

CABINET

Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham. S60
2TH

Date: Wednesday, 8 September 2010

Room: Council Chamber

Time: 10.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. Questions from Members of the Public
2. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
3. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
4. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 21st July and 10th August, 2010 (copies supplied separately)
5. Scrutiny Review - Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) (Pages 1 - 23)
 - Chief Executive to report.
6. Evaluation of the Invest South Yorkshire (ISY) Programme (report herewith) (Pages 24 - 32)
 - Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services to report.
7. Local Development Framework - Next Steps (report herewith) (Pages 33 - 48)
 - Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services to report.
8. Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS - White Paper and Responding to the Consultation (report herewith) (Pages 49 - 65)
 - Chief Executive to report.
9. Children and Young People's Services Notice to Improve - Progress Update (report herewith) (Pages 66 - 79)
 - Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services to report.
10. Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children (report herewith) (Pages 80 - 82)
 - Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services to report.

11. Inspection of Fostering Services - Summary of the Report and Action Plan (report herewith) (Pages 83 - 91)
 - Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services to report.
12. Corporate Parenting Group (report herewith) (Pages 92 - 96)
 - Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services to report.
13. Long Term Capital Loan Finance in Support of Rotherham College of Arts and Technology Phase 1 New and Refurbished Build (report herewith) (Pages 97 - 101)
 - Strategic Director of Finance to report.
14. Minutes of meeting of the Members' Training and Development Panel held on 24th June, 2010 (herewith) (Pages 102 - 107)
 - Chief Executive to report.
15. Minutes of a meeting of the Groundworks Trusts Panel held on 14th July, 2010 (herewith) (Pages 108 - 114)
 - Chief Executive to report.
16. Minutes of a meeting of the Local Development Framework Members' Steering Group held on 16th July, 2010 (herewith) (Pages 115 - 120)
 - Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services to report.

Extra Item:-

17. The Council's Response to the DCLG Consultation Paper on Local Referendums to Veto Excessive Council Tax Increases (report herewith) (Pages 121 - 132)
 - Chief Executive to report.
18. Exclusion of the Press and Public.
Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
19. Land to rear of 77- 81 Clough Road, Masbrough (report herewith) (Pages 133 - 137)
 - Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services to report.
20. Land adjacent to 18 Brookside, Swinton (report herewith) (Pages 138 - 143)
 - Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services to report.

21. Acquisition and Disposal of Land at Beighton (report herewith) (Pages 144 - 150)
 - Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services to report.

Extra Item:-

22. Rawmarsh Customer Service Centre (report herewith) (Pages 151 - 156)
 - Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services to report.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT

1. Meeting:	Cabinet
2. Date:	8th September, 2010
3. Title:	Scrutiny Review – Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE)
4. Directorate:	Chief Executive's All wards

5. Summary

The report sets out the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review into Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE). The report is attached as Appendix 1.

6. Recommendations

That:

- a. That Cabinet receives the report and recommendations**
- b. That the Cabinet's response to the recommendations be fed back to PSOC within two months of its submission.**

7. Proposals and Details

The review was initiated because members of the Youth Cabinet identified PSHE provision as an area of concern and asked that the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel look into it further. The Youth Cabinet agreed to take part in a Scrutiny Review to investigate the way in which PHSE was being taught in schools.

Specifically the review looked at:

- To consult young people about their experiences of PSHE.
- To understand the current PSHE provision in Rotherham schools in theory and practice.
- To recognise good practice in PSHE teaching locally and nationally.
- To gather the views of School Governors regarding PSHE.
- To identify examples of quality PSHE learning resources both locally and nationally.

7.1 The recommendations from the review are detailed in Section 6 of the review and include:

- PSHE should be compulsory and part of every student's timetable. This provision should be available from year 7 to year 11 regardless of ability and examination pressure. Drop down days are a good way to provide a high profile supplement to PSHE, but should *not* be the only way that pupils receive PSHE.
- PSHE should be taught by trained and confident teachers. As many members of staff as possible should access the year long Continuing Professional Development Program delivered by the Healthy Schools Team. Schools should be encouraged to access the Inset Days around PSHE offered by the Healthy Schools Team.
- Schools should structure the curriculum to avoid repetition and explain this clearly to pupils. The IMPACT booklet developed by Rawmarsh is one such approach which clearly communicates to pupils what they will be studying and when.
- The quality of PSHE delivery needs to be evaluated and assessed. The views of young people are crucial and the system adopted for evaluation should allow pupils to give anonymous feedback.
- PSHE to be part of the induction process for Governors and each school could have a governor champion for PSHE.

7.2 The report was submitted to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel on April 9th 2010. The Review Group has decided that prior to the report going through the Council's reporting structures a period of consultation on the feasibility and implementation of the report will be undertaken; this will include presentations to the meetings of the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors and the Secondary Headteachers. The Governors meeting is taking place on 23rd June 2010 and the Secondary Headteachers meetings is taking place on 20th May 2010.

8. Finance

A number of the review recommendations may have financial and resource implications if adopted. This would require further exploration by RMBC, Senior Managers from Schools, Governing Bodies, the School Effectiveness Service and the Healthy Schools Team on the potential cost, risks and benefits of their implementation. These resource issues will be discussed further during the consultation period.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There is currently much good work being done in Rotherham on PSHE. However, the full value of PSHE to all schools, pupils, teachers and communities is not yet being fully realised and the quality varies considerably. In the (2008) Lifestyle Survey only a third of pupils felt they had been taught about contraception at the right time. Only 40% of females and 38% of males felt they had been taught about pregnancy at the right time (12 out of 15 secondary schools responded.) These perceptions about a lack of information, or a failure to provide guidance at appropriate times, manifest themselves in continuing patterns of risky behaviours amongst young people in Rotherham.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

10.1 PSHE is not only important to improving outcomes and behaviours of individual pupils but can also be the basis for a “21st Century School.” School-level well being indicators were introduced as part of the new Ofsted inspection Framework. As well as looking at ‘hard data,’ these indicators will take into account of pupil and parent perception data. In providing pupils with valuable information on how to be safe, happy and healthy PSHE plays a major role in schools contribution to the five Every Child Matters outcomes. Schools are evaluated on the five outcomes. Ofsted is particularly keen to monitor “the extent to which pupils adopt healthy lifestyles” in terms of physical, emotional and mental health. PSHE can also be used to help schools to enhance the level of safeguarding. In the new Ofsted Framework safeguarding is a limiting judgement.¹ Although in early inspections Ofsted has focussed on the practicalities of safeguarding such as the security of the school site, PSHE can add value by ensuring that pupils are risk aware – for instance about the potential dangers on the internet and social networking sites.

10.2 The Local Authority has consistently underperformed in comparison to statistical neighbours with regard to teenage pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (i.e. NI 113 “Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 24 year olds.) It has been recognised that the Sex and Relationship aspect of PSHE can play an important role in addressing PSA 11a and NI 112 “Under 18 Conception Rates.”

11. Background Papers and Consultation

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

¹ Safeguarding is one of several limiting judgements, i.e. the grade awarded for Safeguarding, especially if satisfactory or inadequate, affects the whole school grade. If, for example, Safeguarding or Equality and Opportunity, is judged as inadequate then the whole school will be judged inadequate.

- Macdonald, Alasdair. *Independent Review of the Proposal to Make Personal Social Health and Economic Education Statutory* (DCSF, 2009)
- *The Evaluation Schedule for Schools* (Ofsted, 2010)
- *Sex and Relationships Education Guidance to Schools* (DfES, 2010)
- *SRE: Are You Getting It?* (UK Youth Parliament, 2007)
- *Maidstone Youth Scrutiny Committee Report: Sex and Relationships Education* (2007)

Contact Name:

John Evans, Scrutiny Officer

Tel: 01709 (2)54561 john.evans@rotherham.gov.uk

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION (PSHE) SCRUTINY REVIEW

Report of the Children and Young
People's Scrutiny Panel
- March 2010 -

For further information about this report please contact:

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser

Chief Executive's Directorate,
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
The Eric Manns Building,
45 Moorgate Street, Rotherham, S60 2RB

tel: (01709) 822765

email: caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk

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Executive Summary

The review was initiated because members of the Youth Cabinet identified PSHE provision as an area of concern and asked that the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel look into it further. The Youth Cabinet agreed to take part in a Scrutiny Review to investigate the way in which PHSE was being taught in schools. This was incorporated into the panel's work programme 5th June 2009. The aim of the review is to highlight good practice, improve guidance to schools and ensure that across Rotherham better quality PHSE can be delivered; if these outcomes are achieved young people could make better informed 'life' decisions and be healthier, happier and achieve academically.

During the Review the group worked alongside young people, Voice and Influence Workers, parent Governors, PSHE Co-ordinators and the Healthy Schools Team. Their help and co-operation with the review is gratefully acknowledged.

Key Recommendations

- PSHE should be compulsory and part of every student's timetable. This provision should be available from year 7 to year 11 regardless of ability and examination pressure. Drop down days are a good way to provide a high profile supplement to PSHE, but should *not* be the only way that pupils receive PSHE.
- PSHE should be taught by trained and confident teachers. As many members of staff as possible should access the year long Continuing Professional Development Programme delivered by the Healthy Schools Team. Schools should be encouraged to access the Inset Days around PSHE offered by the Healthy Schools Team.
- Schools should structure the curriculum to avoid repetition and explain this clearly to pupils. The IMPACT booklet developed by Rawmarsh is one such approach which clearly communicates to pupils what they will be studying and when.
- The quality of PSHE delivery needs to be evaluated and assessed. The views of young people are crucial and the system adopted for evaluation should allow pupils to give anonymous feedback.
- PSHE to be part of the induction process for Governors and each school could have a governor champion for PSHE.

1 REVIEW FRAMEWORK

1.1 Terms of reference

The group aims to examine the levels of consistency in PSHE provision provided by secondary schools in Rotherham. In particular the Review will aim to improve the quality of PSHE teaching and resources in the long term.

1.2 Key Objectives

In order for the Review to be effective the Group needed to gather evidence, data and information from a range of sources. The group wanted:

- To consult young people about their experiences of PSHE.
- To understand the current PSHE provision in Rotherham schools in theory and practice.
- To recognise good practice in PSHE teaching locally and nationally.
- To gather the views of School Governors regarding PSHE.
- To identify examples of quality PSHE learning resources both locally and nationally.

1.3 Membership

The review group was made up of the following members of the Children & Young Peoples Scrutiny Panel

- Cllr Thomas Fennoughty (Chair)
- Cllr Barry Kaye
- Cllr Kath Sims

1.4 Methodology

The Review Group consulted a range of groups including members of the Youth Cabinet, PSHE co-ordinators, senior teachers, Parent Governors, the Healthy Schools Team, Cllr Shaun Wright, Lead member for Children and Young People's Services, and Joyce Thacker the Strategic Director of Children's Services.

The members of the Youth Cabinet designed, organised and delivered a survey at Rotherham Show to find out what young people thought about PSHE. In all, they consulted 209 young people from all but one of the Borough's secondary schools.

Comments on the review were also sought from the Secondary Head's Forum and the Chair/Vice-Chairs of Governing Bodies meeting.

The review also received in-depth briefings on research, and conducted their own literature searches on current good practice and developments.

The review group would like to thank all those who contributed to the review.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 What is PSHE?

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education aims to help children and young people deal with the issues they face as they grow up. The subject PSHE is known by different names (PSE, PSD, Impact, Guidance) although PSHE will be used throughout this review. The issues that PSHE education covers are central to young people's well being: nutrition and physical activity; drugs, alcohol and tobacco; sex and relationships; emotional health and wellbeing; safety; careers; work-related learning; and personal finance. Yet PSHE is in some ways more than a subject. When taught effectively it can challenge preconceptions, improve attitudes and develop skills. One witness noted: "The aim of PSHE is to produce positive, healthy and happy citizens, who can think independently, and who are accountable and responsible. As such the subject can underpin pupils' development and success." PSHE (especially when engaging with partners like the Personal Finance Education Group) can also ensure that pupils are financially responsible and ready for the world of work.¹

2.2 Why is PSHE Important?

The review was initiated because members of the Youth Cabinet identified PSHE provision as an area of concern. As the matter was raised by Youth Cabinet this review will focus on secondary level education - key stages three and four. When working with young people it has become clear that the majority feel that PSHE is an important subject:

Feedback from Young People: During the Rotherham Show PSHE survey 209 young people were consulted over two days. 137 young people felt PSHE was an important subject. 26 young people thought that it was occasionally important and only 46 said that it was unimportant.

PSHE offers a major space in the curriculum where young people can be given clear, accurate information in order to make informed decisions. It also allows young people to discuss and challenge assumptions and perspectives – in a manner that usually builds on 'soft skills' such as team working, understanding and communication. PSHE is a crucial opportunity for teachers to signpost other agencies (such as Child Line) that deal with acute and confidential needs, and address issues important to the health of a school such as bullying and the role of the school council. In the 2009 Lifestyle Survey it was pleasing to see that 68% of pupils had never tried cigarettes. This is the highest percentage of pupils since the survey commenced (in 2006). Whilst not solely attributable to the profile of smoking the PSHE curriculum, the steps taken to ensure that young people are aware of the social, financial and health implications of smoking must certainly have contributed to this trend.

Yet despite the potential benefits of PSHE being clear the general impression was the quality of PSHE varied considerably from school to school. This was supported

¹ *The Evaluation Schedule for Schools* (Ofsted, 2010) p.26

by the findings in the (2008) Lifestyle Survey: only a third of pupils felt they had been taught about contraception at the right time. Only 40% of females and 38% of males felt they had been taught about pregnancy at the right time (12 out of 15 secondary schools responded.) These perceptions about a lack of information, or a failure to provide guidance at appropriate times, manifest themselves in a continuing pattern of risky behaviours amongst young people in Rotherham. The Local Authority has consistently underperformed in comparison to statistical neighbours with regard to teenage pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (i.e. NI 113 “Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 24 year olds.) It has already been recognised that PSHE can play an important role in addressing PSA 11a and NI 112 “Under 18 Conception Rates.” National and International research suggests that effective Sex and Relationships Education, which is a crucial but not the only aspect of PSHE:

“...improves knowledge, develops more mature attributes, postpones the age of first sex and those young people who do have sex are more likely to use contraception. This is supported by good international evidence that ‘comprehensive’ programmes of SRE, covering a broad range of topics including factual information about contraception, sexual health services and where the programme is coordinated with young people confidential advisory service, have a positive impact on young people’s sexual behaviour.”²

PSHE is not only important to improving outcomes and behaviours of individual pupils but can also be the basis for a “21st Century School.” School-level well being indicators were introduced as part of the new Ofsted inspection Framework. As well as looking at ‘hard data,’ these indicators will take into account of pupil and parent perception data. This could include, for example, how well pupils feel Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) is being taught in their school. Within this context the effective delivery of good quality SRE can have a positive impact on helping young people deal with the health challenges they face in adolescence and supporting wider well being. In providing pupils with valuable information on how to be safe, happy and healthy PSHE plays a major role in schools contribution to the five Every Child Matters outcomes. Schools are evaluated on the five outcomes. Ofsted is particularly keen to monitor “the extent to which pupils adopt healthy lifestyles” in terms of physical, emotional and mental health.³ One case study suggests that when the Every Child Matters outcomes are embedded in the whole school ethos respect, understanding, behaviour, and ultimately attainment improve.⁴ PSHE can also be used to help schools to enhance the level of safeguarding. In the new Ofsted Framework safeguarding is a limiting judgement.⁵ Although in early inspections Ofsted has focussed on the practicalities of safeguarding such as the security of the school site (p51), PSHE can add value by ensuring that pupils are risk aware – for instance about the potential dangers on the internet and social networking sites.⁶ In

² *Sex and Relationships Education Guidance to Schools* (DfES, 2010) p.13

³ *The Evaluation Schedule for Schools* (Ofsted, 2010) p.21

⁴ Embedding Every Child Matters Outcomes – New College, Swindon:

<http://excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=251703>

⁵ Safeguarding is one of several limiting judgements, i.e. the grade awarded for Safeguarding, especially if satisfactory or inadequate, affects the whole school grade. If, for example, Safeguarding or Equality and Opportunity, is judged as inadequate then the whole school will be judged inadequate.

⁶ In *The Evaluation Schedule for Schools* (pp. 50-51) the effectiveness of practical Safeguarding procedures are discussed. Yet Safeguarding is also about equipping students with the knowledge to be risk aware. Internet Safety is a good case example of a subject that could be discussed in PSHE.

order for a school to receive an “Outstanding” judgement for “the extent to which pupils feel safe” Ofsted suggest all pupils must:

“...have an excellent understanding about what constitutes unsafe situations. They maintain a well-tuned perspective on their own safety and that of others. Pupils say they feel safe at school at all times. Parents and carers strongly agree that the school keeps pupils safe. Groups representing a wide range of pupils are entirely confident that issues they raise will be dealt promptly and effectively by the school.”⁷

Furthermore, pupils are likely to feel safe if they are listened to in school and aware of issues such as bullying and racism.⁸

PSHE is a subject that can imbue (alongside subjects such as citizenship and RE) a sense of social understanding, community spirit and involvement. PSHE can be responsive to issues and problems within a local area – and provide a forum for young people to discuss and understand prevalent issues, attitudes and behaviours. PSHE can form part of school’s wider remit of making a contribution to community cohesion. PSHE is crucial to equip students with more than outstanding academic achievements; PSHE can help to produce the confident, happy and rounded young people that are a credit to their schooling and very much part of their local community.

2.3 The National Picture

Two reviews into Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) and Drug and Alcohol Education noted that the quality of PSHE education being delivered varies significantly across the country and does not meet the needs of children and young people. Both reviews argued that PSHE is not given sufficient priority in schools and that making the subject statutory is the key to raising its status and improving provision.⁹

In October 2008 the Government announced its intention to make PSHE education statutory by 2011 and launched an independent Review to investigate the most effective way of achieving this. *The Independent Review of the proposal to make Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education Statutory* was carried out by Sir Alasdair Macdonald in. The report made twenty recommendations including:

- At Secondary level, PSHE education should become a foundation subject in the National Curriculum, with the existing non-statutory programmes of study forming the basis for public consultation on the core entitlement.

In 2009, 36% of all pupils said they used chat rooms ‘every or most days’. Percentages are similar across both year groups and genders with the exception of Year 7 female pupils’ 43% of whom said they use chat rooms ‘every or most days’. By Year 10 there is a decrease in the use of chat rooms. In this online environment pupils need to be educated about the potential dangers and risks.

⁷ *The Evaluation Schedule for Schools* (Ofsted, 2010) p.17

⁸ *Ibid.*,

⁹ *SRE: Are You Getting It?* (UK Youth Parliament, 2007) *Maidstone Youth Scrutiny Committee Report: Sex and Relationships Education* (2007)

- The DCSF should commission further research that will establish and report on the prevalent modes of delivery for PSHE education and their effectiveness in improving outcomes for children and young people.

The Scrutiny Review of PSHE in Rotherham therefore reflects ongoing national debates into the content and delivery of PSHE. Indeed, the current review is an ideal opportunity for the young people of Rotherham, the Council and partners to make clear recommendations on what should be considered as the “core entitlement,” and also on the most effective “modes of delivery.” One of the challenges that Alasdair MacDonald recognises is balancing a national entitlement and greater levels assessment, with the *personal*, community and school focussed nature of PSHE. He recommends that “Legislation should seek to exclude PSHE education from the requirement to have statutory levels of attainment” but concedes that “The DCSF should work with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to find appropriate and innovative ways of assessing pupils’ progress in PSHE education.” The conflict between wanting PSHE to provide *personal* education, and also having robust and effective assessment and evaluation of national entitlements emerged in discussions with many witnesses.

In November 2009, in response to the Macdonald Report, Children’s Secretary for State Ed Balls MP altered parental right of withdrawal from Sex and Relationships Education (SRE). The parental right to withdraw children out of sex education classes in England is being ended once the pupils turn 15. The change means all pupils will get at least one year of sex and relationship education before their 16th birthday once it becomes compulsory in 2011. Currently some 0.04% of parents choose to use their parental right of withdrawal, but that number may grow once it is compulsory. Under these plans, all schools will have to cover areas such as same sex relationships and contraception. However, governing bodies will still be able to ensure classes reflect the religious ethos of the school. In January 2010 the DfES produced detailed guidance for schools on SRE.

2.4 The Healthy Schools Programme

PSHE is part of the Healthy Schools Agenda. The national Healthy Schools Programme (NHSP) is a joint initiative between DCSF and Department of Health (DH) - which promotes a whole school and whole child approach to health. National Healthy School Status (NHSS) is achieved within a rigorous quality assurance framework. All schools achieving National Healthy School Status must have met national criteria using a whole school approach across four themes including personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, healthy eating, physical activity and emotional health and well-being (EHWB).

From September 2009 all schools that have achieved NHSS can become part of the Healthy Schools enhancement model. To do this, schools need to complete an annual review each year to confirm that they have established and maintained a foundation for health and well-being. Schools will also need to complete the health and well-being improvement tool. This will guide them through the model and help to plan and record progress. It will also enable schools to submit key information for local quality assurance purposes. Schools will need to review progress towards the meaningful outcomes that have been set and use the health and well-being improvement tool (HWIT) to self-validate. Schools will receive national recognition

once these meaningful outcomes have been achieved and approved by the local quality assurance system.

3 WHERE ARE WE IN ROTHERHAM?

There is currently much good work being done in Rotherham on PSHE. However, the true value of PSHE to all schools, pupils, teachers and communities is not yet being fully realised and the quality varies considerably.

3.1 Healthy School Status in Rotherham

Rotherham has a dedicated Healthy Schools Team. The Healthy Schools Team is part of the School Effectiveness Service. The Team keeps abreast of national developments and good practice affecting PSHE in schools, presenting relevant information to PSHE Leads and Head Teachers when appropriate. The team provides training for staff to improve the teaching of PSHE; signposts relevant materials and external agencies to support the curriculum; and also develops resources for schools. The resources developed so far include drug and SRE education classroom material and model policies to enable schools to more easily put good practice in place. The Healthy Schools Team has also developed an electronic tool to record pupil assessment in PSHE against end of key stage statements and they are in the process of making it available to all schools. The Healthy Schools Team supports schools regarding the Personal Wellbeing Programme of Study and makes the links regarding Personal Finance Education in the Economic Wellbeing and Financial Capability Programme of Study.

The 14-19 team support schools with the Careers Advice and Guidance aspect of this programme of study. Some of the methods the team use to support PSHE are outlined in greater depth in sections 4.2 and 4.3. In 2008 Ofsted noted the Healthy Schools program was a major strength as “The percentage of schools achieving the Healthy School Award is higher than for statistical neighbours and 100% of schools are engaging in the National Healthy Schools Programme.” In March 2010 97% schools in Rotherham had achieved Healthy School Status with the LAA target set at 95%. The schools who have not achieved the Healthy School status are not meeting the PSHE criteria – and are within the Secondary Sector.

