing Access to Parent Councils 	RMBC PCT G.P Sure Start Community and Voluntary Sector Schools Children's Centres Learning Skills Council (LSC)
Level 2 Co-ordinated Early Intervention	<p>Vulnerable Children and Young People and their parents/carers may need additional services to ensure their needs are met. Additional needs may be due to a disability, developmental delay, social/emotional or behavioural difficulties, there may also be school attendance issues.</p> <p>The family circumstances or environmental factors may add to vulnerability. Parents/carers may require additional help and support at this level to help them deal with issues and to prevent further deterioration in their circumstances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common Assessment where additional needs are identified Specialist support for parents/carers of C&YP with disabilities Targeted parenting programmes e.g. Mellow Parenting, Webster Stratton, Strengthening Families, Triple P School / Children's Centre support Support to parents of C&YP who are on the fringes of anti social behaviour Sure Start support Parenting Support through Parent Contracts Teenage parenting support Attendance and behaviour support Teenage pregnancy support 	RMBC PCT Police Community and Voluntary Sector Sure Start School Children's Centres Healthy Schools
Level 3 – Complex Support	<p>A small number of parents/carers will have a child or young person with complex needs arising from disability, abuse, serious social/behavioural/emotional difficulties, mental health issues, domestic violence, and substance / alcohol misuse.</p> <p>Where the parents/carers cannot fully meet their child's needs other more specialist/intensive services will be required to provide support. Some of these parents will need enhanced support to help them develop their parenting skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted parenting support for children with complex health/disability needs Support to parents of LAC Parents who are subject to Parenting Contracts/Orders Targeted parenting programmes e.g. Webster Stratton, Mellow Parenting, Strengthening Families, Triple P Targeted support to address the needs of parents/carers with additional needs 	RMBC PCT CAMHS POLICE YOS ASBU Schools Adult Services Substance Misuse Services
Level 4 – Intensive Support	<p>In a minority of cases where it is identified that a child or young person's needs are unable to be met through existing coordinated provision within their locality, a referral may be made to acute services.</p> <p>The parents/carers of these C&YP will require additional specialist support to help them manage and support their children's needs or to help them to re-engage with their child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High level intensive targeted support Appropriate local powers Additional and appropriate support where the child can no longer remain at home 	RMBC PCT CAMHS YOS FIP ASBU

Whilst it may be necessary for parents/carers to move up or down the levels, the prime aim will be to support parents/carers to move back to Universal Services. The focus will be on supporting parents/carers to enable them to be confident and effective and to embrace their parenting responsibilities and duties. It is important to recognise that some parents/carers may need to be encouraged into accepting external intervention in the way they bring up their children.

Key to the commitment to provide effective services for parents/carers is the need to ensure that all staff are trained and well supported. Anyone working with parents should have specific and relevant training for that purpose, underpinned by safeguarding training. Good practice also requires opportunity for reflection and personal evaluation of how effective skills and approaches should be within the context of staff supervision.

In order to ensure that we deliver consistent services across the Borough, we will provide a rolling programme of training for practitioners in Working With Parents (WWP) – National Occupational Standards. WWP will ensure that all staff working with parents receive an appropriate level of training and demonstrate competence in working with parents.

For Parenting Practitioners there will be an opportunity to train in one of the evidence-based parenting programmes approved by the National Academy for Parenting. Training on WWP will be delivered to a range of providers. The Senior Parenting Practitioners are appropriately trained and qualified to deliver WWP. Initially accreditation will be by external verifiers and in the second year an accredited centre will be established in-house.

The evidence-based parenting programmes will be delivered through the National Academy of Parenting in the first instance. Strengthening Families can be delivered by qualified staff internally. Any training and development opportunities that are identified will have regard to roles and responsibilities, for example, those who are working with parents as the main part of their role will be the early recipients of training.

Training and Development

Level 3	Training of Trainers in working with parents PTLLS* PTLLS – PGCE**	This will be offered to staff that will be part of the training delivery of level 1 and 2.
Level 2	<u>Evidence Based</u> Parenting Programmes approved by National Academy for Parenting. E.g. Strengthening families Triple P Webster Stratton	This level of training will be offered to those whose main role is working with families.
Level 1	Working with Parents (WWP)	This will be provided to all practitioners working with parents We will also provide opportunity for parents who have been on evidenced-based programmes to train in WWP

*PTTLS – Practise to Teach in Life Long learning

**PGCE – Post Graduate Certificate in Education

Priority Groups

Within the NSF Standards the following groups of parents and families are highlighted for special consideration:

- Fathers
- Teenage Parents
- Families that include disabled children and those with special needs
- Families expecting a baby and those in the early stages of parenthood
- Families where children are in a period of transition
- Families with teenage children
- Families where children are experiencing difficulties
- Families experiencing disrupted relationships
- Families experiencing bereavement
- Families for whom one or more members are in prison
- Adoptive families
- Parents with disabilities
- Young Carers
- Families where substance misuse, including alcohol, affects parenting capacity

The Strategy will recognise the above groups in its work as well as:

- Families from Black, Minority Ethnic backgrounds and EU
- Families where there are young offenders
- Families with parents experiencing mental health problems
- Lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, or transgender parents
- Parents of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, or transgender children
- Looked After Children
- Families where there are concerns about safeguarding
- Families with parents with learning difficulties
- Traveller families
- Families with new arrival status

Consulting with Parents

Listening to parents is the key to planning and delivery of effective services and policy for families. Parents are the experts on their families' needs and wishes and can offer a grounded understanding of how services can best support them. Getting parent's views and input on the services we provide is not an optional extra but is a core part of efforts to improve services.

Set out below is the legislation and key guidance documents that the Local Authority is required to seek out parent's views.

Engaging with Parents - Parents Forum

Introduction

Parents and carers are a crucial influence in what their children experience and achieve throughout childhood and adolescence. The support that parents give to their children's cognitive development is important in installing values and aspirations.

Parental involvement in a child's schooling between the ages of 7 and 16 is a more powerful force than family background, size of family and level of parental education. Research tells us that educational failure is increased by the lack of parental interest in schooling. Most parents believe that the responsibility for their child's education is shared between parents and schools.

Parent - child relationships can have an impact on whole communities and the more positive the community the better chance families have of avoiding negative outcomes themselves. Selective parenting interventions can substantially improve childhood behaviour.

There is currently significant Government and public interest in making it as easy possible for parents – fathers and mothers to engage as partners in their children's learning and development from the earliest age. Clearly enabling this involvement to be sustained as children move through school and in to adulthood helps them to make choices.