3.2 Approaches to Teaching PSHE (September 2009)

In September 2009 the approaches to teaching PSHE in Rotherham can be broken down into five general patterns.

- **PSHE through Specialist Teams**

Four secondary schools have adopted this approach and one more is planning to move to a specialist team in the near future. It is widely acknowledged that having specialist teams of willing trained teachers (who are comfortable teaching the subject) is beneficial to PSHE provision. The Macdonald report notes that “specialist PSHE education teachers are a consistent feature of effective

practice.”¹⁰ This approach is, however, is resource intensive and it takes a long term commitment to PSHE from staff and senior managers.

- **PSHE through Tutor**

Five schools use this approach. The major strength of this approach is that the tutor can have a longstanding relationship with the group and so can adapt PSHE to meet the pupils’ needs. In some instances, however, this strength can also be a weakness as pupils may be uncomfortable discussing certain issues with a familiar tutor. As pupils stay with the same tutor throughout school the quality of PSHE depends on the enthusiasm and ability of the teacher: “Ofsted questions the assumption that even good tutors necessarily have the requisite knowledge to deliver PSHE education.”¹¹

- **Whole Staff Involvement**

In One school all staff members are involved in teaching PSHE with teachers specialising in a small area of the PSHE curriculum. A double lesson once per fortnight is given over to PSHE (this lesson moves each time). One positive aspect of this approach is that the teacher can choose a topic of interest they feel comfortable teaching and then deliver this for a whole year group.

- **Suspended Time Table “Drop Down Days”**

Approximately five schools use suspended timetable days. These are used for a variety of reasons: in order to enhance what is taught in PSHE such as a whole school approach to a healthy lifestyle; to give additional time to PSHE when insufficient time is prioritised on the curriculum; and even as the sole source of PSHE for pupils. Drop Down Days allow schools to maximise resources and free up curriculum space. The approach, in which a drop down day is the only time PSHE is taught, was identified as a potential issue in Sir Alasdair’s Macdonald report:

“The drop down or themed day is currently seen as the least effective option [...] when delivered in isolation because, in essence, because the learning is not considered to be secure or rooted in children and young people’s wider experience of the curriculum, nor is it possible to guarantee progression. Moreover, if a pupil is absent on this day, they can miss out on the entire offer.”¹²

Many of the witnesses in Rotherham highlighted similar concerns with PSHE being taught solely via Drop Down days.

¹⁰ Macdonald, Alasdair. *Independent Review of the Proposal to Make Personal Social Health and Economic Education Statutory* (DCSF, 2009) p.64

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p.71

¹² *Ibid.*, p.74

- **A Mixed Approach**

In many schools a mixture of the above approaches is actually the preferred model. PSHE may be taught as a timetabled lesson by a tutor or specialist teacher in one key stage, and by suspended timetable days in other years. In other schools dedicated curriculum time with a specialist team is supplemented by a Drop Down Day. Macdonald, whilst refusing to stipulate the adoption of one approach, notes:

“...a prevailing and persuasive view has emerged that a ‘multi-dimensional’ model of delivery may be preferable – one which prioritises discrete time in the curriculum for planned and assessed learning to take place; contains planned cross-curricular elements; and includes provision for extended or ‘enrichment’ opportunities such as theme days or external contributors to the curriculum.”¹³

3.3 Curriculum Space

As the approaches outlined in figure 4.2 suggest, Rotherham schools have a varying amount of curriculum time dedicated to PSHE. In general, the various pressures’ placed on schools to achieve certain targets (especially around core subjects) have led to an erosion of PSHE on the timetable. PSHE is often taught alongside other modules such as Citizenship and Religious Education although this puts pressure on staff, particularly PSHE Co-ordinators, in juggling numerous work programs. Enterprise and Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) compete with PSHE for adequate space in schools.

3.4 PSHE Staff Support

The Rotherham Healthy Schools team supports staff to deliver quality PSHE in a variety of ways including facilitating a PSHE leads network meeting in spring and summer term; by developing resources to assist staff in delivering PSHE; by supporting individual schools in designing a curriculum and assessment tools; and by running a variety of training courses throughout the year. These courses include a free PSHE Continual Professional Development (CPD). The CPD is a national qualification which is offered to staff teaching PSHE. The members of staff work towards accreditation in their own time. 2009 is the seventh year that Rotherham has run the course and thus far every member of staff that has taken part has received the accreditation. 2008 was the first year that support staff could participate alongside teachers. This year’s intake on the CPD course includes 24 staff members, at various key stages, from schools across the borough. The proportion of secondary schools in Rotherham with a PSHE CPD accredited teacher is 44%.

3.5 Resources

The Healthy Schools Team also advises schools on the best PSHE resources available and PSHE coordinators from across Rotherham meet regularly to share resources and best practice. In particular the Healthy Schools Team offers guidance about how to embed ICT within the PSHE curriculum. Kirklees County Council spent

¹³ Ibid., p.64

two years developing an interactive PSHE curriculum and eight schools in Rotherham have currently purchased this resource.

We have bought the Kirklees Resource which is fabulous!
PSHE Coordinator, Rotherham

The Rotherham Healthy Schools Team in has also helped to develop the Pink & Proud resource. PSHE Coordinators also spoke highly of the following resources: Know Your Stuff, FPA Contraceptive Kits, FPA Leaflets, Drug Cases, Life Matters (game), Disability Rights Commission – Citizenship & Diversity, Volatile Substance Abuse, Sex and Relationships (Channel 4), Mental Health (Channel 4), Clipbank (Channel 4), Lifestory Workers, Birchfield, Smoking-poisons (Dashhouse), Thirsty Tree, RollerCoaster Pack.

4 OVERVIEW OF MEETINGS AND CONSULTATION

During the course of the review members sought to gather as much information as possible by meeting with young people, healthy schools co-ordinators, PSHE co-ordinators, parent governors and Senior Managers from Schools.

4.1 Rotherham Show - PSHE Questionnaire Saturday 12th Sunday 13th 2009

At the Rotherham Show 209 young people completed a questionnaire regarding PSHE provision.

The inconsistency of PSHE was a recurring concern, and is illustrated in the response to the question “how do you rate PSHE as it is taught in your schools? (10 being the best):

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	No Score
Number of Young People	23	17	18	22	34	24	32	22	12	5	2

139 young people felt that PSHE was important. They felt that it was important for a variety of reasons and these included “information to help make informed decisions and choices.” Particular topics such as “how to do CVs,” “university stuff,” “public violence and safety” and “sex education and teen pregnancies” were deemed particularly useful.

When asked what was good about PSHE many young people noted that it was “different from other lessons.” One young person noted the “change of teaching style.” Numerous young people had “fun” in PSHE, as it was “taught in a fun way” in which they could “work in groups.” Many pupils seemed to enjoy “open discussion,” the opportunity to “speak opinions,” and hear from “outside speakers.”

From the 46 young people who felt that PSHE was unimportant many asserted it was “pointless,” with one young person suggesting “nobody goes, you can cope without it.” Many young people felt that PSHE was “too repetitive.” Another frequent concern that young people raised was that “teaching is varied.” Some also felt that “time could be better spent revising core subjects.”

The final question “What needs to be improved in the teaching of PSHE? How?” brought a range of responses from young people. Many young people simply wanted *more* PSHE time. More than student wanted the opportunity to “sit in gender group” of the same sex during SRE and other sensitive subjects. Another young person said PSHE would be improved by “putting it into the timetable properly, not just in tutor.” One young person stated: “External people to teach it because can talk to them easier.” Most young people wanted specialist teachers and “more structured work.” Young people raised the point that PSHE needed to be tailored for each year and taught at “appropriate levels.” A few young people wanted “more control of lessons” with the opportunity for young people to “choose what we learn about.”

4.2 Meeting with members of Youth Cabinet – 29th September and 19th October 2009

The review group met members of Rotherham Youth Cabinet twice in order to gain an insight into some of their major issues surrounding PSHE.

During the meetings on the 29th September and 19th October 2009 young people raised various issues with the review group. Throughout the meetings young people repeatedly stressed the importance of PSHE. One young person described PSHE: “as a forum to gain more relevant experience about life.” The young people recounted much anecdotal evidence about the varying quality of PSHE. They felt that PSHE was dependent on the quality of the teaching – and all felt that trained and confident teachers were crucial. One young person suggested that they felt more comfortable speaking to a youth worker (rather than their PSHE teacher) and that youth workers could help to deliver PSHE. Many young people felt that outsiders speakers could be effective, but only if the speech was delivered at an appropriate time within a structured curriculum.

One area of concern was the amount of repetition. Young people felt that certain topics were repeated without being altered for different year groups. Young people also felt that the PSHE curriculum lacked a clear structure. One young person noted: “One week we did Healthy Eating, and the next we did Skin Cancer. There is no continuity.” Young people suggested that clearly communicating the work program at the beginning of the term would be useful. They also felt that the learning expectations for individual lessons needed to be clearer. One young person said that there should be a central board (and website or web link) with all the PSHE information on – and that this resource should even accessible for school leavers; the young person stated they learnt how to write a cheque in year 9, but when it came to writing their first cheque after leaving school they couldn’t remember how.

Young people recognised the “pros” and “cons” of having a PSHE qualification. They recognised that on the one hand a PSHE qualification could lead to a greater willingness to work amongst students (and staff) ensuring PSHE was “taken seriously”, but on the other a qualification may not fit with notion of *Personal* education – where people need to be allowed to discuss ideas and formulate opinions. Young people stated that they were often unable to suggest topics for discussions, although many felt that PSHE should to some extent be informed by the issues that concern pupils. A practical way for schools to gauge the topics young people would like to see feature in PSHE would be a private and confidential “e-suggestion box.”

Members of the Youth Cabinet felt that for PSHE to improve schools needed to better consult pupils. Pupils should be encouraged to provide honest appraisal of the PSHE provision by giving anonymous feedback. Pupils mentioned that their feedback should in no way impact, or appear to impact, their merit grades for the subject. Young people identified topics such as SRE (with an emphasis on the relationship and decision making aspect of sex), healthy eating, smoking and drug awareness, curriculum vitae advice and information on banking and personal finance as essential to learn.

4.3 Meeting with PSHE Co-ordinators 19th November 2009

Officers from the review group met with co-ordinators in order to gain the insight from the teacher responsible for PSHE in schools. Eleven co-ordinators completed a questionnaire on PSHE.

Some of the questions that were posed to the PSHE Coordinators were the same as those completed by young people at the Rotherham Show. For example, both groups were asked to rate PSHE on a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best.) On average the young people rated PSHE at 5.12 and the Coordinators at 6.27. Although the size of the sample varied considerable this statistic is indicative of the broad consensus shared by young people and the PSHE Co-ordinators.

The Co-ordinators, like young people, had concerns about the status, resources, the lack of specialist staff and time allocated to PSHE. The difficult task faced by some co-ordinators was juggling the delivery of two programmes of PSHE, one program of Citizenship and another of Religious Education. Some positive examples of good practice that Coordinators had initiated (such as formal Y10 evaluation in which teachers received student feedback to improve future lessons) were being put under pressure by an emphasis core subjects.

4.4 Meeting with Parent Governors, 27th November 2009

The Review group met with a number of parent governors who represented a cross section of schools in Rotherham including a Special School. They felt that PSHE was a crucial aspect of the curriculum. One Governor concluded that PSHE “was all part of becoming a rounded citizen.”

The main focus of discussion for the group was the parental right to withdraw young people from SRE. The Parent governors stressed that from enquiries at their schools this right was very rarely used. In terms of SRE the group felt that the legal and moral aspects of Sex Education could be emphasised more.

Parent Governors felt that greater attempts should be taken to include parents in PSHE. The Speakeasy course (in which parents are taught how to speak to their children about SRE) was seen as good practice but more parental education should be undertaken. In the 2009 Lifestyle Survey 80% of Year 7 female pupils stated they could talk to an adult at home, but by Year 10 this had dropped to 55% of female pupils. This statistic suggests that work to encourage parents to talk to their children was required, especially in the later years of school, and that for many young people PSHE was one of the only sources of information.

The governors felt that all parents should not only be given information on what their child is studying, but also homework tasks should aim to involve parents in PSHE. The Parent Governors felt that it was important that PSHE reflect the needs of the local community.

4.5 Meeting with members of Senior Management Teams, 8th December 2009

Senior Managers from three secondary schools (Rawmarsh, Wingfield and St. Pius) attended the meeting. The group recognised the importance of PSHE as it leads to a happier, healthier and safer school and ultimately rounded, confident and successful students.

A deputy head summarised this feeling: "PSHE is one of the most important things a school can do." The Senior Managers noted that increasingly schools were being assessed on Well Being and Safeguarding issues and that effective PSHE was a key factor in achieving these targets. The Senior Managers felt that good teaching was a key factor in successfully delivering PSHE.

They were realistic about budget and timetabling pressures. These became particularly acute in Y10 and Y11. If specialist PSHE staff were unavailable then ensuring other members of staff (with support from the PSHE coordinator) were accountable for delivering PSHE was seen as vital to improve delivery. Ensuring that PSHE provision was quality assured was a key role for the SMT and PSHE Co-ordinator. Allowing students to provide feedback – and passing this feedback onto members of staff was an important process that would improve PSHE. The Senior Managers stated that young people should be able to influence the PSHE curriculum to ensure that it reflects community priorities.

The Councillors were particularly impressed with the IMPACT booklet at Rawmarsh because this offered young people a clear overview of the PSHE curriculum. The Councillors felt that all schools should provide pupils and parents with this level of information.

4.6 Lesson Observation, Aston Comprehensive School, 26th January 2010

The three members of the review group would like to thank Scott Johnson (PSHE Co-ordinator) and his class of excellent Y10s for allowing them to observe a lesson on Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

The opportunity to observe a lesson firsthand deepened the understanding of the Review Group. In particular the group noted the way in which transferable skills (teamworking, working to deadlines, prioritisation, condensing and summarising material) could be included in the lesson. The way in which ICT was embedded in the lesson was exemplary and this added another dimension to the pupils learning. The quality of the teaching was outstanding and Scott praised the CPD offered by the Healthy School Team. The pupils eagerness, sensitivity and general attitude was also first rate. Cllr Fenoughty summarised the feelings of the group when he stated: "We must aim to reach a point where all young people are involved in such an absorbing, fun and worthwhile PSHE lesson."

5 SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

During discussions with Young People, PSHE Teachers, Parent Governors and Senior Managers, various common themes emerged. Many of our findings are in tune with ongoing discussions at a national level regarding PSHE.

PSHE as a Subject:

- PSHE is viewed as a key subject that can make a real difference to young people.
- PSHE provides an opportunity to develop “soft” skills such as teamworking which can be used in other lessons.

PSHE in Schools:

- PSHE needs to be part of a full school ethos – with cross curricular linkages.
- Adequate time on the curriculum.
- PSHE needs trained and confident teachers.
- The curriculum needs to be well structured to avoid repetition and clearly communicated to pupils.
- Governors have a key role in influencing PSHE with respect to the level of parental involvement, encouraging young people set the PSHE agenda and ensuring PSHE reflects the schools ethos.
- Young People need to be able to suggest topics for PSHE and have a key role in evaluating current PSHE.
- PSHE can be used to fulfil parts of the new (September 2009) Ofsted Inspection Framework (Safeguarding and Every Child Matters.)

PSHE beyond Schools:

- PSHE should reflect the priorities of the community.
- The Youth Service needs to be involved in PSHE. If other agencies can bring skills to the PSHE classroom this should be encouraged. Macdonald notes approvingly:

“The national CPD programme has recently expanded its remit to incorporate participants from the wider workforce who contribute to PSHE education, such

as youth workers, community liaison officers, Connexions personal advisers, health and social welfare professionals, as well as teaching assistants.”¹⁴

- Parents need to be included in PSHE.

A key challenge the Review group faced was taking these broad themes and turning them into clear recommendations that will make a positive difference. Throughout the process the Review asked how will we quantify outcomes? What measures will need to be taken for the Review Group to be satisfied that PSHE has improved in practice?

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Review Group supports the recommendations of the MacDonald Report (*Independent Review of the Proposal to make Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education Statutory*) and the implementation of SRE guidance in schools.
2. PSHE should be compulsory and part of every student’s timetable. This provision should be available from year 7 to year 11 regardless of ability and examination pressure. Drop down days are a good way to provide a high profile supplement to PSHE, but should *not* be the only way that pupils receive PSHE.
3. PSHE should be taught by trained and confident teachers. As many members of staff as possible should access the year long Continuing Professional Development Programme delivered by the Healthy Schools Team. Schools should be encouraged to access the Inset Days around PSHE offered by the Healthy Schools Team.
4. Key subjects including SRE and Drug and Alcohol Awareness should be taught to all students.
5. Drawing on good practice developed in special schools, all pupils should learn about Every Child Matters agenda through the PSHE curriculum.
6. Speakers from outside agencies (such as the emergency services, local businesses and charities) should be used more widely as part of structured curriculum to illustrate aspects of the PSHE curriculum wherever possible.
7. Youth workers could help to deliver some aspects of PSHE depending on the Service’s capacity. The opportunity for pupils to learn outside the school environment with trained professionals (with their own distinct skill set) could aid PSHE provision.
8. The review group recognises the balance between a system for evaluating pupils’ progression and allowing PSHE as a flexible forum for discussion (see Macdonald Report Recommendations 17 and 18) and would encourage

¹⁴ Ibid., p.91

informal checks by teachers (such as an end of term quiz) on key aspects of learning and the curriculum.

9. Schools should structure the curriculum to avoid repetition and be age appropriate. The structure should be explained clearly to pupils. The IMPACT booklet developed by Rawmarsh is one such approach which clearly communicates to pupils what they will be studying and when.
10. PSHE should be responsive to the needs and concerns of the local community. Young people, parents and governors should be able to influence the content of the PSHE curriculum ensuring that it is relevant to local circumstances.
11. Parents should be included in setting PSHE topics. The Speakeasy project is recognised as an effective way to get young people and parents talking about issues.
12. The quality of PSHE delivery needs to be evaluated and assessed. The views of young people are crucial and the system adopted for evaluation should allow pupils to give anonymous feedback.
13. The Youth Cabinet to conduct a bi-annual (every two years) survey of PSHE to measure progress. This could be completed at the Rotherham Show.
14. Each school Governing Body should receive an annual report on the PHSE curriculum which should include student evaluation of its impact and relevance.
15. Briefings and Training should be developed for Governing Bodies on the importance of the PSHE curriculum incorporating the findings of this review.
16. PSHE to be part of the induction process for Governors and each school could have a governor champion for PSHE.

7 THANKS

Councillor Shaun Wright - Lead Member, Children and Young People's Services
Joyce Thacker - Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services
Catherine Kinsella - Senior Director Schools and Lifelong Learning
Kay Denton – Senior Healthy School Consultant Healthy Schools Team
Liz Galliver – Curriculum Adviser, Healthy Schools Team
Ben Thompson – Rotherham Youth Cabinet
Charlotte Scothern – Rotherham Youth Cabinet
Melanie Waterworth – Rotherham Youth Cabinet
Owen Claxton – Rotherham Youth Cabinet
George Foster – Rotherham Youth Cabinet/United Kingdom Youth Parliament
John DeSilva – Rotherham Youth Cabinet/United Kingdom Youth Parliament
Bryan Picton – Wingfield Business and Enterprise College
Christopher Darler – Rawmarsh Community School
Rob Haines – Rawmarsh Community School
Scott Johnson – Aston Comprehensive
Lyn Kelly – St Pius X Catholic High School
Clare Cope - Inclusion, Voice and Influence
Abid Dawood – Inclusion, Voice and Influence
David Trickett – School Governorr
Mick Hall – School Governor
Tony Marvin – School Governor
John Evans, Scrutiny Officer

8 REFERENCES

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	8th September, 2010
3.	Title:	Evaluation of the Invest South Yorkshire (ISY) Programme
4.	Directorate:	Environment & Development Services - RiDO

5. Summary

A report advising members of the outcome of an external evaluation of a key account management and inward investment programme delivered by Rotherham Investment and Development Office and highlighting the recommendations made in the report.

6. Recommendations

- i) Members note the contents and recommendations of the Interim Evaluation of Yorkshire Forward's Investment in the Programme 'Invest South Yorkshire' and support implementation of the recommendations detailed in the report.**
- ii) Continuation of the activity delivered by the 'Invest South Yorkshire' programme should be highlighted as a priority intervention to be addressed by the emerging Local Enterprise Partnership.**
- iii) A further report is brought to members in October 2010 detailing progress in implementing the recommendations of the evaluation report.**

7. Proposals and Details

The Invest South Yorkshire (ISY) Programme aims to attract new investment in key business sectors and provide support to the largest and most strategically important companies in Rotherham.

This is achieved by building on (and simplifying) the earlier Renaissance South Yorkshire approach and bringing together Key Account Management, Human Resource support and Inward Investment functions. The programme is part of a South Yorkshire wide approach. Rotherham Investment and Development Office (RiDO) delivers the programme in Rotherham with Barnsley Development Agency, Invest in Doncaster and Creative Sheffield covering the rest of South Yorkshire. The Inward Investment functions are delivered as a shared South Yorkshire service. Rotherham leads for the Advanced Manufacturing and Materials (AMM) sector.

The onset of the recession has meant the programme has been established through some of the most difficult trading conditions in recent history.

The ISY Programme has recently undergone an external evaluation commissioned by Yorkshire Forward and carried out by Ekosgen. The evaluation suggests that it is a fit for purpose approach which should be continued.

The evaluation concludes that the ISY Programme generates considerable Strategic Added Value (SAV) in raising its profile with the largest and most significant employers in the region.

The report suggests a number of recommendations to enhance the strategic direction of the programme. There is an immediate need to look at future funding and make a case for an 'ISY2'. The ISY Forum could focus more on strategy and strategic direction rather than operation in this phase of its development and initiate an over-arching strategy. This would provide an opportunity to refresh the inward investment dimension of the programme and the quality of lead generation.

The report recommends the ISY Programme should raise its profile and that there is scope to transfer some of the good practice to other areas of the region through proactive dissemination. The report concludes by suggesting there are clear areas where the ISY model offers learning for others.

In total the evaluation makes twenty recommendations which are prioritised for action. A full list of recommendations is reproduced at appendix 1.

The **main recommendation of the evaluation** is that ISY needs to look at future funding and to continue **making the case for continuation** of ISY post- the current funding period and to keep all staff fully aware of any changes.

Delivery in Rotherham

The programme was established in Rotherham 2008. Two Key Account Managers (KAM's) were appointed to work on the programme, along with an HR Business

Consultant and an Advanced Manufacturing & Materials (AMM) Sector Specialist. The Sector Specialist is part of an AMM team based at the Advanced Manufacturing Park that includes a Marketing Manager and a project Co-ordinator and three staff from Creative Sheffield (two Business Development staff and a part time HR Business Consultant).

The 65 Key Account businesses in Rotherham have been assisted in accessing a wide range of business assistance including the Manufacturing Advisory Service, Carbon Trust, Centres of Industrial Collaboration (CIC's), CO2Sense, and various Rotherham MBC Services. KAM's have also had a central role in companies drawing down financial assistance for capital projects, linked them to local supply chains, assisted on PR, helped to find new premises and even solved local issues such as parking, fly tipping and gritting.

Regular contact is maintained with our Rotherham Key Accounts in a variety of ways, from face to face meetings to regular newsletters, as well as highlighting events that may be of interest to them.

The HR Business Consultancy service is a vital part of the programme. It is used to help companies recruit new employees and in cases where companies have had to make redundancies, the HR Consultants have worked with partner organisations, including Jobcentre Plus, to provide support. This approach has made it possible to introduce redundant employees to other jobs being advertised across South Yorkshire.

The AMM Sector Specialist performs a lead role in a joint Rotherham/Sheffield AMM Investment Team. This is a key business sector where Rotherham and the sub region have a genuine world class offer to inward investors. The sector has growth potential particularly through the emerging civil nuclear renaissance (a market worth over three thousand one hundred billion dollars) and strategic links have now been developed with some of the industry's leading national and international firms.

The Table below shows how RiDO has performed in relation to programme output targets:

Period 2008 - 2009

Output	Target	Actual
Jobs Created / safeguarded	228	1071
Businesses supported	47	121
Investment projects	10	16
Businesses created	6	2
Private sector investment	£1.9m	£19.8m

Case Studies

Corus

Steel production is an important part of Rotherham's identity and consequently Corus has relationships with the Council at a number of levels. Throughout the recent redundancies, RMBC has worked closely with the company and partners to retain the company in the borough, along with many hundreds of jobs. Through the ISY Programme the team has been able to add value to this. RMBC's Employment Solutions team provided advice to 181 Corus employees (July-Dec2009) and helped get 25 of them back into employment, 3 back into training/education plus a number were taken back by Corus. RiDO's Business Community Coaches received 36 referrals from June 2009 – March 2010 from ex-Corus employees wanting to set up their own business – 5 have already set up in business (as at March 2010).

The Council continue to support and meet regularly with Corus. Corus' Training Manager has been linked, via our HR Business Consultant, to activity currently taking place in relation to raising the skill levels of engineering apprenticeships and work to tackle skills shortages in the manufacturing sector in the Sheffield City Region.

MTL Group

MTL is an engineering company currently located in Sheffield, and a Key Account there. RiDO KAM was introduced to the company by our Sheffield colleagues, and worked closely with the company to ensure their project to relocate in to Rotherham went ahead successfully. The company is transferring 250 jobs into the borough, and creating a further 50 over the next 3 years with this £5 million investment. The company have been advised of the HR Business Consultancy support and we will work with them on recruitment..

AMM Team

Since April 2009 the AMM team have attracted eight inward investments, creating and safeguarding 138 jobs. The team have intensively assisted 150 advanced manufacturing companies and leveraged £2.3 million of private sector investment.

Key investments have included;

- Struers – the world's leading supplier of materialographic preparation equipment and with this investment have moved their 6000 sq ft UK headquarters to the AMP from the West Midlands creating nearly 20 jobs in Rotherham.
- Xeros – a spin-out company from the University of Leeds who have developed a virtually waterless cleaning product for clothes. In order to refine the process and move to commercialisation, Xeros moved to Unit 14 Evolution @ the AMP (2,455 sq ft) in November 2009.
- Albar Precious Metals – This American company have now created over 90 jobs in Rotherham, having initially located in Sheffield. The company reprocess precious metals and have made the Foers industrial estate neighbouring the

AMP their European Headquarters. Albar have plans for rapid expansion over the next year, creating more jobs.

- EoSemi – This company design and manufacture semiconductors. They located their head office and design function to the AMP from the North West and Midlands and created four jobs.
- Exova – This Czech owned business have now located at the AMP Technology Centre from several disparate UK locations to create a new UK Headquarters. Five jobs have been created in Rotherham.

And one near miss;

- Hitachi Trains –Prior to the Government postponement of the project in February South Yorkshire had two of the three shortlisted sites for this project. This investment would have created up to 1500 jobs and lead to a £100m investment.

8. Finance

The programme is wholly supported through Yorkshire Forward single pot funding.

	Key Account Management	AMM Inward Investment Team	Total
Period	August 2008 to July 2011	April, 2009 to March, 2011	
Salaries	£535,000	£150,000	£685,000
Marketing	0	£100,000	£100,000
Total	£535,000	£250,000	£785,000

The AMM Team is a partnership with Creative Sheffield, who also has three people as part of the team. Their costs have not been included above.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The changes to sub-national economic development proposed by the government and abolition of Regional Development Agencies (RDA's) will take time to implement. In the interim there is no appropriate funding body with whom a discussion on continuation of the programme can be meaningfully progressed beyond in principle support.

This is a major risk for continuation of the programme as current funding ends in August, 2011.

If alternative funding is not found, then this successful programme will cease.

Within Rotherham the programme funds two Key Account Managers, a HR Business Consultant, an AMM Sector Specialist, an AMM Marketing Manager and an AMM Project Co-ordinator.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

It is now clear that the government intends to make major changes to the architecture for regional development and sub-national governance.

The changes so far take the form of the demise of the RDA's and the establishment of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). Funding that has in the past been channelled through the RDA's will now come from the Regional Growth Fund, albeit significantly reduced. It appears that few other national funding streams will be available in the short term.

These developments need to be seen in the context of major cuts in public spending and the stated government policy objective of 're-balancing' the economy away from the public to the private sector. The ISY Programme has a central role to play in this through its core objectives of: -

- Supporting growth of the indigenous business base
- Attracting new investment primarily focused around key business strengths (advanced manufacturing)
- Encouraging innovation between businesses, universities and research institutions to conduct research and development

The activity delivered by RiDO through this programme is the primary intervention that the council delivers to meet the Corporate Plan objective of more, higher paid jobs. It is integral to Theme 1 of the Economic Plan; Productive and competitive businesses as evidenced by outputs from the programme to date. Ceasing this activity will require the council to identify other methods or other partners to deliver these Corporate Plan and Economic Plan objectives.

As highlighted in the evaluation report ISY is a "fit for purpose" and "credible" delivery model of cross border collaboration and shared resourcing that could be applied to other city regions or sub-regions. The model values each of its constituent parts, set within a regional agenda yet locally distinctive and meaningful. It is delivered by local councils working on behalf of the region as a whole without the need for a formal and costly structure to deliver co-ordination. It is recommended that the model is proposed for continued application through the city region LEP, and put forward as a model for other services.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Interim Evaluation of Yorkshire Forward's Investment in the Programme 'Invest South Yorkshire' – Ekosgen, June 2010

Contact Names :

Tim O'Connell, Business and Retail Investment Team Manager, RiDO, 01709 254563 tim.o'connell@rotherham.gov.uk

Andrew Nettleton, Business Investment Manager RiDO, 01709 254569, andrew.nettleton@rido.org.uk

Appendix 1 – Full List of Evaluation Recommendations

Recommendation 1: ISY needs to look at future funding and to continue making the **case for continuation** of ISY post- the current funding period and to keep all staff fully aware of any changes. Partners and staff need some certainty on the future of the Programme (staff will consider alternative positions within the final 12 months of the Programme and this is around now for the majority of staff) and it would be detrimental for the Programme to see the (currently) strong team dismantled over the coming year. This process should begin as soon as is practically possible.

Recommendation 2: The next phase of the programme should ensure that the ISY Forum **focuses on strategy and strategic direction** rather than operation. This could perhaps be achieved through passing some operational accountability to the KAM Practitioners' Forum wherever feasible (monthly expenditure, management information and performance data for instance) and offering it support where required.

Recommendation 3: Aligned to the above, the ISY Forum could take a more proactive stance in **developing an over-arching SY strategy** (around relocation for instance) and a stronger lead around the Inward Investment function and the SY offer.

Recommendation 4: Consideration should be given to **refreshing the inward investment** dimension of the programme in strategy and delivery terms. The former (strategy) may require new membership and regular updates at the partners' group along with clarity of leadership and the latter (delivery) will need to review the scope and coverage of the sector specialists (the AMM model appears fit for purpose).

Recommendation 5: The **quality of lead generation** with respect to the inward investment function needs to be enhanced, with a more proactive focus on this (as we move out of recession) and with SY partners adopting a more outward-facing approach.

Recommendation 6: There should be more **leadership** offered to the HR and sector specialists to ensure they are an integral part of the offer and not too tangential to the Programme. There should be consideration given to building and expanding on existing links between the specialists and the sector and skill leads within YF.

Recommendation 7: That the KAM list of **target companies** and their allocation is reviewed. YF should clearly convey which of the companies are the regionally significant companies it is retaining. There is scope to increase the number of companies to 36-40 per KAM practitioner and to review the list to replace those companies where no contact is realistically going to be made and to replace those that have moved, gone out of business or significantly downsized. A number of the organisations already operate a reserve list and this would be a good starting point for reviewing lists. Local authorities should continue to refresh their **KAM lists** to include significant companies and/or those with demonstrable growth potential.

Recommendation 8: How KAM managers should be **kept up to date** with new projects, programmes and funding sources are an important issue for the KAM practitioners (and also for the HR consultants and sector specialists). This could be through a variety of formal and informal means, however **pre-arranged visits to Yorkshire Forward to meet complementary fund and programme managers would be welcomed.**

Recommendation 9: The KAM managers should be offered further **training and development** in account management techniques, where examples might include multiple relationship management, networking and strategic planning. A number of companies really valued high quality networking support where the KAM provides excellent contacts and introductions and this particular core skill could be developed across the team.

Recommendation 10: The current CDI and BPFS specialists are severely restricted in their role by not having **marketing resources/support** available to them, for example for attending events in their sector either inside or outside region. How the CDI and BPFS specialists can be supported through marketing resources/support to carry out their role more effectively should be considered since the current arrangements are not really working effectively.

Recommendation 11: There are more Key Account companies in Sheffield and this places a strain on the number of Accounts that can be sustained with a quality relationship. There may be a legitimate case for **additional KAM support** in Sheffield given the scale of the local economy.

Recommendation 12: The HR activity is currently under-reported and how the **HR benefits** and activities can be reported should be considered. There are suggestions made in Chapter 7 (of the evaluation). Some of these may already have been included in the move to reporting under RKS.

Recommendation 13: How **communication channels** between YF and local authorities can be enhanced should be considered. This includes formal routes (periodic YF attendance at the Practitioners Forum for example) or through informal contact (through bilateral contact with the local authorities for instance). A designated communications representative would be advantageous and create a fixed, visible channel into – and out of – YF.

Recommendation 14: The HR and sector specialists can sometimes feel more isolated within the ISY Programme. Consideration should be given to regular (or at least periodic) **HR and sector specialist representation** at the KAM practitioner's Forum.

Recommendation 15: The **sector specialists could be co-located** to engender mutual/support/best practice/competition. Further the scope of the role should be re-examined by the ISY steering group.

Recommendation 15: Influence: The ISY Programme could reasonably raise its profile within Yorkshire Forward Policy Product Areas (Enterprise, Innovation, Access to Finance and Skills) and relevant teams (Inward Investment, UKTI) through

awareness raising and networking sessions with delivery partners. This would allow expertise within the agency (e.g. sector specialists, inward investment capabilities or the overseas office network) to be exploited more routinely.

Recommendation 16: Influence: Transferring some of the good practice from South Yorkshire to other areas of Yorkshire and the Humber through the strong engagement with local authorities for instance achieved via a simple but effective governance structure.

Recommendation 17: Information and Intelligence: Through identifying a mechanism through which the co-ordination of disseminating information and intelligence on new products, programmes and funding information is best achieved.

Recommendation 18: Information and Intelligence: To continue to proactively disseminate the key lessons and benefits of the programme across the region in suitable formats to relevant internal and external stakeholders. There is more that could be done to exploit the benefits of the programme to increase its on-line and wider profile.

Recommendation 19: Synergy: Exploiting the links between the KAM programme and substantial regional investments such as the CDI facilities, incubation facilities of major property investment. In some areas such as the AMRC/AMP this appears to be fairly well advanced but in others it is less obvious.

Recommendation 20: In terms of **co-ordination** it offers credible delivery model that could be applied to other city regions or sub-regions valuing each of its constituent parts, set within a regional agenda yet locally distinctive and meaningful. It is recommended that the model is considered for wider application in other sub-regions.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS	
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	8 September 2010
3.	Title:	Local Development Framework: Next Steps
4.	Programme Area:	Environment & Development Services

5. Summary

The public consultation on the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy over the summer of 2009 generated considerable public, press and member interest. The report gives feedback on the consultation response. The new coalition government has recently revoked the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and the housing targets it contained. The government has also announced its plans to radically reform the planning system via the forthcoming Decentralisation and Localism Bill. The report considers the implications of this changed context for the preparation of Rotherham's LDF and outlines a draft consultation plan and timetable for future public engagement.

6. Recommendations

- 1. Cabinet endorses the draft LDF Consultation Plan attached at Appendix 1 of the report.**
- 2. Cabinet endorses the draft LDF timetable at Appendix 2.**
- 3. Cabinet approves the revised approach to standard letters and petitions received in response to future LDF consultation.**
- 4. Cabinet approves the adoption of an interim housing target for Rotherham of 750 net new dwellings per annum (based on the 2005 draft RSS figure, or "Option 1" figure, as allowed for by government guidance following revocation of regional strategies).**
- 5. Cabinet endorses further public consultation through the LDF process on a range of housing targets to determine a final housing target.**

7. Proposals and Details

Background

The Council is preparing a series of new planning documents to create a Local Development Framework (LDF) for Rotherham. This is a statutory requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The first document to be prepared is the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy and a supporting Site Allocations document will eventually make up Rotherham's statutory development plan - replacing the current Unitary Development Plan.

The Core Strategy will set out a spatial strategy identifying the towns and settlements where new housing and land to support new industry and business are required to meet the need for new homes and continue the process of regeneration. Provision will also be made for retail, leisure and supporting community facilities.

In essence, the Core Strategy will guide what development is needed, how much is required, where it should go, and when it should happen. The Core Strategy must be founded in reality and be deliverable; it will also therefore set out who will provide the necessary infrastructure to support this growth and development.

Changing context for the LDF

On 6 July 2010 the Secretary of State announced the revocation of regional strategies with immediate effect. This revoked the Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber and the district housing targets it contained. The government has issued guidance for local planning authorities on immediate issues that may arise following revocation of RSS. On housing targets the guidance states that "*local planning authorities will be responsible for establishing the right level of local housing provision in their area, and identifying a long term supply of housing land without the burden of regional housing targets.*" Effectively, the Council can now determine its own housing target via the LDF process.

The government has also stated the intention to radically reform the planning system. The detail of this aim will be set out in the Decentralisation and Localism Bill. From ministerial statements to date a picture is emerging of a much more "local" focus to government which could have significant implications for the LDF. We await publication of this bill, and any more detailed transitional guidance, to determine what changes need to be made to our approach to both preparing and consulting on the LDF. The bill is expected in November 2010.

Consultation Plan

The Core Strategy Revised Options consultation over summer 2009 generated significant public response. Over 6,000 representations were received, the majority being objections (almost 90%). The objections were almost exclusively to the potential urban extensions put forward as strategic locations for growth and the release of Green Belt land. Of these objections, the majority were against the potential urban extension at Bassingthorpe Farm (around 3,000 objections). This volume of response took considerable officer time to process, as did the detailed

assessment of each representation. As a consequence, we were only able to publish an Interim Feedback Report on the Core Strategy Revised Options consultation in January 2010. We published a Final Feedback Report setting out the Council's response to the points raised by objectors in June 2010.

All consultation on the LDF to date has met or exceeded the requirements of the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This document specifically relates to consultation on the LDF and planning applications, being distinct from the Council's corporate consultation guidelines.

Despite our best efforts to engage the community in the LDF process, some of the complaints we often receive are that people knew nothing about the consultation, did not feel there was enough time to comment and/or did not understand the consultation material. Several councillors have also commented that they were unaware in advance of the volume and strength of public feeling that the consultation was likely to generate. In response to these concerns we have reviewed our approach and have discussed with the Members LDF Steering Group how we can improve engagement in future consultation on the LDF (18 Sept 2009, minute no. 12 and 16 Oct 2009, minute no. 22). The key points that will receive more emphasis in our next planned consultation are:

- advance briefing for Ward Members, MPs and Parish Councillors
- improved liaison with the Area Assembly network
- closer working with Libraries and Parish Councils on consultations
- distribution of leaflets to every Rotherham household (subject to cost)
- early engagement with the local press
- more "capacity building" with local communities via Planning for Real activities
- more localised "road shows" for each community on potential development sites
- improved pre-publicity for consultations and local events
- less reliance on "traditional" unstructured public meetings

Officers will continue to refine this consultation plan in conjunction with the Members LDF Steering Group in the run up to the next planned consultation. We will ensure the detailed implementation of the plan meets the requirements of the SCI and any revised regulations governing LDF consultation.

The draft LDF Consultation Plan is attached at Appendix 1.

Should the content of the Decentralisation and Localism Bill significantly affect our approach then a revised consultation plan will be brought to Cabinet for approval.

Consultation timetable

An update to the Local Development Scheme (LDS) is in draft form subject to further clarity on planning reform from government. Pending agreement by Members the LDS will set out our future LDF programme. In summary, we aim to carry out a further stage of full public consultation in summer 2011. This will comprise a complete draft Core Strategy setting out our preferred spatial option and the policies to achieve this option.

We will also consult on "Issues & Options" for the Site Allocations document in parallel with the Core Strategy. The potential development sites in each settlement and alternatives for each community will be the focus of this consultation. Resource savings are anticipated by running these two consultations in tandem.

This consultation will allow all stakeholders and the public an additional opportunity to comment on our preferred spatial option to accommodate growth before the Core Strategy is submitted to Government.

The draft LDF timetable is attached at Appendix 2.

The content, format and timing of the next planned LDF consultation may change subject to the Decentralisation and Localism Bill.

Standard letters and petitions

Around 4,700 objections out of the total of over 6,000 representations on the Core Strategy Revised Options consultation were submitted as either standard letters or petitions. These were dealt with as individual representations entered into our consultation database. This process caused significant delay in publishing consultation feedback and has held up progress on the next version of the Core Strategy. A revised approach is suggested where representations submitted as a standard letter or petition would be treated as one representation with the number of signatories noted. This approach would still give due weight to any valid planning concerns raised but would make more efficient use of limited staff resource to process and analyse consultation comments.

Obviously, submission of a large number of standard letters or a lengthy petition can demonstrate strength of public feeling and we would take that into account in considering any points raised and our response.

This approach does not contravene the Council's recently adopted Scheme for Handling Petitions or revised Standing Orders relating to petitions.

Interim housing target

The government guidance for local planning authorities following revocation of RSS states that "*authorities may base revised housing targets on the level of provision submitted to the original Regional Spatial Strategy examination (Option 1 targets), supplemented by more recent information as appropriate.*"

Because of the weak housing market, house builders are now generally looking at lower risk sites to develop. The absence of a housing target until the LDF Core Strategy is adopted could result in Rotherham being seen as a "high risk" area, due to the uncertainty that the lack of a housing target creates, causing house builders to focus their business elsewhere. This could negatively effect house building rates in Rotherham, even when the housing market does improve, resulting in lower delivery of market and affordable housing.

As discussed with the Members LDF Steering Group (16 July 2010, minute no. 15) it is proposed to set an interim housing target to provide some continuity for the house-building sector prior to setting a final housing target through the LDF process. Based on the target set in the draft Yorkshire and Humber RSS published in 2005 (our Option 1 target) this would amount to 750 net new dwellings per annum. This would equate to a five-year requirement of 3,750 new dwellings – which could be met by our current supply of sites with planning permission and remaining allocated UDP sites, subject to market conditions.

The previous target set in the 2008 RSS subsequently revoked by the new government was 1,160 new dwellings per annum, rising to 1,350 in later years to account for shortfalls in delivery. Growth Point status increased this to a potential target in the later years on the plan period of up to 1,750 new dwellings per annum.

It should be noted that the setting an interim target could conceivably result in the Council coming under pressure to grant speculative greenfield housing applications when the house-building sector picks up. Planning Policy Statement 3 “Housing” (PPS3, para. 71) states that if we cannot demonstrate a five-year supply of housing land we must “consider favourably” planning applications for housing. Without a target we could argue that there is no bench mark to demonstrate our five year supply against. However, with the interim target, as with the previous RSS target, we will need to be able to demonstrate a five year supply of deliverable sites, in order to resist pressure to release unallocated sites.

Setting an interim target demonstrates a pro-active response by the Council to the revocation of the RSS. The draft RSS figure (Option 1 figure) of 750 net new dwellings per year was agreed by the Council at the start of the RSS process as being a realistic target that could be delivered by Rotherham’s housing market. On balance, the continuity provided by setting a realistic interim target is felt to outweigh the potential risk of not being able to demonstrate a five-year supply of housing land.

Final housing target

An appropriate level of housing provision is required to:

- provide housing to meet household growth and demographic change
- meet the Council’s aspirations for the Borough’s employment levels
- address the long term rise in house prices compared to earnings
- meet the need for affordable housing, both Borough-wide and for local communities
- provide a better mix of housing types and tenures
- reduce the Council’s housing waiting list
- reduce overcrowding and housing stress
- provide certainty for house builders to ensure consistent release of land and new-build housing

There is no detailed guidance yet on how local authorities should set their own housing target but it would be prudent to base any local target on a robust methodology and the best available evidence. Planning Policy Statement 3 “Housing” (PPS3, para. 33) provides some broad guidance relating to what matters should be

taken into account when determining the level of housing required. Officers will work up options for further consultation based on robust evidence of housing need, affordability levels, housing land availability, past completions, the need to support economic growth, sustainable patterns of development and any requirements for new infrastructure.

The new government has made other recent changes to the planning system by reclassifying private residential gardens as greenfield land and removing the national indicative minimum density of 30 dwellings per hectare. Both changes could have knock on implications for the amount of land required for our future housing target.

It is clear that the RSS target is unlikely to be achievable (and may not be desirable) and could be discounted in setting a local target, given that this level of housing completion has never previously been achieved. Other evidence and methodologies suggest a target in the range of around 700 to 1,100 per annum to the end of the plan period. From recent ministerial statements it is likely that the current requirement to demonstrate a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites will be retained and this could form a basis for setting a local housing target.