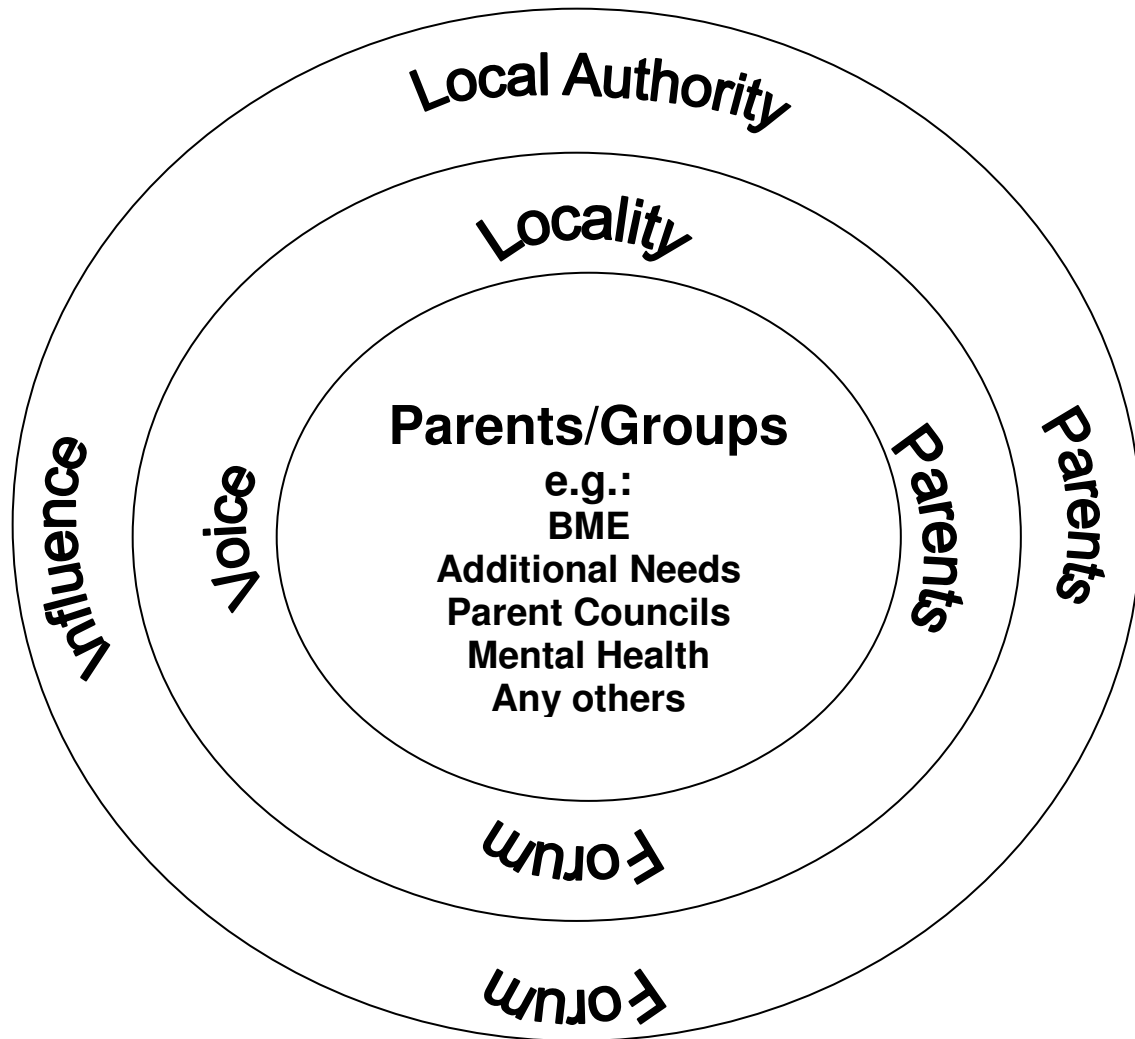
In summary the involvement of parents through all stages is the most significant influence on children.

Parental Influence on Strategy

Having highlighted how important parental engagement is to children's outcomes we need to develop the capacity at a local level for parents to have a voice in the services which support them.

Supporting parents guidance issued in October 2006 asks local authorities to develop a strategic and joined up approach to the design and delivery of parenting support services in this area. This support should be a continuum from information, early intervention and preventative services. The voice of parents is key, it is essential that we establish a Local Authority Parent Forum to be part of the decision making process for Parents Services.

The Local Authority Parent's forum will be established by inviting representatives from the Locality Parents forum. The locality forums will be set up in each locality by the Parents Champions from Parent Councils, local parent groups and from any groups for parents of children and from any groups for parents of children with additional needs. It is important to consider other discreet groups from within a range of communities within the locality.



Parent Council Members

Parent’s representative from: ~

- BME communities
- Parents of children with additional needs including Mental Health / Physical Disabilities, learning difficulties for example.
- The Locality Parents Forum will be supported by the Parent Champion.

Local Authority Parents Forum

- Representative from each locality Parent Council cohort.
- Representative from each locality discreet group.
- The Local Authority Parent Forum will be supported by the Strategic Lead for Parenting.

Local Authority Parents Forum

- The LA Parent forum will have a voice in all aspects of developing services to support parents.
- They will influence the work of the strategy steering group.
- The LAPF will elect a chair.
- Terms of reference will be developed by the LAPF.
- The Strategic Lead for Parenting will work with the LAFT to identify the training needs of the forum; this training will include ‘How the Council Works’ so that they can understand the strategic role they play in the development of parental support in Rotherham.
- The LAPF will meet termly.
- Subcommittee’s and task groups will meet more regularly.

Purpose

The purpose of the Strategy is to ensure that all parents and carers in Rotherham have appropriate information about how to access services from a range of providers.

It will:

- Set out the principles for parenting support;
- Agree the context in which the Strategy sits
- Recognise the context of the Borough within the National Parenting Strategies
- Establish the parenting support entitlement in relation to the 'core offer'
- Put in place a plan with priorities for action
- Guide the future development and commissioning of parenting support services

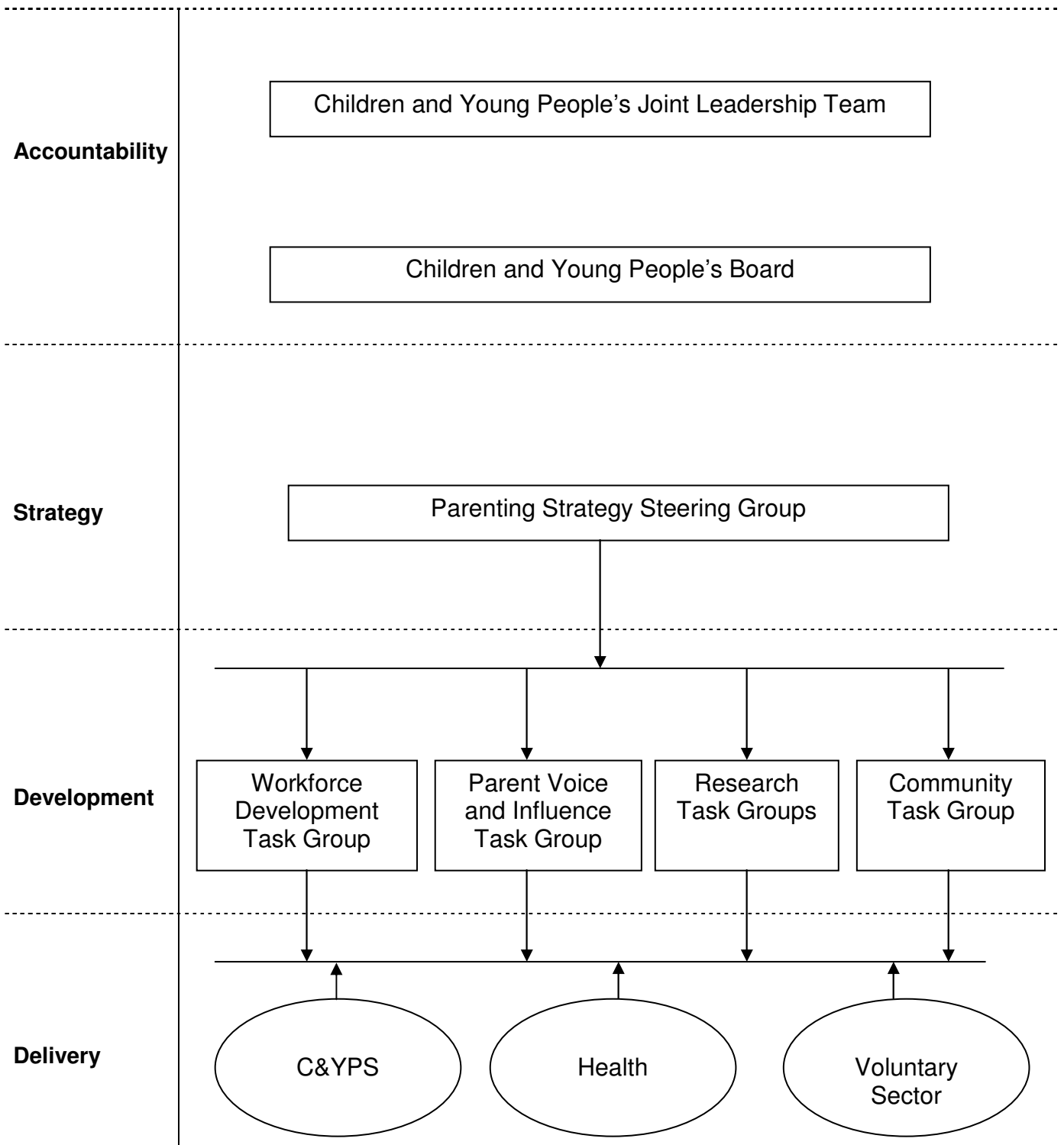
Principles

All parents should have access to universal, preventative and early intervention services. Rotherham is committed to its universal preventative work with children and families. The provision is delivered by a wide range of services and organisations all of which are committed to the following principles.