The next planned LDF consultation will set out in more detail potential alternative targets, seeking the views of stakeholders and the public. The strategy put forward will seek to minimise the release of Green Belt as much as possible and phase such release towards the end of the plan period after all other suitable brownfield land has been used. The most sustainable sites will be preferred, using higher densities in accessible locations such as town centres, public transport routes and settlements served by rail stations. The eventual housing target chosen would be included in the Core Strategy submitted to government and tested by an independent inspector at public examination.

Members should note that even a reduced housing target is still likely to require some urban extensions and Green Belt release.

Appendix 3 illustrates a range of potential housing targets while Appendix 4 shows the land implications of these targets.

8. Finance

There are no direct financial implications from this report although the consultation planned for summer 2011 may increase pressure on the Forward Planning budget. Carrying out more in-depth local consultation to meet increased public expectation of community involvement – stemming from the government’s “localism” agenda – could also have significant budget implications.

The housing minister has recently announced plans to reward councils that grant permission for new housing in the shape of a “new homes bonus”. The incentive scheme would match council tax revenues on every new home built for six years in grant payments to local authorities, with up to 125% for affordable homes. How this grant would be calculated, and the implications for the Council, are not known at this time (details are expected after the October spending review). However, the scheme could potentially result in significant grant money for the Council which could mitigate the loss of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant previously cut by government. The

mechanism for how any grant money received would be channelled to particular communities as compensation for receiving growth is also unclear.

The number of new dwellings delivered under NI 154 forms part of the Council's current Local Area Agreement (LAA). The future of LAA grant is uncertain pending the government spending review in October.

The Council received "Growth Point" funding from the previous government based housing delivery above our RSS housing target. As RSS has now been revoked it is unclear what the future is for this grant money.

Of further concern is the tension between ensuring a sufficiently robust evidence base to achieve a "sound" Core Strategy versus increasing budget constraint. A benchmarking exercise undertaken by Doncaster MBC and reported to South Yorkshire Heads of Planning Service 14 Aug 2009 found that:

"Use of consultants is necessary to meet government requirements on evidence base for LDFs. Due to the specialist nature of, for example, strategic flood risk assessments, retail capacity studies and viability assessments consultants are required to complement in-house working. Budgets vary depending on size and nature of the local planning authority but as a very rough 'rule of thumb' £200k-£275k p.a. is not unusual as a budget. In addition during an examination in public (EiP) year additional costs for example inspector's fees, programme officer fees and hearing venues need to be allowed for as costs can typically be £100k to £150k per DPD EiP, in addition to normal officer costs."

Appendix 5 outlines ongoing evidence base work for the Core Strategy.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Mail shots and other pre-launch publicity can be costly but failure to invest in consultation could result in negative publicity and fail to meet expectations arising from the "localism" agenda. With the withdrawal of Rotherham News, the Council will have to find other paid methods of reaching a similar proportion of the Borough's residents. Failure to engage the public at the draft stage of the Core Strategy also risks delay later in the process when objections must be made on set "tests of soundness" with which the layperson will be unfamiliar. Processing a large volume of non-planning objections at this late stage could significantly delay the submission and public examination process.

Mindful of the current financial situation, we are working with the other South Yorkshire authorities to share planning expertise in an attempt to reduce budget pressure and meet skills gaps. Although the main work streams to support the LDF are carried out in-house, certain topics require specialist skills that the Council has to procure.

The main risk from increasing budget pressure is that we are unable to procure the required evidence base studies to support the Core Strategy at submission stage. If this were to be the case we could risk the worst case scenario of our Core Strategy

being found “unsound” by the inspector following public examination and have to start the process again – incurring significant cost, delay and negative publicity.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The implementation of the Core Strategy will make a positive contribution to all of Rotherham’s Regeneration priorities. When adopted the Core Strategy and accompanying documents will further the objectives of the Corporate Plan and provide the spatial dimension to the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Providing sufficient good quality homes supports the priority of “Rotherham Safe” and will contribute towards providing homes for local people, including a proportion of affordable homes. It also contributes to the cross-cutting theme of Sustainable Development with well designed, decent affordable housing.

Achieving sustainable development is a key theme of the Core Strategy and is reflected in its policy themes. Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out at each stage of the development of the Core Strategy.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

LDF Statement of Community Involvement (June 2006)

LDF Local Development Scheme (Mar 2007)

LDF Core Strategy Preferred Options (Jan 2007)

LDF Core Strategy Revised Options (May 2009)

LDF Core Strategy Revised Options – Interim Feedback Report (Dec 2009)

LDF Core Strategy Revised Options – Final Feedback Report (June 2010)

Contact Name:

Andy Duncan, Strategic Policy Team Leader

01709 823830, andy.duncan@rotherham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Draft LDF Consultation Plan

Consultation aim	
To seek the views of stakeholders and the general public on options for the future growth and development of Rotherham, both in terms of a broad strategy for distributing growth across the Borough and in assessing alternative potential development sites in and around the Borough's communities.	
Consultation delivery partners	
Internal	External
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Assembly • Worker Representative Group • Youth Cabinet • Older People's Forum • Disabled Peoples Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotherham Partnership • Parish Councils • Local Biodiversity Partnership • REMA • Rotherfed • GROW • Women's Strategy Group • Yorkshire Planning Aid • Chamber of Commerce
Indicative consultation timetable	
12 weeks before start: Engagement with consultation delivery partners	<p>Meetings and briefings with key consultation delivery partners to explain the purpose of the proposed consultation, agree the timetable and seek buy-in to deliver the consultation.</p> <p>Monthly updates to Members LDF Steering Group.</p>
6 weeks before start: Briefings	<p>Approval of consultation documents by Members LDF Steering Group and Cabinet.</p> <p>Advance briefing of Members, MPs and Parish Councils. Assistance sought from interested Members and Parish Councils to cascade information to local communities.</p> <p>Briefing of senior library staff.</p> <p>Prepare consultation material: leaflets; response forms; exhibition material; maps & aerial photographs; power point presentations; posters advertising events.</p>
2 weeks before start: Pre-launch publicity	<p>Posters put up in local venues.</p> <p>Email to consultees: circa 450 contactable via email.</p> <p>Letter sent to all consultees on database: circa 5,500 (subject to cost)</p>

	<p>Leaflet circulated to all Borough households (subject to cost)</p> <p>Documents printed and ready for publication.</p> <p>Submit RMBC consultation protocol Form 1.</p>
<p>Consultation period starts: Minimum 6 weeks to comply with regulations</p> <p>Maximum 12 weeks</p>	<p>Website live – consultation material and event schedule.</p> <p>Radio interviews.</p> <p>Press release. Interviews provided on request.</p> <p>Adverts in local papers.</p> <p>Consultation packs placed in libraries and CSCs.</p> <p>Reference documents sent to statutory consultees.</p>
<p>During consultation period: Workshops and events</p>	<p>Stakeholder events – invites via letter / email.</p> <p>Bespoke 'drop-in' sessions / localised road shows with exhibition (minimum 7 - one for each Area Assembly) held throughout the Borough.</p> <p>Flyers / letter / email inviting communities to drop-in and/or bespoke events circulated via local Parish Councils, Community Groups and Area Assembly networks.</p> <p>Posters placed in local venues prior to events in the locality.</p> <p>Facilitated workshops with 'communities of interest', Area Assembly representatives, Parish Councils, Ward Members and local group representatives.</p> <p>Bespoke drop-in sessions/ localised road shows using Planning for Real techniques with groups of communities (locations to be decided) to discuss the selection of sites within the communities.</p>
<p>All timings post consultation close are subject to the level and complexity of the consultation response.</p>	
<p>Consultation closes: Feedback reporting to Members</p>	<p>Interim findings presented to Members LDF Steering Group. Reflection and review of effectiveness of the consultation activities undertaken during and following the programme of consultation.</p> <p>Press release and feedback to key consultation</p>

	delivery partners.
3 months after consultation closes: Internal and external feedback	Submit RMBC consultation protocol Form 2 . Approval of feedback report by Members LDF Steering Group . Final Feedback Report published. Exact timing dependent on level of consultation response.

Appendix 2: Local Development Framework timetable – draft Aug 2010

	2010												2011												2012												2013											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Core Strategy DPD																																																
Site Allocations DPD & Proposals Map																																																
Joint Barnsley, Doncaster & Rotherham Waste Core Strategy DPD																																																

- P** Preparation starts by consulting statutory bodies on the scope of Sustainability Appraisal (PPS12 milestone)
- C** Consultation on options/continuous engagement
- PSV** Publication of proposed submission version (PPS12 milestone)
- S** Submission to Secretary of State, examination period starts (PPS12 milestone)
- M** Pre-examination meeting
- E** Examination hearings
- R** Inspector's report
- A** Adoption (PPS12 milestone)

Production & Consultation

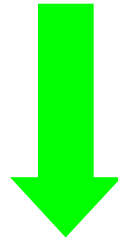
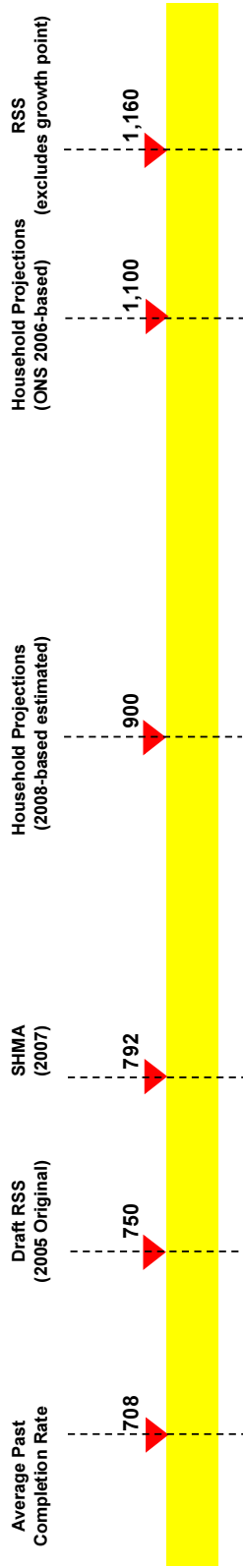
Publication

Examination

Adoption

Appendix 3: Potential housing targets

RANGE OF POSSIBLE HOUSEHOLD PROVISION (new dwellings per year): 2010-2027



LOWER TARGET

Negative Impacts:

- Economic growth likely to be more constrained
- Lack of affordable housing provision
- Poor housing offer / choice
 - potential loss of higher skilled workers living in the borough
- Potential decline of some settlements / loss of services
- Inability to create sustainable communities

Positive Impacts:

- Greenfield development more limited
- Limited necessity for green belt release
- Lower impact on the environment / resources
- Less congestion (although in-commuting may rise)



HIGHER TARGET

Negative Impacts:

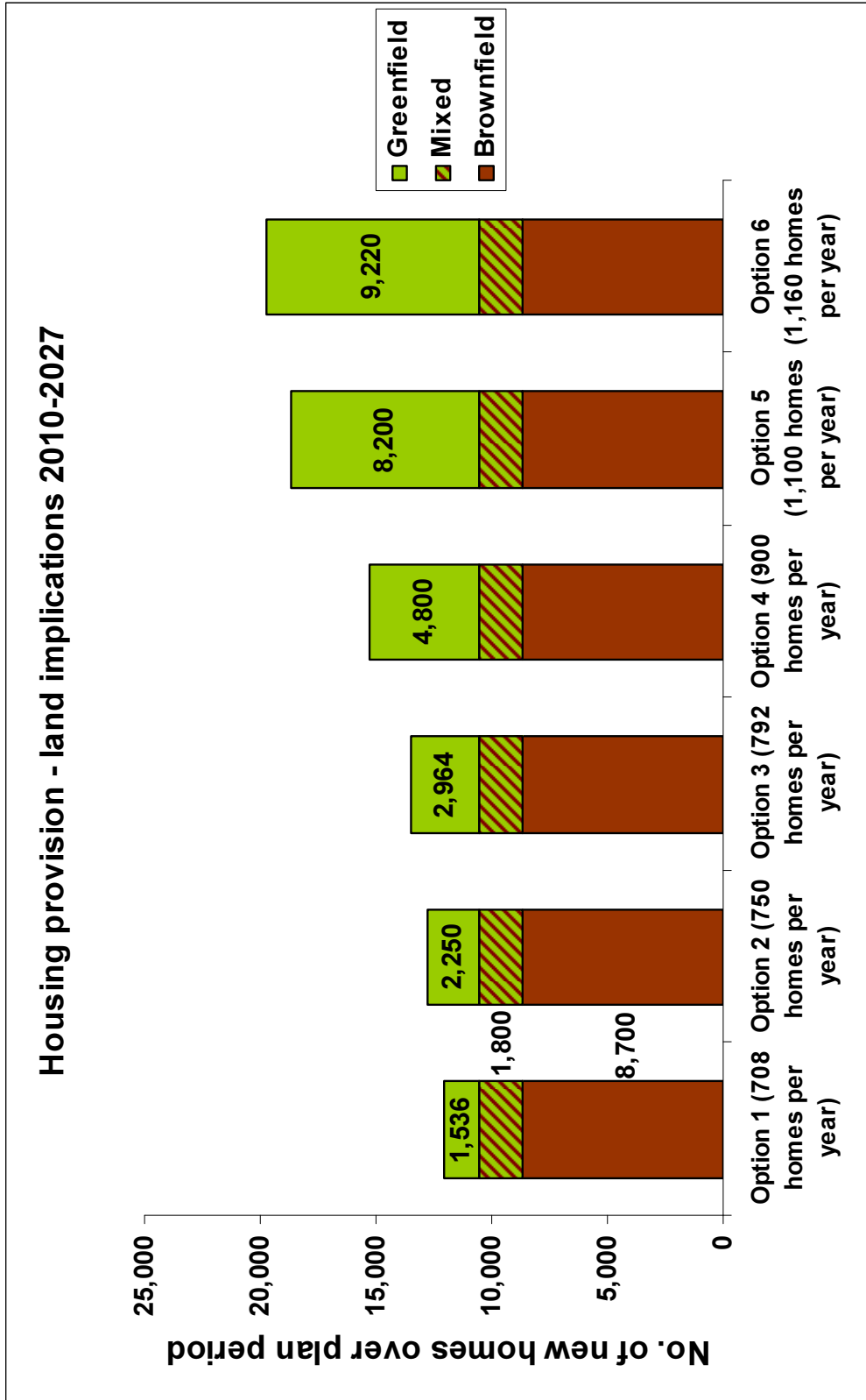
- Increase in development of greenfield sites
- Necessity for release of more greenbelt
- Greater impact on the environment / biodiversity
- Potential increase in congestion and commuting

Positive Impacts:

- Economic growth less constrained
 - potentially more local job creation / higher employment
- Increase in affordable housing
- More choice in the local housing market
- Greater potential to create sustainable communities
 - some settlements more self-sustained / services safeguarded

TARGET IMPACTS

Appendix 4: Housing provision land implications



Appendix 5: Evidence base required to underpin the Core Strategy

To help support and refine our preferred spatial option for the Core Strategy we are currently progressing several important work streams as outlined below. The Core Strategy is also subject to ongoing **Sustainability Appraisal** as required by the regulations.

Affordable Housing Viability Assessment: to update the previous assessment to determine whether the proportion of affordable housing sought on qualifying sites is feasible in current market conditions.

Employment Land Review (ELR): to review and assess our current employment land allocations against our local employment aspirations. Some land may be surplus to requirements and could potentially be re-allocated as housing land, subject to suitability.

Environmental evidence base: to ensure that biodiversity, geology and archaeology issues are adequately assessed. The completeness of this evidence is uncertain due to resource constraints for the Council's biological records function.

Green Belt Review: to ensure the methodology we have followed to identify the most suitable locations for release of Green Belt land is robust and transparent.

Habitats Regulations Assessment: to ensure that no national or internationally significant habitat sites are adversely affected by the LDF strategy and sites.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP): to provide evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed to implement the Core Strategy. This should cover infrastructure needs and costs, phasing, funding, and responsibility for provision. An approved IDP will be required, alongside an adopted Core Strategy, before any local introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Landscape Assessment: to determine the character of the landscape at the strategic locations identified for potential urban extensions to assess their capacity to absorb growth.

Renewable Energy Study: to determine appropriate sites, targets and policies for the LDF to combat climate change in the absence of any regional targets post RSS revocation.

Retail and Leisure Study: to update the Council's previous retail study to determine the need and capacity of retail development in the Borough and to inform a settlement hierarchy of towns to guide types and levels of retail development to appropriate locations.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2 (SFRA2): to ensure that our preferred spatial option for the Core Strategy does not rely on sites at severe risk of flooding or sites at lower risk that cannot be developed even with mitigating measures of design and layout.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA): a detailed and thorough technical study in conjunction with private sector house builders to identify housing sites that are suitable, available and achievable. The results of the SHLAA will help to reality check the potential housing sites identified in the LDF Site Allocations database.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA): to update the previous assessment to determine the level of affordable housing provision we should aim to achieve and the mix of housing types and tenures required.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	8 September 2010
3.	Title:	Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS - White Paper and Responding to the Consultation
4.	Directorate:	Chief Executive's

5. Summary

The Government's Health White Paper precedes legislation to be placed before Parliament in the current parliamentary session. It proposes major reforms to the NHS and also changes roles for local government.

A suite of consultation documents have subsequently been published, which require a response by 11 October 2010. This report sets out the key proposals within the White Paper and the implications these will have for RMBC and Partners, as well as making recommendations for effectively responding to the consultation and next steps for public health in Rotherham.

6. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- **Note the proposals set out in the White Paper and implications for RMBC and Partners**
- **Note that a formal response is required to the consultation and agree whether a joint response from RMBC and NHS is the preferred option**
- **Note the steps being taken to develop a new joint Public Health Strategy for Rotherham**

7. Proposals and details

The White Paper sets out a number of key proposals, including giving patients more choice over GPs and treatment, creating a framework for the NHS, which includes abolishing top-down targets and replacing with separate frameworks for outcomes that set direction for the NHS, for public health and social care. Outcomes rather than activity will provide the incentives for better quality. There will be a focused set of national outcome goals determined by the Secretary of State, against which the new NHS Commissioning Board, which will take over the current Care Quality Commission's responsibility of assessing NHS commissioners, will be held to account. Commissioning responsibilities will be transferred from PCTs to new local consortia of GPs, with PCTs being abolished from 2013.

The Health Bill will be presented to Parliament in autumn and will support the creation of a new national Public Health Service, to integrate and streamline existing health improvement and protection bodies and functions. The Bill will also create HealthWatch England, a new independent consumer champion within the Care Quality Commission. Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) will become local HealthWatch organisations; which will be funded by and accountable to local authorities.

Key proposals are set out in more detail in appendix A.

7.1 Implications for Rotherham

Local Authorities will be given a new role; taking responsibility for the public health improvement functions currently within PCTs. Commissioning of local health services will be the responsibility of new local consortia of GP practices, creating greater accountability, local autonomy and democratic legitimacy, as well as the need for partnership working with local authorities, to ensure local priorities and needs are met. With these functions removed from PCTs, there will no longer be a need for them; therefore PCTs are to be abolished from 2013.

Local Directors of Public Health (DPH) will be jointly appointed by local authorities and the new national Public Health Service. Publication of the Public Health White Paper, expected autumn 2010 will provide further clarity and detail as to the arrangements for the employment of public health teams and the accountability of the Local Director of Public Health. The local DPH will also be allocated a ring-fenced public health improvement budget to support their health improvement functions, the allocation formula for those funds will include a new "health premium" designed to promote action to improve population-wide health and reduce health inequalities. Although the current arrangements for the DPH in Rotherham includes their involvement in the Chief Executive's Strategic Leadership Team, the post is not currently funded in any part by the local authority. Further detail as to the actual arrangements for public health teams and the budget will be available when the Public Health White Paper is published in autumn.

'Health and Wellbeing Boards' are to be established within local strategic partnerships, to join up the commissioning of local NHS services, social care and health improvement. This would allow local authorities to take a strategic approach to promoting integration across health and adult social care, children's services

(including safeguarding) and the wider local authority agenda. Local authorities are being asked for comments as to whether they prefer the option of a new Board, or whether this could be delivered within existing partnership arrangements. A potential recommendation for Rotherham is to make the existing Alive Theme Board the new Health and Wellbeing Board within this proposal.

Elected Members, relevant NHS commissioners, Directors of Public Health, adult social services and children's services will all be under a duty of partnership and involved in carrying out the responsibilities of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Statutory functions of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees (HOSCs) will be transferred to the Health and Well-being Board, however, formal health scrutiny will remain an important function within Local Authorities, who will need to ensure there is a process in place to scrutinise the functions of the Health and Wellbeing Board and health improvement policy decisions.

Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) will become local HealthWatch branches. Local HealthWatch will have a role in ensuring patient feedback is reflected in commissioning plans. Accountability and funding for these organisations will be with the Local Authority.

7.2 Consultation Process

Formal consultation is taking place on the White Paper and its proposals. Comments are being invited on the White Paper itself by 5 October 2010, particularly in relation to implementation of the proposals which require primary legislation set out on page 49 of the White Paper, and as appendix B with this report.

Further consultation documents have now been published for specific aspects of the White Paper, with formal responses to be received by 11 October 2010.

7.2.2 Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health

The paper provides further information on proposals for increasing local democratic legitimacy in health, through a clear and enhanced role for local government and elected members. Local authorities are uniquely placed to promote integration of local services across boundaries between the NHS, social care and public health. Local authorities will be given an enhanced role in public health promotion for their local areas.

This consultation document includes the most pertinent detail for which RMBC should respond to. Appendix B provides an overview of the proposals and issues to consider for implementation and responding the consultation.

7.2.3 Commissioning for Patients

The paper provides further information on the intended arrangements for GP commissioning and the NHS Commissioning Board's role in supporting GP consortia and holding them to account.

7.2.1 Transparency in Outcomes – A Framework for the NHS

The White Paper explains how the Secretary of State will hold the NHS to account for improving healthcare outcomes through a new NHS outcomes

framework. The framework will be made up of a focused set of national outcomes against which the new NHS commissioning Board would be held to account. There is also a clear commitment for working with clinicians, patients, carers and representative groups to create the framework and identify outcome indicators that are based on the best available evidence.

7.2.4 Regulating Healthcare Providers

This paper provides further information on the proposals for all NHS Trusts to become Foundation Trusts and for establishing an independent economic regulator for health and adult social care.

7.3 Responding to the Consultation

There is opportunity to respond formally to the consultation by 11 October 2010. Consideration needs to be given as to how this response is provided, either:

- as a council
- as an LSP
- as a partnership with the PCT
- as a partnership with the GP's and PCT

Discussions between NHSR and GPs have already begun to take place, and RMBC will work with NHSR to ensure it is effectively positioned in relation to the management of commissioning.

7.4 Rotherham Joint Public Health Strategy

To address public health in Rotherham and to respond effectively to the proposals set out in the White Papers, a clear understanding is needed as to what is required from the local health economy. Therefore work will be undertaken to look at what the top priorities are for Rotherham residents, taken from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Children's Audit of Need. A further piece of work will also be used to inform the priorities; the 500 Babies research will be developed into 'Rotherham Families' to show life chances for all people at various stages in the life.

A scoping exercise has already taken place with RMBC and NHSR colleagues looking at a public health vision in line with the policy objectives from the recent Marmot Review. Marmot suggests a different approach to public health which is more in line with what the architecture should look like when it becomes Local Authority responsibility. The Rotherham priorities can then be aligned to these objectives, producing a Rotherham specific plan.

8. Finance

A ring-fenced health improvement budget, which includes a bonus for outcomes, will be provided to all Directors of Public Health. Further detail regarding the amount of this budget and how it will be ring-fenced is not yet known, it is expected that the Public Health White paper out in autumn will provide more information.

9 Risks and Uncertainties

Implementation of some White Paper proposals may be influenced by the Spending Review expected from the Treasury in October 2010 and the Localism and Decentralisation Bill expected from CLG in December 2010. For example, what the Bill says about the governance arrangements for councils and what the Review says about placed-based budgets.

There is also uncertainty with regards to the proposals in relation to the new health improvement roles and responsibilities for local authorities; including details of the ring-fenced budget and Director of Public Health and staff. Further clarity on these proposals will be provided by the publication of the Public Health White Paper due in autumn.

RMBC needs to consider all proposals and implications of this and future health related White Papers to ensure it is fully equipped to take on the new role. The risk of not looking at this immediately could be ineffective partnership and integrated working with the new arrangements and therefore poor outcomes for services.

10 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

There are a number of policy changes set out in the paper in relation to the partnership arrangements between health bodies and local authorities.

Consideration needs to be given as to the best option for either establishing a new Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in the proposals, or whether to build this into existing Partnership arrangements, such as using the Alive Theme Board. How this arrangement then fits into the existing LSP structure, Community Strategy and refreshed Corporate Plan priorities will need to be considered.

RMBC will become the new lead for health improvement functions, taken from the PCT from 2013; how this function fits into the Corporate Plan priorities need to be considered. This new role for RMBC will also need to be reflected within the refreshed Public Health Strategy which is currently being developed.

11 Background Papers and Consultation

Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS. White Paper (July 2010)

Consultation documents:

Increasing Democratic Legitimacy in Health

Commissioning for Patients

Transparency in Outcomes: A Framework for the NHS

Regulating healthcare providers

The Marmot Review. Fair Society, Healthy Lives (February 2010)

12 Contact

Kate Taylor

Policy Officer

Chief Executive's Directorate

Tel: 01709 822789

Email: kate.taylor@rotherham.gov.uk

Briefing - Equity and Excellence White Paper: Implications for Rotherham

The Government's Health White Paper precedes legislation to be placed before Parliament in the current parliamentary session. It proposes major reforms to the NHS and also changes roles for local government.

The Headlines

- NHS Principles remain: available to all, free at point of use, based on clinical need etc
- Health spending in real terms will increase – still 'ring fencing' NHS spend
- Comparisons with clinical outcomes in UK v Europe (esp. on cancer and stroke – we may have 'best' system but not 'best' outcomes)

Main proposals

- **Choice, control and patient involvement**
 - the government plans to give patients choice of treatment and provider in the vast majority of NHS-funded services by 2013/14
 - every patient will have a right to choose to register with any GP practice they want
 - Patients will be given access to detailed information about hospitals and GP services to enable them to exert more choice and control over who provides their treatment
 - The Health Bill will create HealthWatch England, a new independent consumer champion within the Care Quality Commission. Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) will become the local HealthWatch; these will be funded by and accountable to local authorities
- **Healthcare outcomes and performance framework**
 - Many top-down targets will be abolished ☒ Not about process targets – about clinical measures **(if there is no clinical justification, we will remove the target ie 18 wk wait)**
 - The current performance regime will be replaced with separate frameworks for outcomes that set direction for the NHS, for public health and social care, payment by performance – outcomes not activity providing incentives for better quality
 - It will include a focused set of national outcome goals determined by the Secretary of State, against which the NHS Commissioning Board will be held to account, alongside overall improvements in the NHS
 - The Secretary of State, proposes to create a new Public Health Service, proposals are to be set out in the Health Bill and will set local authorities national objectives for improving population health outcomes - It will be for local authorities to determine how best to secure those objectives
- **NHS Commissioning Board**
 - An autonomous statutory NHS Commissioning Board will be established. The board will take over the current Care Quality Commission's (CQC) responsibility of assessing NHS commissioners and will hold GP consortia to account for their performance and quality.
- **GP Commissioning**
 - Commissioning will be transferred from PCTs to local consortia of GPs – in shadow form from 2011/12. (probably 1 or 2 consortia likely in Rotherham though no absolute clarity yet on this). Following the passage of the Health Bill, consortia will take on responsibility for commissioning in 2012-13.
- **Administration and savings**
 - The government is committed to reducing NHS management costs by more than 45 percent over the next four years.
 - The NHS is to release £20 billion of efficiency savings by 2014 to be reinvested to support improvements
 - Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) will be abolished

- PCTs will be replaced by GP consortia
- The Department of Health (DH) will also radically reduce its own NHS functions and become more strategic – focus will be on improving public health and reforming adult social care
- A review of DH arm's-length bodies will shortly be published

The Health Bill will be presented to Parliament in autumn and will support the creation of a new national Public Health Service, to integrate and streamline existing health improvement and protection bodies and functions.

Overview of New Roles and Resources for Local Councils

- Greater accountability, local autonomy and democratic legitimacy through the development of GP consortia, working in partnership with local authorities
- PCT public health improvement functions will be transferred to local councils after the abolition of PCTs in 2013.
- Local Directors of Public Health will be jointly appointed by local authorities and the national Public Health Service. Further clarity is required around the arrangements for the employment of public health teams and the accountability of the Local Director of Public Health
- A ring-fenced public health budget will be allocated to local authorities (currently around £4bn) to support their public health and health improvement functions, the allocation formula for those funds will include a new “health premium” designed to promote action to improve population-wide health and reduce health inequalities.
- Councils will be required to establish “health and wellbeing boards” or within existing strategic partnerships, to join up the commissioning of local NHS services, social care and health improvement. This will allow local authorities to take a strategic approach on promoting integration across health and adult social care, children’s services (including safeguarding) and the wider local authority agenda.
- An extension and simplification of powers to enable joint working between the NHS and local authorities.
- Specific responsibilities for Local Authorities will be:
 - Promoting integration and partnership working between NHS, social care public health and other local services and strategies
 - Leading Joint Strategic Needs assessments and promoting collaboration on local commissioning plans
 - Building partnerships for service changes and priorities
- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees (HOSCs) will be replaced by the above functions.
- Elected Members, relevant NHS commissioners, Directors of Public Health adult social services and children’s services will all be under a duty of partnership and involved in carrying out the responsibilities above.
- Creation of a national HealthWatch for England to be the national voice for patients and the public. Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) will become local Health Watch branches. Local Health Watch will have a role in ensuring patient feedback is reflected in commissioning plans

Implications for Rotherham

- PCTs to be abolished from 2013, when RMBC will need to take responsibility for health improvement and;
- Appoint the DPH jointly with the Public Health Service – The Director of Public Health in Rotherham is a joint appointment with NHSR and sits on the Council’s SLT, but is employed by NHSR currently
- It is not yet known what the arrangements will be for Public Health teams within the authority, this will become clearer when the Health Bill and public health white paper are published.
- RMBC will receive a ring-fenced PH budget to undertake their new roles and responsibilities, however there is a suggestion that mainstream services such as housing, early years, transport, leisure and social care make a far more significant contribution to public health and health improvement than the

resource in the ring-fence - LGA will be putting forward that the ring-fenced is removed, further details on this will be available on the publication of the Public Health White Paper.

- Creation of a 'Health and Wellbeing Board' within the existing Partnership structures of the authority – this will need to be considered in relation to current partnership arrangements and how it will impact on current themes and Community Strategy
- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees' functions will be superseded by the new proposals, further details on how this will effect local authorities is yet to be published
- LINKs will become the new local HealthWatch, the paper suggests arrangements for these will be similar to how LINKs works currently, with RMBC funding and holding them to account.
- With commissioning transferring to the new GP consortia from PCTs, greater partnership working will be required with GPs, current arrangements and relationships will therefore need to be looked at.
- Work is currently on-going to establish what joint working arrangements are currently in place between RMBC and NHSR. Some joint working exists currently but this is not as advanced locally as in some other areas and it is clear there is significant scope for more joint commissioning and greater integration.

Overview of roles and responsibilities

Government

- Health Bill intends to limit role of Sec of State but will still include:
 - Setting a formal mandate for NHS Commissioning Board
 - Holding the NHS Commissioning Board to account
 - Arbitration
 - Legislative and policy framework
 - Accounting annually to Parliament

NHS Commissioning Board...

- Help standardise best practice and promote equality – it will not manage providers or be the NHS headquarters
- It will champion patient and public involvement not providers
- It will have 5 main functions...
 - Provide national leadership on commissioning for quality improvement (working with NICE, Monitor)
 - Promote and extend public and patient involvement and choice
 - Ensure the development of GP commissioning consortia
 - Commissioning certain services (GPs, dentistry, community pharmacy, primary ophthalmic services)
 - Allocating and accounting for NHS resources
- The Board would not have the scope to restrict the scope of the services offered by the NHS
- Board will operate in a shadow form as a special health authority from April 2011. Converted by forthcoming Health Bill into a statutory body to go live in April 2012
- From this year, SHAs will separate their commissioning and provider oversight functions and support the Board in its preparatory year
- The Board itself will decide what presence, if any, it needs in different parts of the country
- SHAs will be abolished during 2012/2013

PCTs

- Cease to exist from 2013

GP Commissioning

- This is not a return to GP fundholding (which led to 2 tier NHS) nor a rejection of Practice Based Commissioning (which never saw real transfer of responsibility)
- Consortia of GP practices working with other professionals in partnership with local communities and local authorities will commission majority of services for their patients

- They will not commission GP services, other family health services (ie dentistry, community pharmacy, primary ophthalmic services –the NHS Commissioning Board will do this) though they will be ‘involved’
- NHS Commissioning Board will calculate practice-level budgets and allocate them to consortia and may adopt a lead commissioner model
- They will have an accountable officer – and every GP practice will have to be a member of a consortium (if they hold a patient list they have to be part of a consortia)
- Consortia will need to be big enough to manage financial risk, allow for accurate allocations and have sufficient geographic focus
- They can choose what they do themselves and what they ‘buy in’ from VCS, local authorities and private companies
- Capitalise on PCT commissioning experience during transitional period but timetable is...
 - GP consortia in shadow form 2011/2012
 - After Health Bill, consortia take on commissioning 2012/2013
 - NHS Commissioning Board allocate resources for 2013/2014 to consortia in late 2012
 - GP Consortia to take full financial responsibility from April 2013

Providers

- To create the largest and most vibrant social enterprise sector in the world – to free FTs from the constraints they are under
- Regulated as all other providers – be they voluntary or private
- As all NHS Trusts become FTs staff will have the opportunity to transform their organisations into employee-led social enterprises
- Foundation Trusts will not be privatised
- They will consult on options for increasing FT freedoms including abolishing the cap on income you can earn from other sources, enabling FTs to merge more easily and whether they should be able to tailor governance arrangements to meet their own local needs
- All Trusts to be FTs within 3 years
- Continue with plan to transfer community services by April 2011 and move as soon as possible to an “any willing provider” model. In future all community services will be provided by an FT or other types of provider
- Providers will have a joint licence overseen by Monitor and CQC to maintain essential levels of safety and quality and ensure continuity of essential services

CQC

- Role will include Licensing and Inspections

Monitor

- Monitor’s role will be as an Economic regulator, to promote effective and efficient provision, to promote competition, regulate prices and safeguard continuity of services. The CQC will continue to act as quality inspectorate across health and social care for both publicly and privately funded care.
- This will include powers to protect assets or facilities required for continuity of services, authorising special funding arrangements for essential services, powers to levy providers for contributions to a risk pool and intervening directly in the event of failure

Further detail and White Papers are expected as follows:

- The Public Health White Paper will be published late 2010 – which will support creation of a new public health service and make clearer the implications for local authorities in relation to their new roles and responsibilities
- Adult Social Care White Paper is due to be published in 2011
- There will be a further consultation on extending choice later in 2010. The White Paper reiterates the Government’s commitment to extending choice through a roll-out of personal budgets for health. The

NHS Commissioning Board will have a key role in extending choice and control, and Monitor will ensure that patients have a choice

Timeline:

Health Bill introduced to Parliament	autumn 2010
Separation of SHAs' commissioning and provider oversight	by end 2010
Public Health White Paper	late 2010
White Paper on social care reform	During 2011
NHS Commissioning Board fully established	April 2012
New Local Authority Health and Wellbeing Boards in place	April 2012
Public Health Service in place, with ring-fenced budget and local health improvement led by DPH in local authorities	April 2012
Health Watch established	April 2012
Formal establishment of all GP consortia	During 2012
SHAs are abolished	2012-13
PCTs are abolished	From April 2013

Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health – Consultation Paper

Introduction

The paper provides further information on proposals for increasing local democratic legitimacy in health, through a clear and enhanced role for local government and elected members. Local authorities are uniquely placed to promote integration of local services across boundaries between the NHS, social care and public health.

One of the central proposals of the White Paper is to devolve commissioning responsibilities and budgets to new GP consortia, which will be supported and held to account for the outcomes they achieve by the new NHS Commissioning Board.

Local authorities will be given an enhanced role in health, their responsibilities will include:

- Leading joint strategic needs assessments, to inform commissioning strategies
- Supporting local voices and patient choice
- Promoting joined up commissioning of local NHS services, social care and health improvement and;
- Leading on local health improvement and prevention activity

Local Authority Leadership for Health Improvement

When PCTs cease to exist, local authorities will take over responsibility and funding for health improvement activities. This is intended to unlock synergies with the wider role of local authorities in tackling the determinants of health.

Funding will include spend on prevention of ill-health by addressing lifestyle factors such as smoking, alcohol, diet and physical activity.

The creation of the new Public Health Service (PHS) will complement this role. However the PHS will also have powers in relation to public health emergencies.

Local Directors of public Health will be jointly appointed by local authorities and PHS. They will have ring-fenced budgets, allocated by the PHS. By being appointed by the local authority, the DPH will have direct influence over the wider determinants of health, advising elected members and senior management within the local authority.

The Sec. of State, with local authorities will agree local application of health improvement outcomes. It will be for local authorities to determine how best to secure outcomes. Local neighbourhoods will have the freedom and flexibility to set local priorities, working within a national framework.

Further consultation will take place later in the year on the abolition of PCTs and the establishment of the ring-fenced health improvement budget within local authorities.

Improving Integrated Working

The government is clear that joint, integrated working is vital to developing a personalised health and care system.

The existing framework provided in legislation in the NHS Act 2006 sets out optional partnership arrangements for service-level collaboration between local authorities and health-related bodies. Arrangements include:

- PCTs or local authorities leading commissioning services for a client group on behalf of both organisations
- Integrated provision (e.g. care trusts)
- Pooled budgets

The paper suggests that take up of current flexibilities to enable joint commissioning and pooled budgets has been relatively limited. Joint commissioning around the needs of older people or children for example remains untapped – new commissioning arrangements will support this. GP consortia will have a duty to work with colleagues in the wider NHS and social care.

Q4 What more, if anything, could and should the Department do to free up the use of flexibilities to support integrated working?

Q5 What further freedoms and flexibilities would support and incentivise integrated working?

Government believe there is scope for stronger institutional arrangements, within local authorities and led by Elected Members, to support partnership working.

One suggested option is to leave it up to NHS commissioners and local authorities as to whether and how they work together, and devise their own local arrangements. The preferred option however is to specify the establishment of a statutory role to support joint working on health and well-being. This would provide duties to cooperate and a framework of functions.

Q6 Should the responsibility for local authorities to support joint working on health and wellbeing be underpinned by statutory powers?

Health and Well-being Boards

One way in which to enhance roles and responsibilities is through a statutory Partnership Board – Health and Wellbeing Board – within the authority. Alternatively local areas may decide to design their own arrangements, within existing LSP structures.

Consideration could be given to the option of using this Board to replace the Alive Theme Board, although some thought is needed as what the relationship will be with the SLP as a whole.

If these Health and Wellbeing Boards were created, requirements would be minimal, with local authorities having freedom and flexibility for how it works.

Q7 Do you agree with the proposal to create a statutory health and wellbeing board or should it be left to local authorities to decide how to take forward joint working arrangements?

The primary aim of the Boards would be to promote integration and partnership working. They would have 4 main functions:

- To assess their needs of the local population and lead JSNAs
- To promote integration and partnership across NHS, social care and public health
- To support joint commissioning and pooled budget arrangements
- To undertake a scrutiny role in relation to major service redesign

The Boards would have a lead role in determining the strategy and allocation of any local application of place-based budgets for health. There would also be a role in relation to other local partnerships, including those relating to vulnerable adults and children.

Q8 Do you agree that the proposed health and wellbeing board should have the main functions described above?

Q9 Is there a need for further support to the proposed health and wellbeing boards in carrying out aspects of these functions, for example information on best practice in undertaking joint strategic needs assessments?

Q10 If a health and wellbeing board was created, how do you see the proposals fitting with the current duty to cooperate through children's trusts?

Q11 How should local health and wellbeing boards operate where there are arrangements in place to work across local authority areas, for example building on the work done in Greater Manchester or in London with the link to the Mayor?

Membership of the Boards would include: the Leader of the Council, social care, NHS commissioners, local government and patient champions, GP consortia, representative of the NHS Commissioning Board as well as a representative from the local HealthWatch. Local authorities may also invite representatives of the voluntary sector and other relevant public body officials. Providers may also be invited. This list is biased strongly towards officers and non-elected representatives and should have a greater proportion of elected members in order to provide democratic legitimacy.

Views are being sought on the arrangements of bringing together elected members and officers in this way, and how local authorities can ensure this is effective.

Q12 Do you agree with our proposals for membership requirements set out above

Overview and Scrutiny Function

The existing functions of the OSC include:

- calling NHS managers to give information and answer questions about services and decisions
- Requiring consultation by the NHS where major changes to health services are proposed
- Referring contested service changes to the Sec. of State for Health

If Health and Wellbeing Boards are created, it is believed they are better equipped to scrutinise these services locally, therefore the statutory functions of the OSC will be transferred to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Having a seat on the Board will give HealthWatch a stronger formal role in commissioning discussions than currently exist in LINKs. However, there is some concern around the closer link with HealthWatch and the Health and Wellbeing Board. If HealthWatch have a seat on the board there may be a conflict of interest with the Board's role of holding HealthWatch to account.

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board, including elected members, would be able to identify shared goals and priorities and identify early on in the commissioning process how to address any potential disputes. Government will work with local authorities and the NHS to develop guidance on how best to resolve issues locally.

Q13 What support might commissioners and local authorities need to empower them to resolve disputes locally, when they arise?

If Health and Wellbeing Boards had significant concerns about service changes, an attempt should first be made to resolve this locally. The Board may choose to engage external expertise to help resolve any issues. For a minority of cases there will still need to be a system of dispute resolution beyond the local level. Where local action cannot be taken, the Board can refer to the NHS Commissioning Board. Where the issue may be about the Commissioning Board (such as maternity services) the Health and Wellbeing Board may choose to refer directly to the Sec. of State. If the Health and Wellbeing Board still has concerns and the NHS Commissioning Board is satisfied that the correct procedures have been followed, the Health and Wellbeing Board would have statutory power to refer cases to the Sec. of State.

As the majority of board members would be non-elected, this represents a potentially substantial dilution of the democratic accountability of the scrutiny function.

Under proposals, there will be no local scrutiny of national commissioning of services such as dentistry, maternity services etc. (which will be commissioned by the NHS Commissioning Board), although there's reference to these issues being discussed by the Health and Wellbeing board. This appears to be a potential gap in the local scrutiny function.

Q14 Do you agree that the scrutiny and referral function of the current health OSC should be subsumed within the health and wellbeing board (if boards are created)?

Q15 How best can we ensure that arrangements for scrutiny and referral maximise local resolution of disputes and minimise escalation to the national level?

A formal scrutiny function will continue to be important within the local authority. Local authorities will have to ensure they have adequate processes in place to scrutinise the functioning of the Health and Wellbeing Board and health improvement policy.

There is still a health scrutiny role for elected members. However, they will only be able to scrutinise how effectively the council undertakes its role of co-coordinating commissioning by the relevant partners. We should therefore be concerned about loss of specific powers to enable elected councilors to scrutinise how local health services are actually provided by NHS Trusts and others.

Q16 What arrangements should the local authority put in place to ensure that there is effective scrutiny of the health and wellbeing board's functions? To what extent should this be prescribed?

Local HealthWatch

The White Paper sets out plans to increase choice and control for patients, by creating a local infrastructure in the form of local HealthWatch. Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) will become local HealthWatch branches and will act as local consumer champions across health and care.

Like LINKs, local HealthWatch will continue to promote patient and public involvement; however they will be given additional funding and functions so that they become more like a 'citizens advice bureau', additional functions include:

- NHS complaints advocacy services
- Supporting patients to exercise choice, i.e. choosing their GP practice

Local authorities have a vital role in commissioning HealthWatch arrangements. They will continue to fund HealthWatch and contract for their services. They will also ensure that the focus of local HealthWatch activities is representative of the local community. In the event of under-performance local authorities should intervene, and re-tender where it is the best interests of the local population.

Clarity is needed on what additional funding will be provided in order to commission local HealthWatch to undertake added responsibilities of NHS complaints advocacy services and supporting the Choice agenda. There needs to be adequate ring-fenced funding to ensure that an appropriate level of service can be commissioned. Clarity is also needed on whether there would be any potential for commissioning for local HealthWatch from any organisation other than the existing LINK, which is implied in the proposals, where it is suggested that councils should intervene if local HealthWatch underperforms.

The continued rights for HealthWatch to visit provider services are important, but will only be effective if there is a clear referral path for action, should there be problems.

If referral is to the Health and Wellbeing Board, there is potential for conflict of interest

Q1 Should local HealthWatch have a formal role in seeking patients' views on whether local providers and commissioners of NHS services are taking account of the NHS Constitution?

Q2 Should local HealthWatch take on the wider role outlined above, with responsibility for complaints advocacy and supporting individuals to exercise choice and control?

Q3 What needs to be done to enable local authorities to be the most effective commissioners of local HealthWatch?

Further Questions

Q17 What action needs to be taken to ensure that no-one is disadvantaged by the proposals, and how do you think they can promote equality of opportunity and outcome for all patients, the public and, where appropriate, staff?

Q18 Do you have any other comments on this document?