- All services will need to improve outcomes for children and young people by providing timely and effective support to their parents/carers.
- Improving the wellbeing of children and families will be the focus of all agencies and services
- Consultation with, and participation of, families will be central and integral to the planning of services.
- We will work together with all partners to coordinate effective services across the Borough.
- Services will be provided at a level suitable to the needs of the family and at an appropriate time to prevent further deterioration.
- Services will be evidence based and outcomes will be evaluated to ensure effective and appropriate services are being provided. (footnote for evidence-based)¹
- We will provide integrated front line services where all partners will work together to share information where appropriate and keep families well informed.
- Some children and their families will be more vulnerable and at risk than others and we will develop specific services to support these families. We will work to identify and engage these families and provide the support they need.
- Services will be tailored on the basis of need, within resource capacity and, where ever possible. at an early stage.
- The workforce, including volunteers, will be appropriately trained and supported to deliver services to support parents/carers.
- There will be systems in place to ensure that children, young people and their families are safeguarded.
- We will recognise and counteract discrimination, ensuring equality and fairness.

¹ Generally evidence means having some objectively verifiable data to support a subjective experience or impression.

Governance Arrangements



Action Plan

The longer term outcomes of the Strategy would be to improve the parenting capacity of Rotherham parents. The quality of parent-child relationships has shown, in a number of areas of research, to be the key to a child's health, development and well being. Parents are the most important influence in a child's self esteem and sense of worth. Parent-child relationships influence the way in which children relate to others both in childhood and adulthood, influencing their ability to support intimate relationships.

The main aim of the Strategy and its subsequent actions is to:

- Equip parents in Rotherham with the skills and confidence to carry out the parenting role as efficiently as possible and...
- To increase the number of parents and families who function efficiently and, in so doing, improve their life chances for themselves and their children.

The whole emphasis of the parenting strategy is early intervention and prevention ensuring that there is a greater degree of support at level 1 resulting in fewer families needing level 3/4 support. This is in line with the Children's Act and Building Brighter Futures which is indeed what parents themselves ask for.









Performance Management is often difficult in parenting work. Whilst some goals are reached fairly quickly, the local impact can only be seen as children mature and move towards adulthood and being parents themselves.








The desired, broader outcomes the Strategy will develop in the next 2 years are given below. Each of the actions has a subset of action plans involving a wider range of stakeholders. In the longer term we will achieve:

- An increase in Protective Factors
Affectionate relationships within families
A culture of praise for parents and their children
Stability and security of family life
Positive parenting
- Decrease in Risk Factors
Liberal parental supervision
Parental (or other family member) abuse
Inconsistent Discipline
Domestic violence and family conflict
Children having poor relationships with family or significant others
Social isolation
- Promoting Resilience
Improved self esteem
Improved mental health
Greater ability to communicate
Increase in learning and community opportunities

NEED	WHAT IS NEEDED	TYPE OF SUPPORT	ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	BE HEALTHY	STAY SAFE	ENJOY & ACHIEVE	MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION	ACHIEVE ECONOMIC WELLBEING
<p><u>A) Information</u></p> <p>A.1) Information about child health and development</p> <p>A.2) Information about services available</p>	<p>Information about child health and development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental stages physical/emotional/ social • What to expect milestones • How to respond and support • Common challenges • Common childhood illness • What to do if you need additional help/support • Where additional needs information can be gathered <p>Accessible information about what services are available and who provides it</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental Information at key transition points • Advice and information from a range of key professionals Midwife/ Health Visitor/ School Nurse/ Social Worker/ Teachers <p>Via Red Book Families Information Service Leaflets Website</p>	<p>Consistent information from key points at each transitional stage by 2010</p> <p>Prepare booklet for Rotherham Parents</p>	<p>Health Family Information Service</p> <p>Health Children and Young People's Service</p>	<p>■</p> <p>■</p> <p>■</p>	<p>■</p> <p>■</p> <p>■</p>	<p>■</p> <p>■</p> <p>■</p>	<p>■</p> <p>■</p> <p>■</p>	<p>■</p> <p>■</p> <p>■</p>

<p>B) <u>Emotional Support</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Someone to talk to Support Social Parenting Model Group opportunities Practical Parenting Support Model Reassurance 	<p>For many families this support can be accessed via extended family and friends. Some vulnerable families however, may require this help from another source</p>	<p>Ensure that there are a range of accessible parent support opportunities in each of the 7 localities from a range of providers.</p>	<p>Health Children and Young People's Service Voluntary sector</p>	<p>■</p>		<p>■</p>	<p>■</p>	
<p>C) <u>Practical Support</u> C1) Parenting and Life Skills</p>	<p>Skills to manage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budgeting Child's behaviour Communication Asking for help at key times Support children's learning Self development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal and targeted parenting programmes Information in accessible forms Advice from professionals Help/Advice lines Role models 	<p>Ensure that every school and Children's Centre provides information on the services available to support parents.</p> <p>Develop the workforce in all settings to deliver above.</p> <p>Ensure that appropriate help is available at transition points</p> <p>Extend the availability of universal parenting programmes by up skilling the workforce</p> <p>Extended availability of evidence based parenting programmes by training more people to deliver</p>	<p>Children and Young People's Service Health Voluntary Sector Children and Young People's Service Health Voluntary Sector Children and Young People's Service Health Voluntary Sector</p>	<p>■</p>	<p>■</p>	<p>■</p>	<p>■</p>	<p>■</p>

<p>C.2)Basic Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate housing • Adequate income • Access to transport • Health & wellbeing • Family friendly employment • Access to education and lifelong learning opportunities • Appropriate resources for children with additional physical needs 	<p>Tackle poverty and worklessness</p>	<p>Deliver links and greater awareness of the Parenting Agenda through the Local Strategic Partnership and Community Plan.</p> <p>Ensure intervention as early as possible.</p> <p>Develop work with Early Inclusion Projects/ Aiming Higher.</p> <p>Link in with family learning and basic skills accreditation</p>	<p>Children and Young People's Service</p> <p>Health</p> <p>LSP</p>					
<p>C.3) Personal Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation • Education • Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise local opportunities • Promote and facilitate access to training, education and recreation opportunity • Information (The Directory) 		<p>Children and Young People's Service</p> <p>Leisure Services</p> <p>Colleagues</p>					

<p>C.4) Time Out Aiming Higher</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare • Respite • Quality Time 	<p>Flexible early education childcare provision with subsidies where appropriate</p> <p>Wrap around care</p> <p>Carer and young carer support</p> <p>Flexible working arrangements</p> <p>Safe outdoor play and recreation facilities</p> <p>Access to affordable family activities, culture and leisure</p>	<p>Identify Children in need</p> <p>Subsidy arrangements</p>	<p>Children and Young People's Service</p>					
<p>D) <u>Avoidance of Harm & Feeling Safe</u></p> <p>D1) Child Safeguarding (protection of children)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information re resources of help and support • Anti bullying strategy • Protection from abuse • Peer support • Knowledge and awareness of rights and responsibilities 	<p>Develop help lines and support groups</p> <p>Multi agency planned support</p> <p>Specialist services (e.g. domestic violence counselling)</p> <p>Social worker support</p>	<p>Ensure early intervention and prevention becomes the norm through common assessment and early response</p>	<p>Children and Young People's Service</p> <p>Health</p> <p>Voluntary section</p> <p>SY Police</p> <p>DV Forum</p>					
<p>D.2) Managing Risk</p>	<p>Learn new skills to ensure safety</p> <p>Freedom to take risks safely</p> <p>Role models</p>	<p>Ensure specialist and age appropriate advice and support</p> <p>Safety equipment schemes for parents</p> <p>Places where families feel safe</p>	<p>Develop links with Safer Neighbourhood teams Explore loan equipment opportunities. e.g. seats, home safety</p>	<p>Children and Young People's Service</p> <p>Health</p> <p>SY Police</p> <p>SY Fire Service</p> <p>RMBC</p> <p>DV Forum</p>					

<p>D3) Reducing discrimination</p>	<p>Understanding and respect for cultural needs Support to make appropriate challenges Role models Develop awareness and knowledge of cultural differences</p>		<p>Ensure that the workforce are knowledgeable and can support in reducing all forms of discrimination</p>	<p>Children and Young People's Service Health RMBC Police</p>		<p>■</p>			
<p><u>E)</u> <u>Skilled Workforce</u> E1) Develop the parenting workforce</p>	<p>Workforce offer consistent high quality parenting support Accessible parenting support across all 4 levels Relevant staff are trained to deliver parenting support/group work and evidence based parenting programmes</p>	<p>Parents are aware of the types of support available to them and how to access it.</p>	<p>Through the workforce development Task Group ensure that resources are available to develop a highly skilled parenting workforce</p>	<p>Children and Young People's Service Health Voluntary Sector</p>		<p>■</p>	<p>■</p>	<p>■</p>	

DCSF-RBX-09-16

November 2009

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR FAMILY INTERVENTION PROJECTS MONITORING AND EVALUATION

National Centre for Social Research

Introduction

Family Intervention Projects (FIPs) work with the most challenging families and tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour, youth crime, school absenteeism, drug and alcohol addiction, domestic violence, poor mental health and inter-generational disadvantage. Families are supported by a dedicated 'key worker' who coordinates a multi-agency package of support and works directly with family members to help them overcome problems.

Funding to roll out FIPs, targeting families involved in persistent anti-social behaviour, was announced in the Respect Action Plan in 2006. Further expansions were announced in the Children's Plan in December 2007 and the Children's Plan One Year On document in December 2008. Following successful early evaluation, the Youth Crime Action Plan announced that all local authorities would receive funding for a FIP aimed at preventing youth crime. In addition, the Budget 2008 announced funding for 32 FIPs aimed at tackling child poverty. The first data on outcomes from the later projects will be published early in 2010.

In February 2007, the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) set up a web-based Information System to collect comprehensive data on all families referred to FIPs. Information is collected by FIP staff at the initial referral, when a support plan is put in place, at regular formal reviews and at the point the family exits from the intervention. This report presents information about the families that received a **FIP intervention aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour** up until 31st March 2009.

Key findings

Up until March 31st 2009, 2295 families had been offered, and 2225 accepted, a FIP intervention.

Of those families offered a FIP intervention, 699 (30 per cent) completed the intervention with a formal, planned exit and a further 990 families (43 per cent) were still receiving an intervention on 31st March.

367 families (16 per cent of all those offered the intervention) refused to engage at different stages of the FIP intervention.

Results for the 699 families that completed the intervention show **overwhelmingly positive improvements across a wide range of measures:**

Families with **no** involvement in anti-social behaviour (ASB) increased from 10% to 66%

Families with four or more ASB problems declined from 46% to 6% (87% reduction)

Families facing one or more housing enforcement actions declined from 47% to 15% (68% reduction)

Families with education and learning problems declined from 76% to 47% (38% reduction)

Families experiencing truancy, exclusion and bad behaviour at school declined from 56% to 25% (55% reduction)

Families in which there were concerns about child protection declined from 23% to 13% (43% reduction)

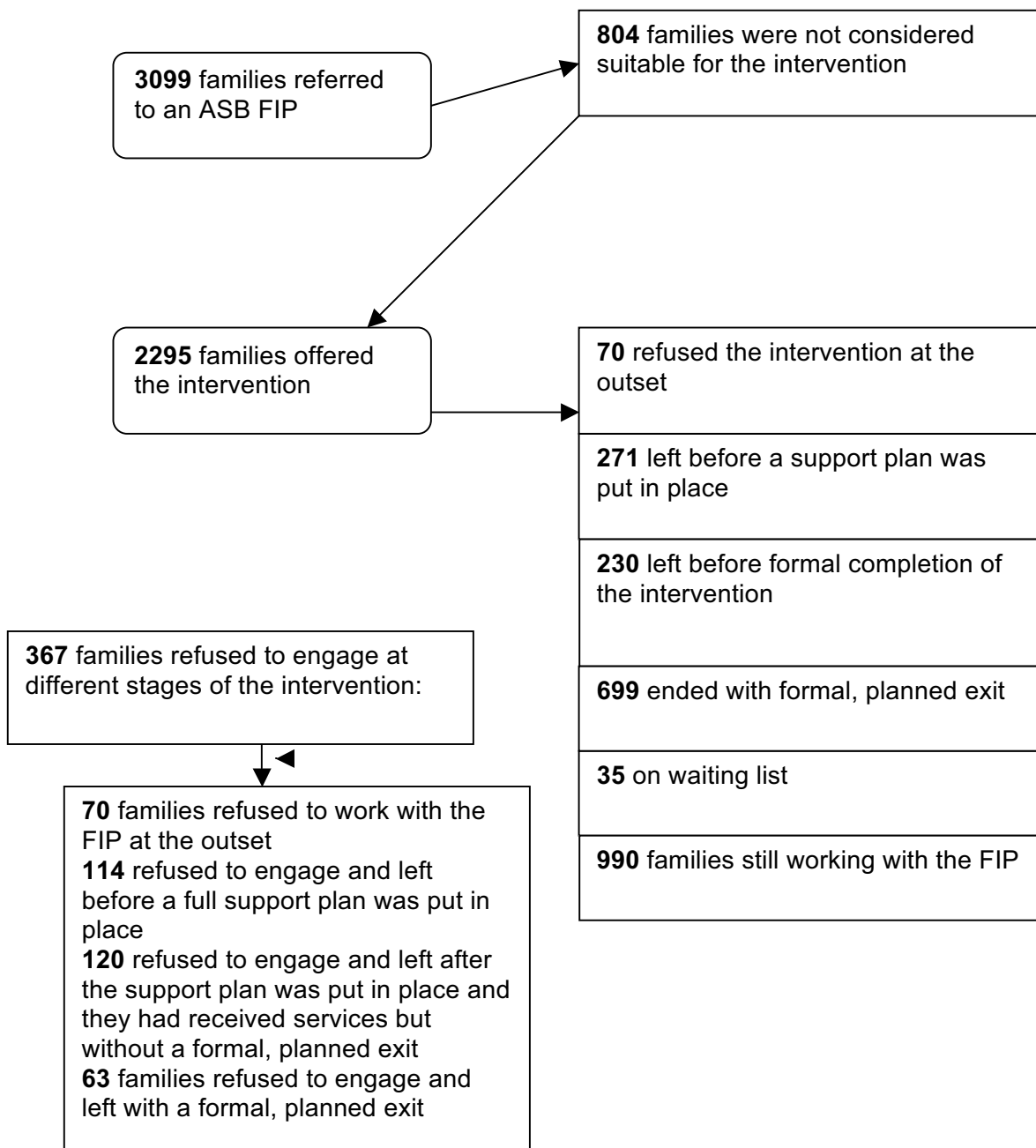
Families affected by a mental health problem declined from 38% to 27% (29% reduction)

Families in which domestic violence was a concern declined from 22% to 9% (59% reduction)

Families with drug & alcohol problems declined from 32% to 17% (47% reduction)

Families referred onto the FIPs

By 31st March 2009:



Referral agencies

The main referral agencies were¹:

Local Authority Housing Departments or Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMOs) (25 per cent)

Local Anti-Social Behaviour Teams (20 per cent)

Social Services (15 per cent)

Housing Associations (10 per cent), and

The police (10 per cent).