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	8th September 2010
3.	Title:	Children and Young People's Services Notice to Improve - Progress Update
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

This report provides an overview of the progress made since the Notice to Improve was received in December, identifies a RAG rating and a direction of travel for the areas of improvement, some areas of good performance and key risks and issues to meeting the stretching targets set for the council and its strategic partners.

6. Recommendations

That Cabinet notes the progress being made against the targets set in the Notice to Improve.

7. Proposals and Details

This report, to be read in conjunction with the Notice to Improve Action Plan (Appendix A) highlights the RAG status of the actions, any areas for concern, what the barriers are and what is being done about them.

This report provides an overview of the progress made since the update to Improvement Panel Meeting on 13th July 2010.

The action plan identifies a RAG rating and a direction of travel for the areas of improvement, and key risks and issues to meeting the stretching targets set for the council and its strategic partners. Following the OFSTED Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspection and the DfE meeting on the 3rd August some changes have been made to the Action Plan.

A clear message from the OFSTED inspectors was that we needed to focus now on driving up the quality of practice to underpin the work we had done in improving the quantitative figures.

There are now 29 individual actions (instead of 44) covering the key performance measures (3 social care indicators) in addition to the operational targets around Staying Safe, Enjoying and Achieving, Leadership and Management and Capacity Building, Performance Management, and Recruitment and Retention.

Based on a RAG rating the following is the current position as at 20th August 2010.

Red: 5 (including 4 new actions) - 17%

Amber : 19 - 66%

Green: 5 – 17%

Two new areas have been included in relation to the action plans following the recommendations from both the Fostering and the Safeguarding and LAC inspections, work has already commenced on these and action plans are in place.

Social care indicators

The commentary on the social care indicators now includes the performance of statistical neighbours and national as a comparator.

	Baseline Performance (Nov 09)	Current Performance	Targets	Statistical Neighbour	National
NI 68 (Referrals to initial)	59.8%	79.74% 09/10 outturn 73.4%	Oct 10 – 68% Mar 11- 70%	69.2%	63.8%
NI 59 (initial assessment)	73%	80.11% 09/10 outturn 75.2%	Oct 10 – 85% Mar 11- 87%	71.6%	71.8%
NI 60 (core assessment)	68%	87.67% 09/10 outturn 80%	Oct 10 – 84% Mar 11- 87%	80.4%	78.2%

High Risk areas (red risks)

There is an additional section around the training programme and CPD for social care staff around Quality Assurance and the developments in relation to embedding and sustaining the changed practice following the work of the Practice Improvement Partners and how this will remain in place when they are no longer working in the Authority. All of this has been currently rated as Red.

The expenditure on agency staff continues to increase with currently £435,922 having been spent on social workers and team managers and £31,357 on admin staff since the 1st April 2010.

Areas of Concern

The NI59 indicator (initial assessments in 7 days) is the most important part of the process and trends over the last 7 months are showing the following:

January: 72%
February: 76%
March: 77%
April: 80.17%
May: 76.01%
June 83.78%
July 76.92%

Since the 1st April 80.11% of initial assessments have been completed in timescale.

The milestone target for October 2010 is 85%, however as at the end of March 2010 the statistical neighbour comparison is 71.6% and national is 71.8%. The 2009/10 outturn for Rotherham was 75.2%

However, if the indicator is measured against the 10 day measurement from the 1st April it shows that 83.57% of initial assessments were carried out within 10 days, as opposed to 80.11%

Areas of Improvement

NI 68 – referrals which go onto an initial assessment is now 79.74% which is higher than the March 2011 target of 70%, the statistical neighbour comparison is 69.2% and 63.8% for national, the 2009/10 outturn for Rotherham was 73.4%

The safeguarding and Looked After children inspection outcome was adequate and identified improvements in the service and recognised areas of good practice. 68 case file audits

Audit work continues to increase with 52 case file audits carried out in July and 300 additional NFA cases independently audited during August. A report of the findings will be submitted to a future meeting.

8. Finance

The DfE has agreed up to £150,000 financial support to assist with recovery, a further £125,000 has been secured from the RIEP to fund the work around implementation of Common Assessment Framework. The DfE funding is being used

to supplement social work staffing resources and to employ independent staff to assist in the review and further improvement of and service quality activities
A review has been conducted of Children and Young People's placements; both Rotherham based and in out of authority facilities. This has focussed on whether the placements can end, in line with the care plan review, whether the council is getting the best value for money and that the placements are of the required quality.
In order to strengthen financial management arrangements all managers with budget holder responsibility attended specific training. The moratorium which has been in place since December 2009 continues into 2010/11 to ensure that resources are directed to priority areas. In addition, a savings work programme is in place to identify efficiencies and enable re-investment into priority areas.
Further work is now taking place in relation to the overall budget position and the recent government announcements.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The key performance risks (red) are identified in the report and there are service delivery risks associated with the Notice to Improve action plan. Where these are significant they are being fed into the CYPS risk register.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Annual Performance Assessment 2008 result was the trigger for the CYPS Review, which was commissioned jointly by the Council and NHS Rotherham. A number of recommendations arose from this review which were included in an Improvement action plan.

On 4th and 5th August 2009, CYPS received an unannounced inspection of its Contact, Referral and Assessment service. The inspection confirmed many issues related to performance, caseload and capacity, quality assurance. Ofsted's recommendation was that we should take immediate action to address the issues raised in order to prevent further decline in service performance, quality and capacity. A notice to improve was issued in December 2009.

The Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspection took place between the 19th and 30th July, the outcome of this was adequate..

The annual Fostering Inspection was concluded and the letter indicated that significant improvements were visible and that the service had moved from just adequate to almost good, action plans are in place to monitor the implementation of both sets of recommendations.

Failure to address these issues would impact further on the CYPS and the council and could lead to external intervention.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The Notice To Improve

Ofsted Inspection - Contact, Referral and Assessment, 4th and 5th August 2009

Children First Review and Resource Benchmarking – Jan to June 2009

CYP Directorate Performance reports

Appendix A – Notice to Improve action plan

Contact Name : Sue Wilson, Performance, Information & Quality Manager,
CYPS sue-cyps.wilson@rotherham.gov.uk 01709 822511

RMBC Notice to Improve Action Plan

Performance Measures

Date of Update 20th August, 2010

Objective	Key Actions	Measures			Lead	RAG	Performance Commentary	Lead Workstream(s)
		Baseline	Current Performance	Targets				
Staying Safe - Performance								
	NI 68 - Increase the % of referrals of children in need to children's social care going onto initial assessment in line with the current statistical neighbour average/top band performance (mid range is good performance)	57.6% (2008/09 outturn) (2270/3940) 59.8% (position as at Nov 2009) 2009/10 outturn 73.4%	79.74%	65% March 2010 68% October 2010 70% March 2011	Gani Martins	↑ Green	From 1st April to 20th August the figure is 79.74%, (compared with 62.63% reported to the Panel on the 13 th July). And exceeds the March 2011 target. Data checks continue to be undertaken by the Practice Improvement Managers to check accuracy in recording and are part of the QA process. The outturn figure as at 31 st March 2010 73.4% indications are SN 69.2% and N 63.8%	Social Work
Improvement Notice	NI 59 - Increase the % of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral from the 2008/09 baseline in line with current statistical neighbour average/top band performance (high is good performance)	77.8% (2008/09 outturn) (1767/2270) 73% (position as at Nov 2009) 2009/10 outturn 75.2%	80.11%	80% March 2010 85% October 2010 87% March 2011	Gani Martins	→ Amber	80.11% (compared with 80.16% reported in July) of the I.A.s completed between 1st April and the 20th August were completed in time. Data checks continue to be undertaken by the Practice Improvement managers to check accuracy in recording and are part of the QA process. The outturn figure as at 31 st March 2010 75.2% indications are SN 71.6% and N 71.8%	Social Work
Improvement Notice	NI 60 - Increase the % of core assessments for children's social care carried out within 35 working days of their commencement from the 2008/09 baseline in line with the current statistical neighbour average/top band performance (high is good performance)	84.9% (2008/09 outturn) (276/325) 68% (position as at Nov 2009) 2009/10 outturn 80%	87.67%	80% March 2010 84% October 2010 87% March 2011	Gani Martins	↑ Green	Between 1st April and 20 th August 87.67% of Core Assessments have been completed in time, higher than the March 2011 target of 87%. Sample core assessments are being audited by the Practice Improvement Managers The outturn figure as at 31 st March 2010 80% indications are SN 80.4% and N 78.2%	Social Work

Operational Targets

Objective	Key Actions	Measures		Target Date	Lead	RAG	Performance Commentary	Lead Workstream(s)
		Baseline	Targets					
1. Staying Safe – Social Worker Practice and Process								
Establish and implement an effective policy on the auditing of assessment and referrals so as to ensure managerial involvement in quality assurance	Implement an improved quality assurance framework for assessments and referrals	Each Team Manager audits 3 files per month as per guidance. Locality Managers to audit 3 files per month and 5 NFA Audits	100% compliance with the policy	August } Mile- Sept } stones Oct } 30th Nov deadline	Gani Martins	↑ Amber	Quality Assurance has increased significantly and although practice issues are being identified there is evidence of some improvement and Practice Improvement Managers tackle the issues through coaching and mentoring. During July out of 68 expected case file audits 52 were received and completed, (45 of these were completed by Locality and Team Managers) A further more detailed report will be submitted to the panel meeting on the 29 th September.	Social Work
	Conduct a review on all NFA cases to quality assure the high level of 'no further action' decisions being taken	NFA Contacts and Referrals 1.4.2009 to 9.12.2009 33.18% Total Contacts NFAd 11.12% Total Referrals NFAd by localities	10% reduction in overall contact and referrals which result in NFA by March 2010	Sept 2010	Gani Martins	↑ Amber	Quality Assurance has increased significantly and although practice issues are being identified there is evidence of some improvement and Practice Improvement Managers tackle the issues through coaching and mentoring. During August an additional 300 NFA cases have had an independent audit. Findings are currently being analysed and will be reported to Panel in September.	Social Work
	Conduct Business Process re-engineering exercise on current practices in relation to Assessments and Referrals in line with best practice to enhance performance	Practices in relation to Assessments and Referrals in need of review	Business process Re-engineering process completed	August 2010 for reprioritisation Sept 2010 for completion of Top 5 Commencement and Project Plan for those remaining August 2010	John Dunn, RBT / Rebecca Wragg	↑ Amber	The top 5 priority processes are now completed and signed off by SCMT. The LAC work plan has been re-prioritised.	ICT
Embed use of the CAF in practice across children's services so that it is effectively used to inform early intervention	Improve quality and completion levels of CAFs No. of CAFs No. of CAFs preventing I.A. etc	Between January 2006 and July 2009 there have been 976 CAFs completed in Rotherham.	600 CAFs to be completed between April 2010 and March 2011	March 2011	Simon Perry / Sarah Whittle	↑ Amber	Following the launch of the early intervention improvement programme and CAF training re-commencing on the 24th February, as at the 8th July 519 staff and 89 managers have now been trained. Since the first of April 2010 213 CAFs have been completed. Further work is being done around front desk and how the referrals feeding into initial assessments can be captured by the CAF coordinators.	Early Intervention
Implement the recommendations from the recent Fostering Inspection	Develop an action plan and monitoring system to implement the 9 recommendations	Action Plan Developed	Action Plan developed and actions implemented	Completion of individual actions by Sept 2010	Gani Martins	↑ Amber	Action plan is now in place and presented to DLT 17 th August, implementation and monitoring of the recommendations has commenced.	Social work

Implement the recommendations from the recent Safeguarding and LAC inspection	Develop an action plan and monitoring system to implement the 9 recommendations	Action Plan Developed	Action Plan developed and actions implemented	Completion of 3 immediate actions by mid Sept 2010. Completion of remaining 6 actions by mid November 2010	Gani Martins	↑ Amber	Action Plan drafted following receipt of formal notification from OFSTED.	Social work
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Operational Targets

Objective	Key Actions	Measures		Target Date	Lead	RAG	Performance Commentary	Lead Workstream(s)
		Baseline	Targets					
1. Staying Safe – Social Worker Practice and Process								
Monitor improvement in children’s social care, by establishing a rigorous performance management system which delivers regular monitoring, scrutiny and quality assurance of social care performance	Ensure that all children's homes are compliant with regulatory requirements Review compliance in relation to revised inspection criteria (currently out for consultation). Conduct routine audits of compliance and report key themes arising.	1 - St Edmunds	No inadequate children's homes	October 2010	Gani Martins	complete		Social Work
	Conduct robust quality assurance checks on information systems to ensure that contacts, referrals and the status of investigations, assessments and plans are up to date	Quality assurance and audits require improved performance framework	% of monthly supervision checks conducted - 100% Number and % of adequate data quality checks conducted - 100%	October 2010	Gani Martins	→ Amber	A single QA/Audit Framework has been implemented which covers all aspects of this action. The overall data quality assurance strategy and monitoring and reporting policies and procedure has been signed off by the SCPMT. From the 1st March initial and core assessments are being audited with a bank of good practice which has been developed. Further, more robust recording of audits has recently been introduced. A report was submitted to the Improvement Panel on the 13th July, a further more detailed report will be submitted to the panel on the 29 th September.	Social Work
Review social workers’ responsibilities to ensure that responsibilities are clearly and tightly defined so that no staff carry too wide a range of work. This will need to involve consideration of whether a restructure of children’s social care services is necessary	Undertake Fieldwork Review and implement improved operational structure	The remaining priority action to be addressed	Fully reviewed social care infrastructure in place	October 2010	Gani Martins	→ Amber	A report of the review has been completed and a project plan developed to ensure effective and timely implementation. Key areas include: Front Door improvements, the number of locality teams, and introduction of dedicated LAC teams. This report was shared with Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting Management Team and DLT on the 27th April. Key posts have been appointed to and expressions of interest are being considered from social workers and administration staff. Implementation will be complete by October 2010.	Social Work / Workforce

Operational Targets

Objective	Key Actions	Measures		Target Date	Lead	RAG	Performance Commentary	Lead Workstream(s)
		Baseline	Targets					
2. Enjoying and Achieving – Practice and Process								
Improve Performance across primary schools with a particular focus on addressing the performance of schools below the floor targets	Implement this plan, as agreed with DCSF and National Strategies, to bring about demonstrable and sustained improvement in primary school standards throughout the term of the Improvement Notice.	13 Primary schools below floor targets 10 Primary schools below floor targets (2010)	13 down to 8 during 2010 and then down to 0 in 2011	March 2010 October 2010 March 2011	David Light	↓ Amber	Report was submitted to Improvement Panel on 22nd April 2010 and a World Class Primaries Board meets with DCSF and National Strategies involvement to progress the actions in the plan. 10 of the original 13 schools rose above the floor target including 3 of the 5 hard to reach schools. However, based on provisional results 7 other schools fell below the floor target. Further work is taking place in SES to address this.	Enjoying and Achieving

Objective	Key Actions	Measures		Target Date	Lead	RAG	Performance Commentary	Lead Workstream(s)
		Baseline	Targets					
3. Leadership and Management/Capacity Building/Support								
Develop a comprehensive programme of training, mentoring and continuous professional development for all social care staff so that they have the skills to complete high quality and timely assessments	Identify practice issues related to quality and consistency from Quality Assurance audit reports by Locality and Teams.	TBA	TBA	Aug/Sept and October milestones	Deb Johnson and Warren Carratt	Red	New action for development in relation to embedding and sustaining the changed practice in relation to findings from the Quality Assurance programme of work.	Social work
	Incorporate into L&D activity identifying most appropriate to resolve issues encountered	TBA	TBA	30th Nov 2010 deadline	Deb Johnson and Warren Carratt	Red	New action for development in relation to embedding and sustaining the changed practice in relation to findings from the Quality Assurance programme of work.	Social work
	Evaluate effectiveness of L&D interventions by Locality and Teams in relation to improved practice.	TBA	TBA	Aug/Sept and October milestones	Deb Johnson and Warren Carratt	Red	New action for development in relation to embedding and sustaining the changed practice in relation to findings from the Quality Assurance programme of work.	Social work
	Track improvement of Locality and Teams in relation to quality issues identified.	TBA	TBA	30th Nov 2010 deadline	Deb Johnson and Warren Carratt	Red	New action for development in relation to embedding and sustaining the changed practice in relation to findings from the Quality Assurance programme of work.	Social work
	Ensure that accountabilities for each individual are being reinforced through consistently applied PDR's to ensure staff have a satisfactory Performance Plan. Consider action post inspection report	81%	90%	Nov 2010	Julie Westwood/ Warren Carratt	→ Amber	An audit report has revealed that supervision / PDRs are still under-recorded on Yourself and work is being undertaken to correct this. The review conducted at the end of July showed that 64% of Staff had received a PDR. Sample of audits of PDRs have also taken place. Further detailed analysis is taking place and a report will be submitted to the Improvement Panel in September.	Workforce / Performance

Objective	Key Actions	Measures		Target Date	Lead	RAG	Performance Commentary	Lead Workstream(s)
		Baseline	Targets					
3. Leadership and Management/Capacity Building/Support								
Demonstrate improvements in staff satisfaction and in the satisfaction of children and families with the services they receive through the term of the Improvement Notice	Improve outcomes of CYPS Satisfaction Surveys	Employee Opinion Survey Family Placement Survey Audit Commission in Schools Survey Social Worker Survey	Employee Opinion Survey TBC LAC reviews TBC Audit Commission in Schools Survey TBC Social Worker Survey TBC	March 2010 Oct 2010 and March 2011 Milestone January 2011	Julie Westwood/ Warren Carratt	↑ Amber	Baseline for EOS - 64% (CYPS) rest of Council 69% - target to be discussed 69%, the next EOS is not until 2011, HR are planning for a specific survey for CYPS to be run between the 22 nd November and 10 th December with results in mid January. Baseline for Audit Commission schools survey response rate 2008 29% 2009 63%. Target 80%, next survey not now run until 2011 (now 2 yearly). The Family Placement Survey is a bi-annual survey of Foster Carers and Adopters, the next survey is scheduled for 2011.	Workforce and all Workstreams

Operational Targets

Objective	Key Actions	Measures		Target Date	Lead	RAG	Performance Commentary	Lead Workstream(s)
		Baseline	Targets					
4. Performance Management								
Improve Annual Children's Service Scores Profile to Performing well by 2011 through implementation of all outstanding recommendations and improvement of inspection scores to good or better	Continually assess the position in relation to all outstanding external inspection recommendations including all those listed in CAA Blocks A and B	Performing Poorly	90% of recommendations met in original timescale 12 reports per year	monthly	Julie Westwood	→ Amber	Recommendations from key high risk inspections being input. Visits undertaken to Early Years and SES to examine recording systems already deployed. These have been found to be satisfactory. There will be on site visits to validate the implementation of recommendations and the state of readiness in terms of achieving a positive outcome in the next inspection. Action plans have been requested from the services to shift proportion of services to good or better and have been received and were discussed with GO on the 9th June. A report on the latest OFSTED profile is on the agenda for the 31 st August	Performance
	Introduce robust monthly monitoring arrangements to ensure implementation of all outstanding inspection recommendations from all inspections in original timescales	Inspection recommendations from key inspections are being monitored but reports need to include all inspected services	90% of recommendations met in original timescale 12 reports per year	Quarterly	Julie Westwood	→ Amber	All inspection recommendations (with the exception of schools and childminders which have an established monitoring system) are being entered into the reconfigured CYP inspections monitoring system. A further report is on the agenda for the 31 st August.	Social Work / Performance
	Improve CYP Performance Profile rating for Block A by increasing % of inspected services rated "good or better"	Performing Poorly (bottom band for both PRU and Children's Homes) 54.9%	Performing Well (65% - 79% categorised as outstanding or good)	Quarterly	Julie Westwood	→ Amber	A report on the latest OFSTED profile is on the agenda for the 31 st August.	Performance
	Improve CYP Performance Profile rating for Block B by: Ensuring majority of inspected scores are rated "good or better" for safeguarding LAC and SCRs	Fostering - Satisfactory SCRs 2/4 judged inadequate	Fostering - Good All future SCRs rated adequate or better	Quarterly	Julie Westwood	→ Green	There are no current or outstanding Serious Case Reviews for the LSCB. A further SCR action plan has been signed off by GOYH in August and work continues evidencing the completion of the two remaining action plans. The LSCB has developed a quality assurance toolkit for SCR IMRs. Two one day conferences have been developed scheduled for September focussing on authoritative practice and lessons learned.	Performance

Objective	Key Actions	Measures		Target Date	Lead	RAG	Performance Commentary	Lead Workstream(s)
		Baseline	Targets					
4. Performance Management								
	Improve CYP Performance Profile rating for Block C by improving NI performance	Not In line with or better than statistical neighbours and the national position	In line with or better than statistical neighbours and the national position	Quarterly	Julie Westwood	↓ Amber	Improvement plans are in place for NIs and where targets are not being met performance clinics are held to identify areas where further improvement can be made. A report on the latest OFSTED profile is on the agenda for the 31 st August	Performance
	Ensure quarterly reporting on the Children's Services Performance Profile on their release clearly outlining areas of risk and potential impact	Report on Quarter 2 profile prepared	4 reports per year and improvement in each service block	Quarterly	Julie Westwood	↑ Amber	A report on the latest OFSTED profile is on the agenda for the 31 st August	Performance

Operational Targets

Objective	Key Actions	Measures		Target Date	Lead	RAG	Performance Commentary	Lead Workstream(s)
		Baseline	Targets					
5. Recruitment and Retention								
Increase the capacity of social carers to ensure effective services to safeguard vulnerable children	Reduce the vacancy rate of qualified social workers from the December 2009 baseline to meet the improvement notice target	37.2% 16th December 2009	20% vacancy rate by October 2010 10% vacancy rate by March 2011	October 2010	Gani Martins	→ Amber	Currently all social worker posts are filled. Either covered by permanent establishment posts or agency staff (18.8 posts covered) with 11.5 posts vacant	Social Care / Workforce
	Reduce the vacancy rate of team managers from the December 2009 baseline to meet the improvement notice target	33% 16th December 2009	16% vacancy rate by October 2010 8% vacancy rate by March 2011	October 2010	Gani Martins	↑ Amber	There are currently 26.7% Team Manager posts unfilled. There are 15 Team Manager posts in the establishment with 4 vacancies, however all of these are covered by agency staff.	Social Care / Workforce
	Recruit 30 new Foster Carers. There are another 24 couples in the process at the moment from referral to training process.	126 (January 2009)	156	March 2011	Gani Martins	→ Green	From April 2009 to March 2010 there were 22 foster carers approved. There are currently 139 foster carers. Since April 2010 7 sets of carers have been approved and 4 have been de-registered.	Social Care / Workforce
	Reduce the over reliance on agency staff	2009/10 spend = £1,843,627 (12 months) £1,811,768 relates to social care, £1,390,402 of which via the Duttons contract	Reduce by £440,000 in 2010/11 on agency staff	October 2010	Gani Martins	→ Red	The recruitment campaign for permanent social workers and team managers continues however, there is still major expenditure on agency staffing. Expenditure on agency social workers and team managers to date is £435,922 and agency admin £31,537. The increase from last time has been due to delays in invoices being received. Following some issues with one of the agencies additional work will be carried out free of charge.	Workforce / Finance

CYPS Achievements

- 87.5% of care leavers are in employment, education or training, an improvement of 23.9% since the end of March 2010, exceeding the target of 67%..
- CPP lasting over 2 years have reduced from the 2008/09 outturn of 4.8% to 4% (2009/10)
- 100% of CPP are reviewed within timescales. Child Protection Reviews are maintaining the top 100% performance (2009/10)
- LAC Reviews in timescales improved from 96.5% to 97.1% (2009/10)
- 97% of all Rotherham Schools (including PRUs) have achieved National Healthy Schools Status
- Childhood obesity for both reception and Year 6 has improved by 2% and we are now in line with our statistical neighbours.
- 86% of children and young people participate in 2 hours+ sport or PE (increase of 25% since 2006)
- 97.5% of schools are meeting Extended Services Core Offer.
- Rotherham has been rated the best in the region for children getting their first choice of secondary school 97%.
- Rotherham's Audit Commission Schools Survey 35% increase in response in 2009.
- Since 2005/6 there has been a 34% reduction in the number of young people entering the criminal justice system.
- Ofsted have judged Hilltop School to be outstanding in all major areas including Safeguarding.
- 72% of Rotherham's Under 5s are currently part of the Imagination Library Project, that's 11,221 children.
- GCSEs 2009 - 13th most improved Authority
- Foundation Stage 2009 15th most improved Authority.