Socio-demographic profile of families²

69 per cent of families were headed by a lone parent

the majority were large families, with 54 per cent having three or more children under the age of 18

89 per cent of individuals from these families were White

24 per cent of families included at least one member with a disability, and

25 per cent included one or more children with special educational needs (SEN).

The FIP intervention³

Outreach or floating support was the most common way in which support was delivered to families, and was provided to 91 per cent of families; 7 per cent received support whilst housed in a dispersed tenancy support and 2 per cent received support whilst they were housed in a residential or core block⁴

The mean length of time that families which completed the intervention with a formal, planned exit spent working with a FIP was just over 12 months (375 days)

The mean number of weekly hours contact time provided directly by FIP staff to each family was 9.0 hours a week at the beginning of the intervention (between the time a support plan was put in place and the first review). This number had decreased to 6.0 hours a week by the end of the intervention (between the last review and formal, planned exit).⁵

Support provided by FIP workers⁶

The support provided to families through FIP intervention was most commonly provided directly by FIP staff. This support was very wide ranging. The most common forms of direct support provided (as measured between the support plan being put in place and the first review) included:

challenging anti-social behaviour (69 per cent)

one-to-one parenting support (65 per cent)

supporting children into education (54 per cent)

¹ Percentages represent proportion of families that were offered and accepted the intervention that were referred by the agency

² Of the families that were offered and accepted the intervention

³ As reported at review 1

⁴ FIPs provide support to families in their own homes, in 'dispersed accommodation' (usually properties managed by the project) and, in a small number of areas, while families are housed in a residential unit and provided with 24 hour support and supervision.

⁵ This represents the mean number of weekly hours contact time for families receiving dispersed tenancy support or outreach or floating support. Core block families are not included due to the nature of this type of intervention.

⁶ As reported at review 1. Percentages represent proportion of those families that were offered and accepted the intervention which were provided with this support.

help to provide meaningful activities for parents and children such as sports activities, cookery classes and craft workshops (52 per cent)

help with managing the risk of eviction (45 per cent)

support to improve the property that the family live in (43 per cent)

support to find education, training and work experience for parents and young people (37 per cent)

financial management support including help with claiming benefits and managing debts (37 per cent)

support to stop offending (36 per cent)

living skills support (34 per cent).

Support organised by FIP staff but provided by other agencies⁷

We also asked about support organised by FIP staff but delivered by voluntary and contracted out agencies. This was less common but, what was provided, was very wide ranging. The most common types of support delivered by voluntary or contracted out agencies included:

help to access meaningful activities for parents and children (18 per cent)

supporting children into education (18 per cent)

support with mental health issues (15 per cent)

help to find education, training or work experience (13 per cent)

drugs support (12 per cent)

challenging anti-social behaviour (11 per cent).

parenting classes (11 per cent)

FIP staff also directly arranged for support to be delivered by a range of statutory agencies. This was most commonly provided by the following agencies. This list does not include any agencies that supported the family without the active involvement of FIP staff:

Schools (42 per cent)

Social Services (26 per cent)

Local Education Authorities or Departments (25 per cent)

Health services (23 per cent)

Youth Offending Teams/Services (22 per cent)

Connexions (20 per cent)

Local Authority Housing Departments or Housing Action Trusts (20 per cent)

The police (16 per cent).

⁷ As reported at review 1. Percentages represent proportion of those families that were offered and accepted the intervention which were provided with this support.

Reasons for ending or not proceeding with the FIP intervention after referral

804 families were not considered suitable for the intervention

70 families refused at the outset to work with the FIP (3 per cent of families that were offered the intervention)

A further 1200 families exited the intervention in the period up until 31st March 2009. Of these, 699 ended their intervention with a formal, planned exit. The remaining 501 families left without proceeding to a formal, planned exit. This happened for a variety of reasons.

Of the 501 families that left without a formal, planned exit, 234 of these left because they refused to continue to engage with the intervention (19 per cent of the total 1200 families that had ended their intervention in the period until 31st March 2009). Of these:

- o 114 families (9 per cent) refused to enter into a support plan.
- o 120 families (10 per cent) left after having a support plan put in place but before a formal planned exit.

In addition, 63 families left with a formal, planned exit (6 per cent of the 1200 families that had ended the intervention) because they refused to continue to engage. The outcomes of these families are included in the outcomes data.

Families that leave without a formal, planned exit may still benefit from the support provided by the FIP and for a small proportion of these families, the main reason for ending the intervention was because they had achieved positive outcomes.

The remaining 197 families that left the FIP without a formal, planned exit (16 per cent of the 1200 families that had ended the intervention) did so either because they had achieved positive outcomes or because changes in family circumstances meant that the FIP could no longer work with the family (e.g. because they had moved from the area, because it was decided that the family were too high-risk for FIP workers to continue working with them, because the family were no longer living together as a family unit or because children had been taken into care).⁸

Outcomes

Outcomes are only reported for families who completed a formal, planned exit. In future, given the increasing number of families ending without a formal, planned exit and evidence suggesting that they may not be significantly distinct from those ending without one, there are plans to compare outcomes for all families having received support from a FIP regardless of whether they completed a formal, planned exit. However, initial indications are that doing so is likely to have limited impact on overall results.

The information below is for the 699 families who formally completed an intervention by 31st March 2009.

FIP staff were asked to only include information for which there was evidence, and where possible to collect information from colleagues working in different agencies, for example, during multi-agency review meetings.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) levels decreased considerably between the beginning and the end of the intervention.

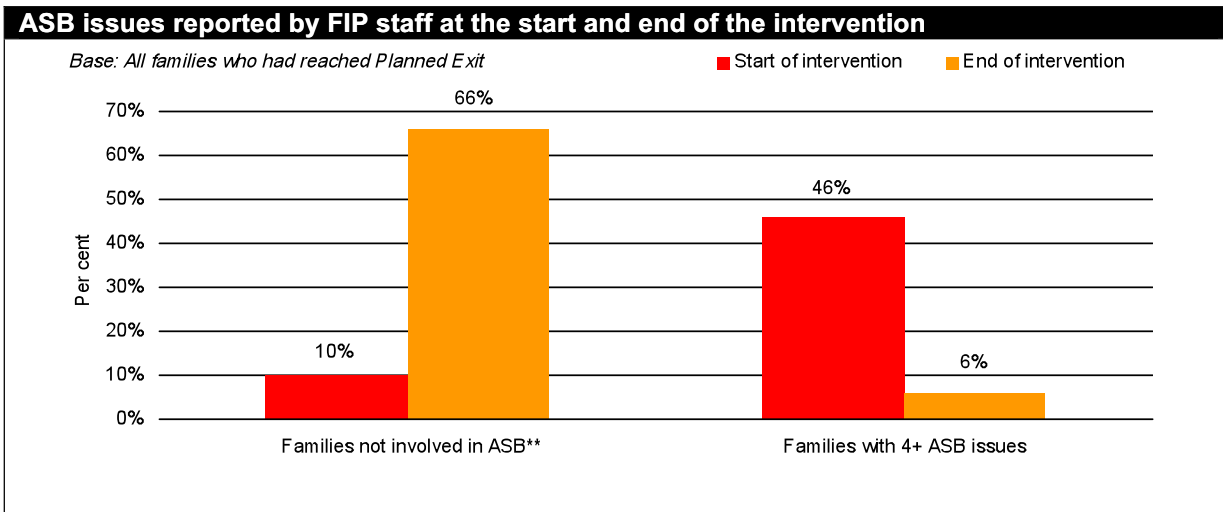
The proportion of families not involved in ASB was 66 per cent by the end of the intervention compared with 10 per cent of families at the start of the intervention.

Only 6 per cent of families had four or more ASB issues at completion compared with 46 per cent of families at the start of the intervention.

Levels of ASB were considerably lower for all specific types of ASB reported at the end of the intervention compared to the beginning.

⁸ Respondents were able to provide multiple reasons where applicable

Figure 1 - Levels of anti-social behaviour issues



** The 10 per cent of families at the start of the intervention with no ASB issues may reflect the fact that FIP workers were unsure at this early stage of the specific ASB issues involved

Enforcement actions

The proportion of families with enforcement actions in place decreased over the course of the intervention across a wide range of different enforcement actions.

26 per cent of families had one or more enforcement actions in place at the end of the intervention compared with 44 per cent at the beginning

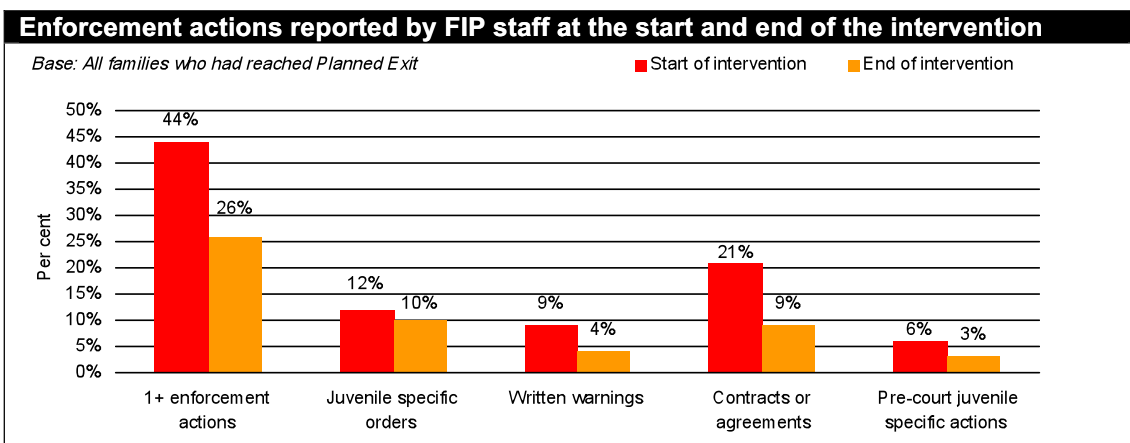
Juvenile specific orders were reported for 10 per cent of families at the end of the intervention compared with 12 per cent at the beginning

Written warnings were reported for 4 per cent of families at the end of the intervention compared to 9 per cent at the beginning

9 per cent of families had contracts or agreements at the end of the intervention compared with 21 per cent at the beginning

Pre-court juvenile specific actions were reported for 3 per cent of families at the end of their intervention compared with 6 per cent at the beginning.

Figure 2 - Enforcement actions in place



Employment and financial circumstances

Comparing families at the beginning of the intervention with those who completed the intervention, we found:

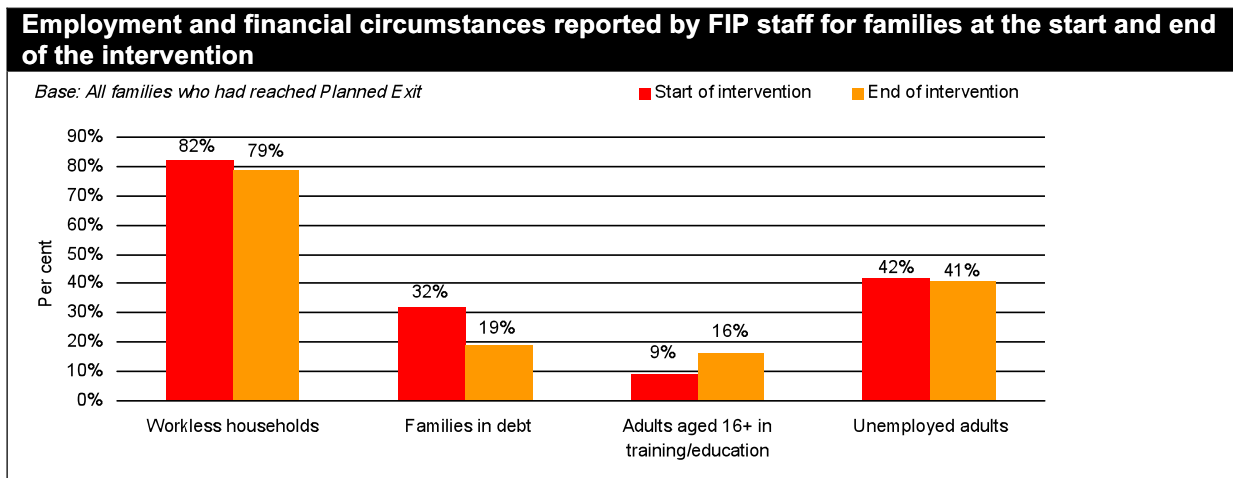
a very small decrease in the proportion of workless households to 79 per cent at the end of the intervention from 82 per cent at the beginning

the proportion of families who were reported to be in debt decreased to 19 per cent at the end of the intervention from 32 per cent at the beginning

an increase in the proportion of adults aged 16 plus in training or education to 16 per cent at the end of the intervention from 9 per cent of adults at the beginning

a very small decrease in the proportion of adults who were unemployed to 42 per cent of adults at the end of the intervention from 41 per cent at the beginning

Figure 3 - Employment and financial circumstances present in the families



Housing tenure

There were modest changes for families between the beginning and completion of the intervention with regard to housing tenure.

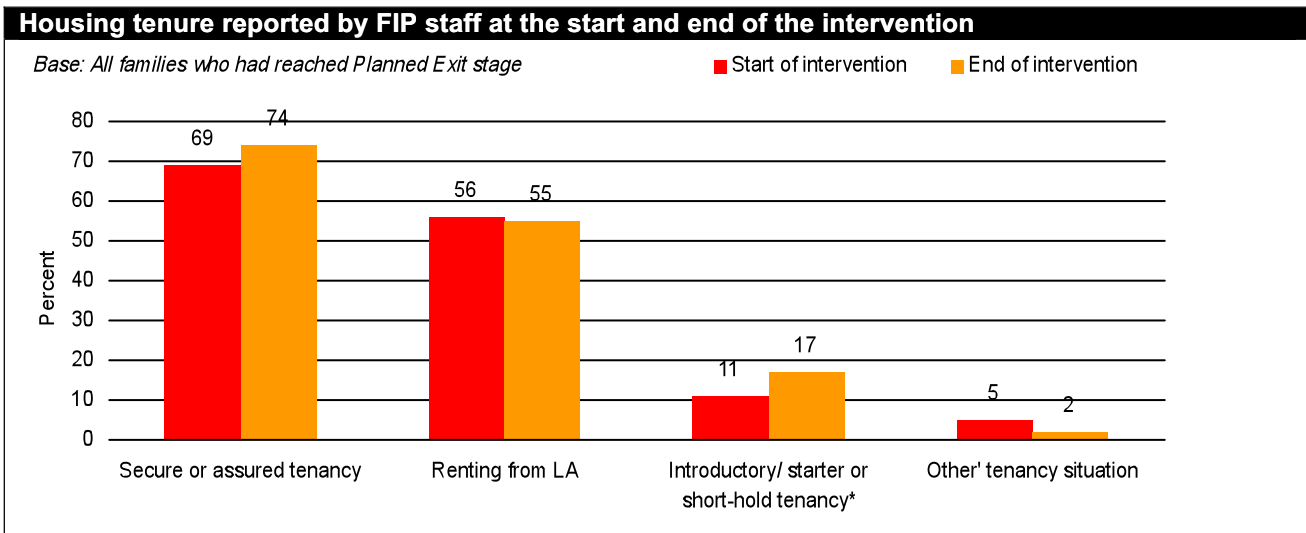
The proportion of families with a secure or assured tenancy increased to 74 per cent at the end of the intervention from 69 per cent at the beginning

The proportion of families that were renting from the Local Authority decreased slightly from 56 per cent at the beginning of the intervention to 55 per cent at the end of the intervention

The proportion of families with an introductory, starter or assured short-hold tenancy increased to 17 per cent at the end of the intervention from 11 per cent at the beginning

The proportion of 'other' tenancy situations fell to 2 per cent at the end of the intervention from 5 per cent at the beginning

Figure 4 - Types of housing tenure held by families



**The increase of families in a secure or assured/ Introductory or starter tenancy may, at least in part, reflect that FIP workers had more information about families by the end of the intervention, with the proportion of families for whom the FIP workers did not know this information falling to 3 per cent at the end of the intervention from 7 per cent at the beginning.

Housing enforcement actions

Reported housing enforcement actions decreased considerably over the course of the intervention.

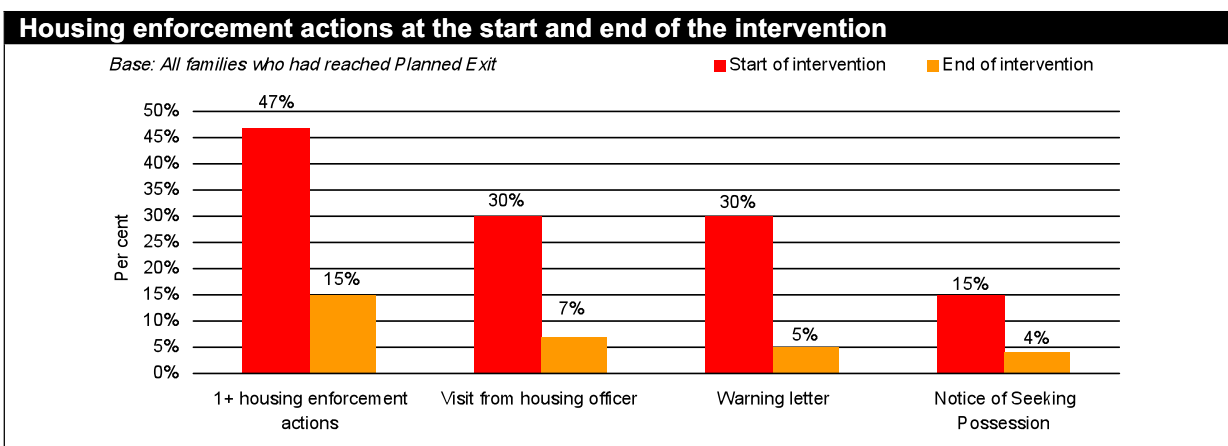
15 per cent of families had one or more housing enforcement actions against them at the end of the intervention compared with 47 per cent at the beginning

7 per cent of families had received a visit from a housing officer at the end of the intervention compared with 30 per cent at the beginning.

5 per cent of families had received a warning letter from their housing provider at the end of the intervention compared with 30 per cent at the beginning

A Notice of Seeking Possession was reported for 4 per cent of families at the end of the intervention compared with 15 per cent at the beginning.

Figure 5 - Housing enforcement actions



Education and learning risk factors

Overall, the proportion of families with education and learning problems was 47 per cent at the end of the intervention compared to 76 per cent at the beginning.

Basic numeracy and literacy was an issue for 16 per cent of families at the end of the intervention compared with 25 per cent at the beginning.

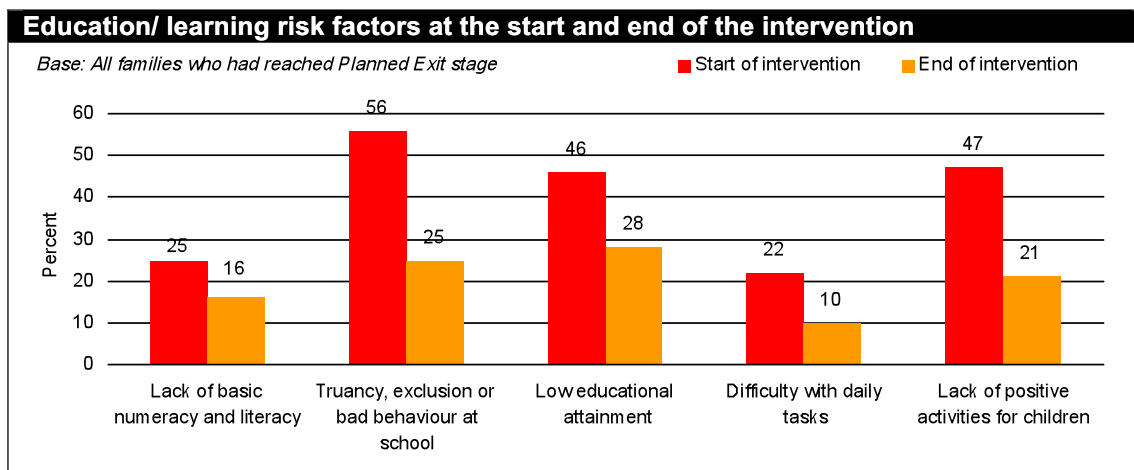
Truancy, exclusion and bad behaviour at school was an issue for children in 25 per cent of families at the end of the intervention compared with 56 per cent at the beginning.

Low educational attainment was an issue for 28 per cent families at the end of the intervention compared with 46 per cent at the beginning.

Difficulty with daily tasks was an issue for 10 per cent of families at the end of the intervention compared to 22 per cent at the beginning.

A lack of positive activities for children was an issue for 21 per cent of families at the end of the intervention compared to 47 per cent at the beginning.

Figure 6 - Education and learning risk factors



Family functioning and other risk factors

Poor parenting was an issue for 28 per cent of families at the end of the intervention compared with 65 per cent at the beginning

Children socialising with an 'inappropriate' peer group was an issue for 20 per cent of families at the end of the intervention compared to 46 per cent at the beginning

Family debt (including rent arrears, credit card bills and utility bills) was an issue for 19 per cent of families at the end of the intervention compared to 32 per cent at the beginning

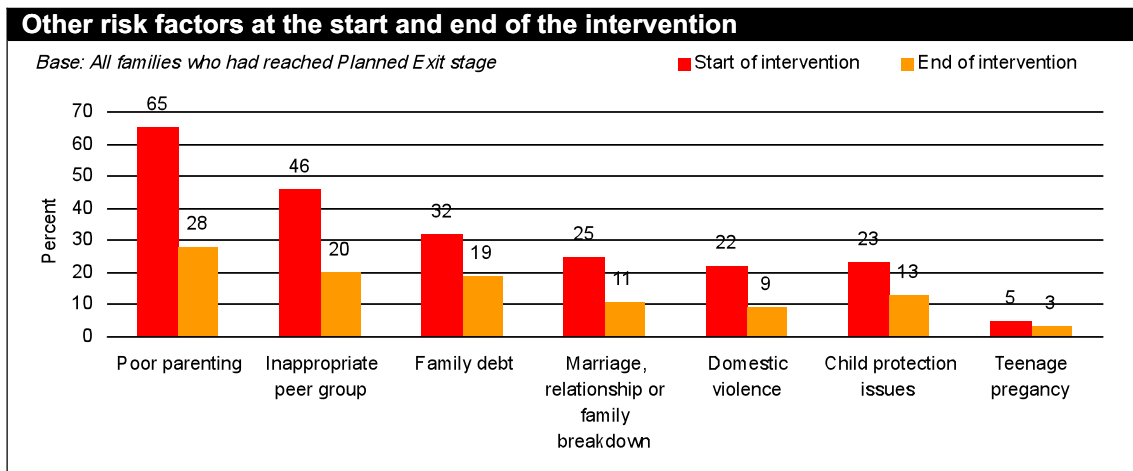
Relationship breakdown was an issue for 11 per cent of families at the end of the intervention compared to 25 per cent at the beginning

Domestic violence was considered an issue in 9 per cent of families at the end of the intervention compared to 22 per cent at the beginning

Child protection issues were identified as a concern in 13 per cent of families at the end of the intervention compared to 23 per cent at the beginning

Teenage pregnancy was considered a risk factor in 3 per cent of families at the end of the intervention compared with 5 per cent at the beginning.

Figure 7 - Family functioning and other risk factors



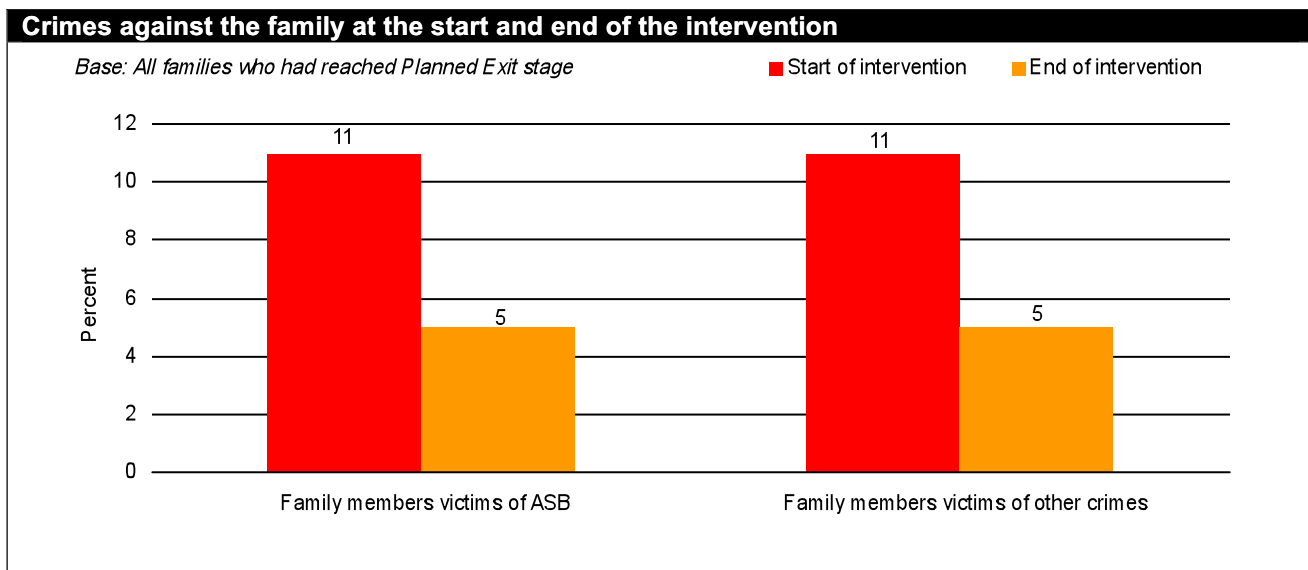
Families who are victims of crime

The proportion of families with members who are victims of:

ASB decreased to 5 per cent at the end of the intervention from 11 per cent at the beginning.

other crimes decreased to 5 per cent at the end of the intervention from 11 per cent at the beginning.

Figure 8 - Levels of crime against the families



Physical and mental health

The proportion of families with members experiencing:

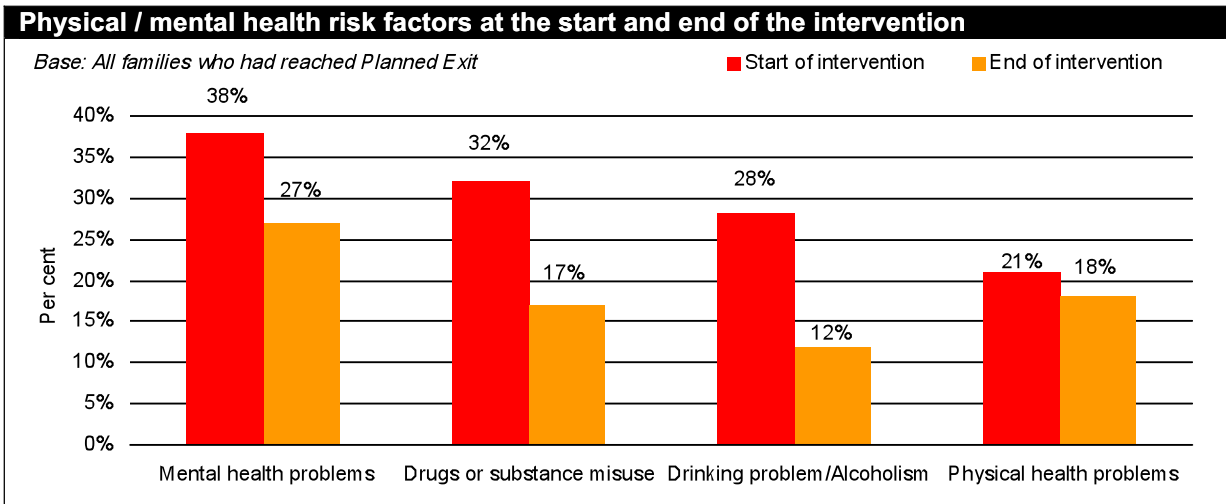
mental health problems decreased to 27 per cent at the end of the intervention from 38 per cent at the beginning.

drugs or substance misuse problems decreased to 17 per cent at the end of the intervention from 32 per cent at the beginning.

drinking problems and alcoholism decreased to 12 per cent at the end of the intervention from 28 per cent at the beginning.

physical health problems decreased to 18 per cent at the end of the intervention from 21 per cent at the beginning.

Figure 9 - Physical and mental health risk factors



Additional information

The next monitoring report will be published in early 2010. This will also report on the numbers of families supported in each calendar year in making progress made towards ensuring 10,000 families receive a FIP intervention every year from 2011-12. It will also include results from families who received a FIP intervention aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour followed up 9-14 months following the end of their intervention.

Further information about the research can be obtained from Caroline Prichard, Families at Risk Division, 1FL, DCSF, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

Email: caroline.prichard@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

The views expressed in this report are the authors' and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Parenting Models of Practice				LEARNING
Levels of Intervention	Engaging	Modelling	Training	
<p>Level 4 –Intensive Support The parents/carers of the children and young people will require additional specialist support to help them manage and support their children's needs, or to help them to re-engage with their child</p>				
<p>Level 3 –Complex Support Where the parents/carers cannot fully meet their child's needs other more specialist/intensive services will be required to provide support. Some of these parents will need enhanced support to help them develop their parenting skills</p>				
<p>Level 2 – Coordinated Early Intervention The family circumstances or environmental factors may add to vulnerability. Parents/carers may require additional help and support at this level to help them deal with issues and to prevent further deterioration in their circumstances</p>				
<p>Level 1 –Universal Most parents and carers will have their need met within their family, local community and universal services. In some cases additional needs may be identified, where these can be met by a single agency no further action will be necessary</p>				

Parent Support Advisers

Role summary

- Parental influences have a powerful effect upon children's attitudes achievements and life outcomes. The role of the PSA is to assist in tackling underachievement by working in partnership with families, parents, carers and pupils in a school context to enable pupils, particularly the most disadvantaged, to have full access to educational opportunities and overcome barriers to learning and participation.
- The PSA will work directly with parents in a non-judgemental way, empowering them and their families to get the most out of the educational opportunities available.
- PSA's will focus their work on preventative and early intervention activities. They will work in a schools context where presenting needs are below the thresholds that trigger the involvement of specialist services and other agencies. The PSA must understand the primary rights and responsibilities of parents in raising their children and support parents by helping them improve their parenting skills, for example, by running basic parenting classes and providing appropriate information or referrals.
- Promote high-quality parenting at home
- Support parents of children with early signs of social, emotional, health or behavioural issues
- Provide impartial information or referrals to parents about the school and relevant local services available
- At the request of parents and the school, talk to children experiencing difficulties and convey the voice of the child to parents and school staff.
- In partnership with parents, identify the need for support groups or parenting classes

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

Document is Restricted