- Thornhill has been judged by Ofsted as outstanding with an outstanding capacity to improve.
- Herringthorpe Junior School is one of the top 20 schools in the UK for the best use of technology. Runner up in the learning experience Primary Becta ICT Excellence Award
- Rotherham Schools Music Service - Second outstanding Ofsted inspection report.-
- Rotherham are the first Authority in the country to have 2 childminders achieve the Quality Mark for Early Years by the Basic Skills Agency

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	8th September, 2010
3.	Title:	Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. **Summary**

The Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children took place between 19th - 30th July, 2010. The final report from Ofsted has been received at the time of writing but this is under strict embargo until 27th August when it will be published on the Ofsted website.

6. **Recommendations**

That Cabinet receives this report and notes the key recommendations to be implemented.

7. **Proposals and Details**

The Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children took place between 19th - 30th July, 2010. The final report from Ofsted has been received at the time of writing but this is under strict embargo until 27th August when it will be published on the Ofsted website.

The Inspection was very positive and this has resulted in an overall rating of Adequate with some elements rated as Good. The key recommendations for Safeguarding are:

For Immediate:

- Ensure that all recording, including assessments, recording of meetings and within case files, incorporates up-to-date and key information and identifies risk and protective factors.
- Improve the effectiveness of strategy discussions and child protection plans and the active review of these by core groups and child protection reviews, and the quality of recording, including details on what action is to be taken.

For Next Three Months:

- NHS Rotherham and Rotherham Foundation NHST should ensure that within A&E services there is access to suitably trained and qualified children's nursing staff when children and young people are seen in the department.
- NHS Rotherham should ensure that A&E staff at Rotherham Foundation NHS Trust have access to and use the electronic System 1, to ensure that children and young people can be easily identified if they are already known to social care services.
- Improve the quality of social care supervision so that staff receive the right level of challenge, development and support.
- Ensure that the workforce training and development plan clearly identifies how it will meet the development needs of all staff.
- Update the protocol for children missing from home, care and education to reflect the new national guidance.

The key recommendations for Looked After Children are:

For Immediate:

- Strengthen the role of the virtual head by ensuring that the work of the School Improvement and Effectiveness team is more focused on supporting and challenging schools to improve the attainment of looked after children.

- Develop the independent visiting service to ensure that all eligible children are able to have access to an independent visitor.

For Next Three Months:

- Strengthen the capacity of the independent reviewing officer service to ensure that all children and young people are effectively supported in making a contribution to their care plans and that care plans are robustly challenged.

An Action Plan is being produced and will be monitored closely to ensure full completion in timescale and that full compliance is achieved. All actions are already in train as these were picked up in our self-assessment prior to inspection.

8. **Finance**

There are no financial implications to the report but the Safeguarding and Looked After Children budgets are already under pressure.

9. **Risks and Uncertainties**

There is a real possibility of an unannounced Contact, Referral and Assessment Inspection before December. We must ensure that we are in the best possible position and implementation of the recommendations will mitigate the risks associated with this.

10. **Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The results feed into the Annual Children's rating which is due to be announced in November.

11. **Background Papers and Consultation**

The report has not been shared due to being under strict embargo.

Contact Name: Julie Westwood, Director of Resources, Planning and Performance
Children and Young People's Services
Telephone: 01709 822678
Email: julie.westwood@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	8 th September, 2010
3.	Title:	Inspection of Fostering Services - Summary of the Report and Action Plan
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. **Summary**

This report summarises the main findings of the inspection of the Fostering Service undertaken by Ofsted, week commencing 21st June, 2010, and presents the action plan devised to address the recommendations of the Inspectors.

The overall judgement of the inspection is 'Satisfactory', with 'Good' being achieved in:-

- Helping children to be healthy.
- Achieve well and enjoy what they do.
- Make a positive contribution and;
- Achieving economic well-being.

6. **Recommendations**

That Cabinet notes the Fostering Service Inspection report and action plan arising from it.

7. Proposals and Details

The purpose the inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public local authorities and Government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standard Act, 2000.

The Inspectors concluded that 'Rotherham MBC operates a **satisfactory** fostering service that provides good outcomes for children in many respects. Children are well supported with their health and well consulted on the care provided for them. The authority has made a good start in involving looked after young people in the running of the authority and provides fostered children with strong support for their education'.

However they note that 'a lack of sufficient rigour in some areas, particularly the quality assurance monitoring of the day to day work of the service, means that some weaker areas of practice are not identified and addressed well enough. For this reason the outcome areas of 'staying safe' and 'organisation', whilst sound are not judged as strong areas of work', thus limiting the overall judgement to satisfactory.

The report highlights many aspects of the work of the service that are identified as providing good support to children in foster care.

Overall Judgement

Practice that contributed to a judgement of good in stay healthy is the good training and advice received by carers in respect of children and young people's physical, sexual and emotional health and the support given to them to deal with any specialist health needs of children. The work of the looked after children's nurse and the health support worker is highlighted as giving good support to children and young people, including care leavers.

Staying Safe

In the area of staying safe the inspectors note that, as in other authorities the pressure to find placements for children is high, but conclude that the service works effectively in placing children with carers who are an appropriate match and takes care to monitor and support when placements are made outside carers' approval terms. They also note the reduction in the use of exemptions. These are significant findings in light of the criticism of practice made in a previous inspection. The inspectors conclude that the authority has safe staff recruitment processes in place.

Achieve Well and Enjoy

The inspectors find practice in respect of helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do to be good. They highlight the careful consideration that is given to matching children with carers who meet their needs particularly the practice that underpins the placement of children with disabilities and complex needs. The work of the Get Real team is noted as offering 'very good support' and the Families Together service as offering 'good, individualised and flexible support'.

Make Positive Contribution

The work undertaken to improve the participation of children and young people has contributed to a good judgement in the area of helping children to make a positive contribution. The inspectors conclude that children are 'involved and listened to regarding the provision of their care..... foster carers take notice of their opinions and support them to express these in care planning discussions' and they 'are consulted for their reviews and those of their carers'. The work undertaken on developing the Pledge is noted.

Achieving Economic Well-Being

The inspectors regard the support given to young people to prepare them for adulthood as good. They note that the Foster Carers' Handbook provides carers with good information in this respect and the Get Real and LAAC teams encouraged young people to have aspirations for their adult life. It is noted that there is 'a relatively high number of young people remaining in their foster homes beyond their 18th birthday and those attending or planning to attend higher education'

Organisation

In the organisation section the inspectors found the 'promotion of equality and diversity is good. The service is working to approve carers from a range of backgrounds and cultures'. They are satisfied with the statement of purpose and the children's guide and note that elected members and senior managers are 'committed to the effective operation of the Fostering Service'. They find that carers' reviews are robust and children's records well maintained. They note the improvement in practice in respect of the assessment of family and friends carers and describe a recent assessment and match as 'an excellent piece of work'.

The Inspectors identify in the report a number of areas in which practice needs to improve. Whilst in general they consider information sharing about children's health to be good they express concern that the arrangements regarding the delegation of consent to medical treatment are not always clear and may cause a delay in a child receiving treatment.

In respect of the organisation of the service they note a number of issues that they consider undermine the services capacity to keep children safe. In particular they note that there is not robust quality assurance system in place and this means that necessary checks are not always completed and that on one occasion Panel was not quorate. They also identify that there is a weakness in monitoring outcomes and actions following an allegation against a carer. Some risk assessments and safe care plans are weak and not sufficiently individualised and they report that some carers have received conflicting information about permitted and prohibited forms of discipline. Carers' records are not always well maintained.

The Inspectors highlighted the delay in some young people being allocated a leaving care Personal advisor and the consequent delay in producing a Pathway Plan.

Recommendations

The inspectors made no requirements but did make a number of recommendations that they believe will secure future improvement. These are

- Ensure that, before a placement begins, the carer is provided with clear procedures governing the consent for the child to receive medical attention. Specifically, that the level of delegation of responsibility for consent is clearly identified in every case.
- Ensure that foster carers and social workers are fully aware of, and in agreement with, the permitted and prohibited measures of discipline in relation to fostered children
- Ensure that foster carers' safe caring guidelines are cleared with the child's social worker
- Ensure that safe care policies and risk assessments are individually prepared for the young person
- Ensure that panel minutes accurately reflect the discussion of Panel, its quoracy for all cases presented to it and recommendations made
- Ensure that no business shall be conducted by Panel unless it is quorate as set in the regulations
- Ensure that each young person preparing to move to independent or semi independent living is allocated a personal advisor sufficiently promptly to provide the support needed to help them in their decision-making and their transition to independence
- Ensure there are clear day to day procedures for monitoring and controlling the quality of day-to-day activities of the fostering service
- Ensure that foster care records held by the fostering service are accurately and completed maintained (sic)

An action plan to address the recommendations is attached as appendix 1

8 Finance

None

9 Risks and Uncertainties

A well functioning Fostering Service is central in providing a quality service to looked after children. The risk of not embedding improved practice and not maintaining the momentum of change in the Fostering Service is first and foremost that the wellbeing of children in care will not be assured and improved outcomes will not be secured; the Authority would not maximise the benefits for looked after children and young people it hopes to achieve in setting up new dedicated LAC social work teams.

Demand for foster placements continues to be high and the service hopes to respond in the autumn with a high profile recruitment campaign. Raising practice standards at a time of service growth will require careful management and a service improvement plan that will incorporate the Ofsted action plan is being developed to meet and monitor this demand.

An essential element of the service improvement plan will be the development of the fostering module on ESCR and there may be a capacity issue in both the IT and Fostering services and there will be a high training need for some fostering social workers.

10 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

A failure of the service to achieve 'good' in its next inspection is likely to limit progress in the annual inspection of the Authority's services for looked after children.

11 Background Papers and Consultation

- Fostering Services National Minimum Standards
- Ofsted Inspection Report of Fostering Service 21.06.2010

Contact Name: Liz Shingler
Telephone: 23444
E-mail: liz.shingler@rotherham.gov.uk

**Rotherham MBC
Children and Young People's Services
Fostering Inspection Action Plan: 2010**

ECM AREA	NMS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION	By Whom	By When	PROGRESS
Be Healthy	12.2	Ensure that, before placement begins, the carer is provided with the clear procedure governing consent for the child to receive medical treatment. Specifically, that the level of delegation of the responsibility for consent is clearly identified in every case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be discussed with LMs – LMs to disseminate to TMs & CSWs • LM & CTM to ensure monitoring via file audit • For existing placements, FSWs to ensure that the Foster Carer has the medical consent & understand the identified level of responsibility for consent; this is to be recorded on the Supervisory Visit Record • For new placements, this is to be confirmed at each Initial Placement Meeting • FTM to monitor via supervision & audit 	LACSM LM CTM FSW FSW FC CSW FTM	29/6/10 Ongoing 31/9/10 Meetings from July 10 Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed with LMs for dissemination • Locality Audits ongoing
Stay Safe	9.1	Ensure that foster carers & social workers are fully aware of & in agreement with the permitted & prohibited measures of discipline in relation to fostered children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster Carer information regarding measures of discipline (included in the FC Handbook) to be re-sent to all FCs & CSWs • FCs to sign the Supervisory Visit Record where the issue was discussed 	LACSM FSW FC	7/7/10 31/9/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant information sent to all FCs & CSWs with letter of explanation • FSW yet to be briefed regarding this action point

Fostering Inspection Action Plan 2010

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCs to sign a form to confirm that they have received the Handbook information regarding discipline • FTM to monitor via supervision & audit • This to be part of the Induction Programme of SWs 	FSW FC	31/9/10	
				FTM	Ongoing	
				TM	Ongoing	
9.3	Ensure that foster carers' safe caring guidelines are cleared by the children's social worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSW signature to be incorporated in safe caring policy (to denote agreement), specific to each child in placement • To ensure that CSW signatures are obtained • Compliance to be monitored via supervision & file audit 	LACSM	24/7/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Care Policy amended to include the CSW signature on all new or updated agreements • Compliance yet to be measured 	
				FSW	From 24/7/10	
				FTM		
9.1	Ensure that safe care policies & risk assessments are individually prepared for the young person they relate to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Assessments to be prepared on each individual young person • Risk Assessments are reviewed by IROs (at Foster Carer Reviews) • Compliance to be monitored via supervision & file audit 	FSW	From 24/7/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small number of risk assessments were "copied & pasted" for each sibling; this is not acceptable practice & it has been reinforced that this is not current practice 	
				IRO	At Each Review	
				FTM	Ongoing	
30	Ensure panel minutes accurately reflect the discussion of panel, its quoracy for all cases presented to it & the recommendations made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Minute Takers to be recruited • New minute taking format to be developed 	DH	May 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Minute Takers recruited • Minute Taking Format being devised 	
				LACSM	Aug 10	
30.1 Breach of Reg 25(1)	Ensure that no business shall be conducted by fostering panel unless it is quorate as set in the regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quoracy of Panel to be subject to stringent control • Legal Advisor on each panel 	LACSM	Sept 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panels since Aug 2009 have been subject to more stringent control & have been quorate 	
				AF	Sept 09	

Fostering Inspection Action Plan 2010

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel Advisor post to be created & advertised Items discussed in August 09 to be re-presented at panel 	LACSM	July 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel Advisor post created & advertised Items sent to panel members in July 10
Enjoy and Achieve		No recommendations				
Positive Contribution		No recommendations				
Economic Wellbeing	14.5	Ensure that each young person preparing to move to independent or semi independent living is allocated a personal adviser sufficiently promptly to provide the support needed to help them in their decision making & their transition to independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract with Action For Children under re-negotiation Meeting to be arranged to finalise & monitor performance 	LACSM PT	July 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract with Action For Children under re-negotiation - contract amendment drafted & agreed in outline Meeting took place on 9/7/10 - discussion document prepared; follow-up meeting arranged for 3/9/10
Organisation	4.1	Ensure there are clear procedures for monitoring & controlling the quality of day to day activities of the fostering service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New interim management structure in place and delegated areas identified Interim management arrangements to be finalised into the permanent structure Monitoring procedures to be developed & implemented Develop an effective, electronic recording process 	LACSM GM	May 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New interim management structure in place & delegated areas identified Permanent structure agreed in principle by GM; needs to be actioned Initial strategies developed & implemented – further development required

Fostering Inspection Action Plan 2010

	25.3	Ensure that foster carers' records held by the service are accurately & completely maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File audit activity to include detailed tracking of approval & amendments to carer agreements • Findings from audits to be shared with FSWs 	LACSM FTM LACSM FTM	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First audit findings shared with the FSWs - a small number of mistakes in detail were identified • Audit activity is in accordance with the performance policy
Equality & Diversity		No recommendations				

Key

Acronym	Person
LM	Locality Manager
CTM	Children's Team Manager
CSW	Children's Social Worker
LACSM	LAC Provider Service Manager
FTM	Fostering Team Manager/Deputy Team Manager
FSW	Fostering Social Worker
FC	Foster Carer
LAC	Looked After Child
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer
DH	Diane Hyner, Support Services Manager
AF	Anne Fisher, Local Authority Solicitor
PT	Paul Theaker, Commissioning Team
GM	Gani Martins, Director of Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting Services

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	Wednesday, 8th September, 2010
3.	Title:	Corporate Parenting Group
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary

The report sets out proposals to establish a Corporate Parenting Group.

6. Recommendations**That Cabinet:-**

- (a) Receives the draft terms of reference and forwards them to the first meeting of the Corporate Parenting Group for discussion.**
- (b) Agrees interim arrangements for membership.**
- (c) Reviews these arrangements in 12 months time.**

7. Proposals and Details

The Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel undertook a scrutiny review into the "Corporate Parents Arrangements". The review and recommendations were agreed by Cabinet at its meeting of 7th July, 2010.

As part of the review, an audit of corporate parenting activity was undertaken, based on the National Children's Bureau's Template. Although there were many areas where activity could be evidenced strongly (for example, advocacy and complaints), the audit highlighted some important gaps. These include:-

- Absence of Corporate Parenting Group with multi-agency representation.
- Lack of definition about the respective roles (for example, role of the member on the Fostering Panel).
- Lack of clarity about lines of reporting (how and where do Members on the Fostering or Adoption Panels formally feed in concerns or issues).
- Absence of a shared protocol for receiving/actioning recommendations arising from the bodies with a corporate parenting remit.
- Lack of clarity about the links between the Local Strategic Partnership, Children's Board and our Corporate Parenting arrangement.

7.1 Decision Making

7.1.1 The review recommended "That a Corporate Parenting Board is established as a sub-group of the Children's Board; its membership to include the lead member, key members with corporate parenting responsibilities, co-optees and relevant officers and partners as required".

7.1.2 A number of local authorities have established such corporate parenting boards or panels, with membership and terms of reference reflecting their local arrangements. Taking into account the specific legislative responsibilities of Elected Members in respect of their Corporate Parenting roles, the majority of these are sub-committees of the Executive or Council.

7.1.3 Further work will need to be undertaken to clarify the link between the Local Strategic Partnership, Children's Board and our Corporate Parenting arrangement.

7.1.4 It is suggested that any decisions taken by the Corporate Parenting Group be referred for ratification to the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding and Developing Learning (or to Cabinet if of wider corporate significance) or to respective partners bodies.

7.2 Terms of Reference

7.2.1 Draft terms of reference have been developed (attached as Appendix 1). It is suggested that these are forwarded to the Corporate Parenting Group for comment and amendment.

7.3 Membership

7.3.1 The review did not explore the composition of the proposed group or prescribe its membership, other than suggesting it is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding and Developing Learning to maintain its strategic overview.

7.3.2 Drawing on examples from other Local Authorities, it is suggested that the membership of the Corporate Parenting Group is as follows:-

- Chair - Cabinet Member for Safeguarding and Developing Learning;
- Elected Member on Fostering Panel;
- Elected Member on Adoption Panel;
- Cabinet Member for Adult Independence, Health and Well Being (or his/her nominee);
- One member nominated from the opposition group;
- One Member from Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel.

Reflecting their wider corporate parenting roles, further consideration should be given to whether additional Cabinet Members wish to be members of this board or attend when relevant items are on the agenda.

7.3.3 The review also suggested that in addition to the Elected Member representation, consideration should be given to appointing non-voting co-optees to the Group. For example:-

- Foster carers representatives;
- Designated governors for Looked After Children;
- Representative from the NHS;
- Others as required on a permanent or 'as or when' basis.

It is suggested that the first meeting of the Corporate Parenting Group determines its co-option arrangements.

7.3.4 The review recommended that key officers and partners should also be active members of the Corporate Parenting Group; this was endorsed by the Children's Board at its meeting on 6th August, 2010. It is suggested that relevant officers and partners are invited to the first meeting.

7.4 Looked After Children Council

The review asked that the Corporate Parenting Group has formal links to the work of the Looked After Children's Council. Further consideration is required by the Corporate Parenting Board about how this will work in practice.

7.5 Review

It is suggested that Cabinet reviews the arrangements in 12 months to assess if they are meeting organisational requirements and improving outcomes for Looked After Children.

8. Finance

Support for the Corporate Parenting Group will be met through existing resources. It should be noted that since Cabinet approval has been given to the review recommendations, the LAC Scrutiny Sub-Panel has been disbanded.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Authority's Corporate Parenting arrangements must contribute to improved and sustainable outcomes for Looked After Children and their families. These arrangements should bring together the relevant agencies to ensure that timely decisions are made about the care and education of the Borough's most vulnerable children. Failure to ensure that our arrangements are robust may undermine this and negatively impact on future inspection judgements.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

See 'Care Matters: Time for Change' agenda and Ofsted Inspections of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Scrutiny Review: Corporate Parenting Arrangements.
- Department for Education and Skills (2007); *Care Matters: Time for Change*. Norwich: The Stationery Office.
- Department for Children, Schools and Families (2009); *Care Matters: Ministerial Stocktake Report 2009*.
- Ofsted (2009) *Inspections of Safeguarding and Looked after Children Services: Framework for Inspection and Guidance for Local Authorities and Partners*.

Contact Name: Gani Martins,
Director of Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting
Extension 23905

**Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Corporate Parenting Group
Draft Terms of Reference**

Objectives

The Corporate Parenting Group will:-

1. Support Members and Officers to discharge their corporate parenting responsibilities and empower Members to challenge the arrangements for Looked After Children.
2. Improve the outcomes and life chances of Looked After Children and care leavers, particularly in relation to the Every Child Matters outcomes framework.
3. Listen to, consult with and involve Looked After Children and care leavers.
4. Support the development of projects and activities which enhance and add value to the lives of Looked After Children and care leavers.
5. Champion and celebrate the achievements of Looked After Children and care leavers.
6. Develop knowledge and be aware of the experiences and concerns of Looked After Children and care leavers.
7. Be aware of any significant issues or problems with regard to the provision of services to Looked After Children and to identify ways to address them.
8. Keep abreast of and learn from corporate parenting good practice.
9. Review and monitor progress on the actions identified in the Corporate Parenting Strategy. Reassess priority areas and update it annually.
10. Monitor progress on outcomes and performance indicators for Looked After Children.
11. Report on progress on corporate parenting to Council, Cabinet Advisory Teams; The Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel and The Children's Board.
12. Oversee the effectiveness of joint working between Council Departments; and between Council Departments and partner organisations.
13. Be the governing body for the Get Real Virtual School.
14. Undertake its work with regard to its safeguarding duties.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	8th September
3.	Title:	Long Term Capital Loan Finance in support of Rotherham College of Arts and Technology Phase 1 new and refurbished build
4.	Directorate:	Financial Services & Chief Executives

5. Summary

To consider a formal request of the Rotherham College of Arts and Technology (RCAT) for a £5m long term capital finance loan from the Council to assist the College in delivering the £8.15m Phase 1 redevelopment of the College's Town Centre Campus.

6. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the provision of a capital loan facility of £5m to RCAT for the proposed investment in Phase 1 of its redevelopment of the Town Centre Campus subject to the terms and conditions of the loan agreement being to the satisfaction of the Strategic Director of Finance and Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic) Services .

7. Proposals and Details

The performance of Rotherham's colleges is strong. They make a significant contribution to the economic and cultural well-being of the Borough.

Rotherham College of Arts and Technology (RCAT) has made great strides forward over recent years and it has a good track record of improving performance. However, it faces significant challenges in providing an improved learning environment for its students.

During 2008/09 the College was unfortunately unsuccessful in its bid for LSC funding for a major new Campus redevelopment. Since that time, the Council has been working with RCAT to assist the College in delivering Phase 1 of its revised property strategy to modernise and rationalise the town centre campus.

Phase 1 involves the provision of a new three storey building to provide teaching and social space and a new college entrance, refurbishment of existing accommodation and the demolition of Floreat House. Further details of the proposed investment are appended to this report (Appendix 1). The estimated cost of the investment is £8.15m. To finance the proposed investment, the College is seeking to utilise £3.15m of its own cash reserves and for the Council to provide access to long term capital loan finance of £5m.

The College has received the necessary consent from the Skills Funding Agency for the first phase re-development.

The Council would provide access to long term finance under its Section 2 Local Government Act 2000 'Well-being' powers. This is consistent with Rotherham's Community Strategy.

Security for the loan provided to RCAT will be in the form of a Legal Charge over existing property assets of the College during the re-development and then the new and refurbished accommodation registered with the Land Registry.

The repayment of loan (principal and interest) including the cost of administration and management will be fully met by the College when it becomes due over 25 years.

A Loan Agreement supporting the financial arrangement has been drafted and is currently being finalised by each parties' legal advisors. The provision of the capital loan facility will be subject to the terms and conditions of the loan agreement being to the satisfaction of the Council's Strategic Director of Finance and Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic) Services.

8. Finance

The Council will be making a £5m long term loan to RCAT on an Annuity basis. The College will be required to make six monthly payments of principal and interest. The interest rate charged will be determined by the date the loan facility is drawn down by the College but it will reflect the Annuity PWLB rate at that time including relevant Arrangement, Management and Administration fees incurred by the Council. The College is currently anticipating that it will need to draw down the loan funding in the period March 2011 to July 2011.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There is always the possibility of not recovering the monies if RCAT becomes unable to repay the monies. Reference has been to RCAT's business plan and accounts to establish the level of risk and it is felt that RCAT's financial position is such that the risk of not receiving repayment is low. In addition the Council will secure the loan by requiring the College to enter into a legal charge over some or all of the College's existing property assets during and following the redevelopment phase until such time as the loan is fully repaid.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

RCAT is a major educational and learning centre within the Town Centre and assumes a critical role for the local community and the wider sub-region.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Consultation with:

- the Council's Chief Executive and Strategic Directors of Finance and Environment and Development Services and Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)
- RCAT's Principal and Chief Executive and Finance Director

Contact Name : Andrew Bedford – Strategic Director of Finance

Andrew.bedford@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM COLLEGE OF ART & TECHNOLOGY PHASE 1- TOWN CENTRE CAMPUS REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Investing for the Future

Rotherham College of Art & Technology are making good progress in progressing revised proposals for its town-centre campus. The scheme involves a proposed investment of some £8.0 million and is a planned first phase of a multi-phased campus renewal strategy.

The College continues to consult with RMBC mainly in respect to Planning and Highways issues. RMBC have been highly supportive of the College proposals.

The College is funding the investment from its own sources but requires formal Learning & Skills Council (LSC) approval for the project. A submission was issued to the LSC in February, for which a decision is awaited shortly.

The College assumes a critical role for the local community and the wider sub-region. The College's educational case is robust and the project will provide real additional benefits to learners.



A first phase of investment will support learning and skills needs and will enable the College to meet key strategic objectives.

The first planned phase of investment will have a catalytic effect for further phases in the medium to long-term. It will provide high quality new accommodation as well as improved retained space.

The new building will be sited in the location currently occupied by Floreat House – the Starting Point building. The College has no plans to vacate other buildings in the town-centre. A new entrance will face Howard Street, the main pedestrian route from the town centre. This entrance level will have a mostly glazed façade, presenting an open appearance to encourage users into the building.



The visitor reception and security services will be accommodated at this lower ground floor level. This will lead directly, through a double height

ROTHERHAM COLLEGE OF ART & TECHNOLOGY PHASE 1- TOWN CENTRE CAMPUS REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

space, to the upper ground floor which will be occupied by student services and enrolment facilities. Back office support, interview and assessment areas will also be located at this level, within a refurbished area of the Clifton Building (previously a joinery workshop).

A secondary entrance onto Morpeth Street (at ground floor) will encourage movement between Clifton and Eastwood Buildings, via a landscaped area that will unify and define the campus as a semi-private space while maintaining the public, pedestrian route between Percy Street and Eastwood Lane.

The two upper floors will accommodate flexible spaces for general teaching and learning and break out / social space. The corridors at these levels will be punctuated by light wells to allow daylight to penetrate the circulation spaces below.

Access will be provided, at ground and first floor, into the Clifton Building via glazed corridors that will open into break out spaces linking to both levels of the existing Curriculum Learning Centre.



The scheme is based on some 2,005 sq m of new build floorspace including an allowance of 30 sq m for a new entrance at Eastwood, and 1,375 sq

m of refurbished floorspace in the Clifton building. A BREEAM Excellent rating is being targeted for the new building.

The College is seeking to provide a higher quality campus, with better linkages between its main buildings. This will be achieved with investment in key external spaces, notably around Morpeth Street and the junction with Eastwood Lane. It is envisaged that the metered parking in Morpeth Street will be relocated and that the road will be retained purely to facilitate the limited servicing access required by the College.

In this respect, the College is in consultation with the Council's Highways Officers. These issues will be dealt with through a Traffic Regulations Order and Section 278 agreement, once a planning application has been approved. It is possible that with RMBC's support the Orders may be progressed in advance of the planning application being submitted, which will in turn assist the College in meeting its planned timetable.

During 2008/09 the College was unsuccessful in terms of LSC Funding for a major campus redevelopment. This was undoubtedly a set-back, however the revised proposals provide a critical foundation for the future.

The opening of the new building and refurbished space has been programmed for September 2011. A planning application is to be submitted shortly.

March 2010



ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	CABINET
2.	Date:	8TH SEPTEMBER, 2010
3.	Title:	MEMBERS' TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL – MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 24TH JUNE, 2010.
4.	Directorate:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S

5. Summary

To consider Members' training matters.

6. Recommendations

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Members' Training and Development Panel held on 24th June, 2010.

7. Proposals and Details

To ensure implementation of the Council's Training and Development Policy in accordance with the meeting's Terms of Reference.

8. Finance

The Panel has its own training budget.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Without proper training and support being in place there is a risk that Members' capacity to make decisions is not soundly based.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

To consider best practice in relation to Member training and development.

The aim is for every Elected Member to be given suitable opportunities for development and training to help support all aspects of their role.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

A copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Members' Training and Development Panel held on 24th June, 2010, are attached.

Contact Name : Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny and Member Services, Chief Executive's Directorate – Tel. 01709 822779 cath.saltis@rotherham.gov.uk

**MEMBERS' TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL
THURSDAY, 24TH JUNE, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Lakin, Littleboy, Sangster, Steele, St. John and Wootton.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Dodson, Gosling, Pickering, Sharman, Smith, Turner and Cockayne.

50. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23RD MARCH, 2010

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd March, 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

With regards to Minute No. 46 (Safeguarding Issues) it was reported that the training with for Corporate Parenting would commence in the Autumn.

The first session in relation to Safeguarding would be on the 2nd July, 2010 in partnership with the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel. Further sessions relating to Safeguarding would be rolled out to the Locality Champions and other Members in due course.

Councillor Lakin, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services informed the Panel that he was to resume the visits to the children's homes along with visits to other establishments shortly and would be inviting all Members as Corporate Parents.

Reference was also made to the role of Champions in general, along with the Locality Champions, and clarification was sought. It was, therefore, proposed that the role of Champions be revisited by the Head of Scrutiny Services and Member Support.

Further information was also requested on the latest position with regards to CRB checks for Members and discussion ensued on:-

- Whether a Member as a School Governor had to have a CRB check if they were not directly involved with children.
- CRB checks being non-transferable and the requirement for individual checks being carried out for different activities.
- Council Minute which referred to CRB checks being undertaken for all Members.
- Clarification of the current status of CRB checks on Members.

Agreed:- That the current situation with regard to CRB checks be clarified.

51. PERSONALISATION AGENDA

Further to Minute No. H109 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care held on 26th April, 2010 reference was made to the proposals for training for members on the Personalisation Agenda.

The Scrutiny Adviser reported that Tom Sweetman had previously provided some information to assist Members at their surgeries.

It was noted that some training had previously been provided on the Personalisation Agenda and it was suggested that further training be arranged as a refresher which should include new Members and where possible relevant information be provided on the intranet and website.

Agreed:- That an "aide memoire" on two sides fo A4 be circulated to Members for them to use at their surgeries.

52. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

The Chairman introduced Charlie Longley, Senior Accountant, who provided information on the latest position with regards to the Member Training Budget.

The budget position for the period 1st April, 2009 to 31st March, 2010 was £25,052 underspent on a budget of £32,473. The reason for the underspend being the £21,000 grant funding from R.E.I.P. When used against the expenditure the net saving on the Member Training Budget was £7,421. This year the budget stood at £30,975.

The Panel noted the current position, but asked if consideration could be given to carrying forward at least £7,000 of the underspend in view of potential cuts to budgets and for the potential of allocating some funds for ICT provision in the Majority Party Room.

Agreed:- That the carry forward request be considered further and appropriate action taken.

53. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Scrutiny Adviser which gave an overview of proposed Member Development activity during the late summer through to December.

These already included a serious of development activities around:-

- 2nd July, 2010 - Safeguarding Children – this will be an initial session for the Cabinet Member, Advisers and Members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel.
- Autumn, 2010 – The Member Role as a Corporate Parent – a series of sessions aimed at all Members.
- Autumn, 2010 – The Councillor Role in Combating Climate Change – from an initial proposal by the Deputy Leader and the Sustainable

Communities Scrutiny Panel.

- Autumn, 2010 – Updating our Knowledge of Licensing – a joint session with Sheffield City Council aimed mainly at Members of the Licensing Committee.
- Autumn, 2010 – Ward Walkabouts for new Members.
- Autumn, 2010 – An Effective Administration/An Effective Opposition.

It was noted that a workshop on the PREVENT agenda had been arranged for the 30th June, 2010 on moving forward the Community Cohesion/Community Leadership Role of Councillors.

Some Members asked for more information about the “Total Place” approach to Public Service management with some thirteen pilot schemes currently taking place which would help inform how this could be taken forward. It would be helpful for Members of the Audit Committee or a wider audience to take this forward in conjunction with Local Strategic Partnership partners.

In addition a series of Member Development events have been organised by the Yorkshire and Humber Region. Information about these had been circulated to all Members via email.

The programme for 2010/11 IDeA Leadership Academy had also been received with expressions of interest for the Graduate School from Councillors Pickering and Lakin and the Summer School from Councillors Falvey and Havenhand and for the Adults, Children’s Health and Wellbeing Programme from Councillor Paul Lakin (in his new Cabinet portfolio). It may be that following the summer school Councillors Falvey and Havenhand may wish to attend the full Leadership Academy programme.

Reference was also made to training packages arranged by the Governors’ Support Section, which were available for those Members that were also School Governors. There were also the opportunity to approach the Governors’ Support Section for specific information/training if there were several cluster schools that required some support.

As a result of information coming from National Government, there may be a need for some workshops related to the budget position in view of the proposals to reduce budgets by 25%. The Comprehensive Spending Review was due for publication in October and may shed more light on the current positions. It was suggested that some consideration given to the resurrection of the Our Future Groups with a view to them assisting with the process.

Agreed:- (1) That the proposed Member Development activities proposed in the report be approved.

(2) That Members forward to the Scrutiny Team any additional proposals they may have for other activities.

(Councillor Lakin declared a personal interest in this item on the basis that he was a recipient of some of the training that was approved.)

54. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT INDUCTION - FEEDBACK

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Scrutiny Adviser which provided information about the induction programme for new Members which was run after the election.

Following the May elections a two week induction course was held for the two new Members. It was difficult to judge how to pitch induction as it was uncertain how many new Members would be elected. Sessions were held at different times for the convenience of the new Members with a variation of early evening proving helpful.

Due to the election of a new Government and the many challenges and changes which local government would now face, it could well be that consideration should be given to a change in format for induction with fewer sessions initially, but with more spread in the early Autumn.

Members noted the sessions that had taken place and acknowledged that early notification to all candidates of the induction process before the election was important.

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

55. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting scheduled take place on Thursday, 22nd July, 2010 at 2.30 p.m.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	CABINET
2.	Date:	8TH SEPTEMBER, 2010
3.	Title:	GROUNDWORK TRUSTS PANEL – MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14TH JULY, 2010
4.	Programme Area:	CORPORATE

5. Summary

Minutes of the quarterly meetings with the Groundwork Trusts Panel are submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

6. Recommendation:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Groundwork Trusts Panel held on 14th July, 2010, be received, and the continued excellent partnership work of both Groundwork Trusts be noted.

7. Proposals and Details

The Panel was established in March 2000 to provide a forum to discuss the on-going partnership between the Council and the two Groundwork Trusts in pursuit of the economic, social and environmental regeneration of the Borough.

The two Groundwork Trusts – Groundwork Dearne Valley and Groundwork Creswell - are able to use the quarterly meetings to raise and discuss issues with Councillors and officers.

The Groundwork Trusts make an important contribution to the regeneration of the Borough and to individual local communities. The Groundwork Trusts Panel provides an important opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences, and co-ordinate actions to maximise impact and efficiency.

8. Finance

A small fund was established to enable community groups to access third party funding in support of WREN bids. The partnership working arrangements with the two Trusts enables the delivery of a wide range of projects and initiatives.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Without the partnership working with the two Trusts many community based and environmental projects would not be able to be delivered.

Risk that funding for projects may be withdrawn and future funding sources may not be found.

Constraints on budgets of both Groundworks Trusts and the Council.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Sustainability is the heart of the work and operations of the two Groundwork Trusts. The Council and Groundwork Dearne Valley jointly fund a Local Action 21 officer for example.

The joint working of the Council and the Groundwork Trusts provides effective environmental protection, addresses social needs and creates employment opportunities for local people.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

A copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Groundwork Trusts Panel held on 14th July, 2010, is attached.

Contacts:- Karl Battersby, Strategic Director, Environment and Development Services, ext 23801

**GROUNDWORKS TRUSTS PANEL
WEDNESDAY, 14TH JULY, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Sharman (in the Chair); Councillors Smith, Swift and Wyatt.

together with:-

Sam Upton	Education Manager, Groundwork Creswell
George Griffith	Chairman, Groundwork Creswell
Ewa Majchrzah	Community Projects Officer, Groundwork Creswell
Janet Johnson	Chief Executive, Groundwork Dearne Valley
Alan Hartley	Chairman, Groundwork Dearne Valley
Rob Saw	Development Manager, Groundwork Dearne Valley
Jamie Ferneyhough	Operations Manager (Rotherham), Groundwork Dearne Valley
Wendy Foster	RMBC Place Shaping Officer

10. INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Sharman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor I. St. John	RMBC
Councillor J. Faley	RMBC
Steve Mellard	RMBC Streetpride Landscape Manager
Darren Pollard	Groundwork Creswell

11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PANEL HELD ON 14TH APRIL, 2010

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th April, 2010, were agreed as a correct record.

12. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Rob Saw, Groundwork Dearne Valley, Development Manager, reported that the use of Apprentices was being pursued in accordance with guidance from HR.

13. QUARTERLY REPORT - GROUNDWORK CRESWELL

Sam Upton, Groundwork Creswell, Education Manager, introduced the quarterly report which covered the period 1st April to 30th June, 2010.

The following items were highlighted:-

(i) Main progress/achievements:-

- Continued environmental improvements across the Borough to help improve access for all. Sites included:- Play area at Woodhall Lane, Harthill; Play area at Skipton Road, Swallownest; small planting scheme at Davis Court, Dinnington
- Cresta Ltd continued to install Child safety measures in conjunction with the PBT

(ii) Number of projects active/worked on = 5

(iii) One World Schools – Youth Re-engagement Programme:- including:-

- work at Anston Stones
- Ex-offenders “V” programme – volunteering programme
- InTraining as a sub-contractor on Community Task Force:- work at Anston Stones and Brook Walk, and now on sites in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire
- Employability sessions for Rotherham clients
- Work sites for CTF:- Martin Lane at Ravenfield Dam; Keppels Field and Wickersley Gorse
- Community Learning:- noting appointment of Ewa Majchrzak, Community Projects Officer

It was agreed:- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.

(2) That Groundwork Creswell be thanked for their informative report and continued involvement in projects.

14. QUARTERLY REPORT - GROUNDWORK DEARNE VALLEY

Janet Johnson, Executive Director, Groundwork Dearne Valley, introduced the quarterly report covering the period 1st April to 30th June, 2010.

Officers from Groundwork Dearne Valley highlighted the following:-

(i) Main progress/achievements:-

- Rawmarsh and Parkgate
- Maltby
- Chesterhill
- Play pathfinder
- Local Action 21
- Turning the Corner
- Year 2 Sports development at the BMX tract at Brampton
- Alternative Curriculum Activity
- Rotherham NEETs

- Future Jobs Fund
- Bikes 4 All Programme
- Groundwork Environmental Services (Dearne Valley) Ltd
- Dearne Valley Eco-vision

(ii) Number of projects completed/worked on = 13

(iii) Individual project summaries re:-

Rawmarsh and Parkgate Village Regeneration:-

- Rosehill Victoria Park
- St. Nicholas Walk
- Sandhill
- Rosehill MUGA Sports Development
- Fitzwilliam Canal/Gwyn Reed Nature Site

Maltby village Regeneration:-

- Natural Play provision on the west-side of Maltby Rotherham Road open space
- Entrance feature Tickhill Road
- Maltby Craggs/Woodlee Common
- Maltby Craggs footpath project
- China Town environmental improvements
- Manor Fields Gym equipment
- Maltby Craggs Infant School Wildlife Garden
- Parks development

Chesterhill:-

- Magna Lane Green Corridor
- Arundel Avenue community clean up
- Townend Avenue meadow scheme
- Thrybergh Youth Club - community arts project

Play Pathfinder:-

- Year 2 projects:- Adventure Playground; Gildingwells Road Play area; development of a volunteering programme for local residents and children to take on ownership and maintenance; further consultation re: play area at Dun Street, Swinton

Local Action 21:-

- Development of a food focused project using "Incredible, Edible Todmorden" as inspiration
- Food focused environment forum at Herringthorpe Valley Park
- Continued work on Green Check
- Continued support for the ESD Dearne Valley Eco-vision
- Continued charring of ESD Delivery partnership and attending the Sustainable Schools Strategic Group
- Sustainability awareness raising with country park rangers
- Attended South Yorkshire Climate Change workshop

Turning the corner programme:-

- Stereotypes Look Again and Thrybergh Public Art
- Wingfield: Path Project, Wingfield Enterprise . summer activities; community garden
- Alpine shops, Rockingham
- St. John's Green, Kimberworth Park
- Fellowsfield Way, Kimberworth
- East Herringthorpe:- Chaucer Road and Ridgeway Shops (art on shop shutters); Music Festival and Ampitheatre
- Rawmarsh Skate Park

Miscellaneous Regeneration Projects:-

- Brampton BMX track sports development

Alternative Curriculum Programme:-

- At Oakwood, Milton School and Wath Comprehensive

NEETS Co-ordinated Response Fund:- 2nd cohort working towards horticulture qualification

Future Jobs Fund:- appointment of 12 more employees under this initiative; current projects include development of wildlife area for Brampton Parish Council; maintenance work on public recreation areas in Maltby; construction and maintenance work at Thrybergh Country Park; completion of 2nd phase of footpath at Hellaby; commissioned for other work by Wentworth Valley Area Assembly

Bikes4All:-

- Bikeability – 8 school have taken part

Dearne Valley Eco-Vision:-

- work continued with Sheffield City Region Eco Vision Team
- Green Doctors have been delivering free home energy advice to households across the Rotherham Dearne Valley area

- (iv) New Project proposals from the Trust:- noting the funding from Cadbury for a Spots v Stipes Programme throughout South Yorkshire

It was agreed:- (1) That the report be received and contents noted.

(2) That officers from Groundwork Dearne Valley be thanked for their informative report and continued involvement in projects.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following issues was raised:-

- (i) Budget Implications

It was agreed:- That reports be made to the next meeting include reference to relevant policies of the new Coalition Government, any funding changes and in particular any effects on employment opportunities.

16. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PANEL

It was agreed:- That the next meeting of the Panel be held on Wednesday, 13th October, 2010 at 2.30 p.m. (venue to be confirmed).

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	CABINET
2.	Date:	8TH SEPTEMBER, 2010
3.	Title:	MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (LDF) MEMBERS' STEERING GROUP HELD ON 16TH JULY, 2010
4.	Programme Area:	ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

5. Summary

In accordance with Minute No. B29 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11th August, 2004, minutes of the Local Development Framework Members' Steering Group are to be submitted to the Cabinet.

A copy of the minutes of the LDF Members' Steering Group held on 16th July, 2010 is therefore attached.

6. Recommendations:-

(1) That progress to date and the emerging issues be noted, and the minutes be received.

7. Proposals and Details

The Council is required to review the Unitary Development Plan and to produce a Local Development Framework (LDF) under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

8. Finance

The resource and funding implications as the LDF work progresses should be noted.

Changes to funding will occur following consultation on the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant. It should be noted that the new regime would focus on plan making and delivery of new housing rather than development control performance.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Failure to comply with the Regulations.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

There are local, sub-region and regional implications. The Local Development Scheme will form the spatial dimension of the Council's Community Strategy.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Minutes of, and reports to, the Local Development Framework Members' Steering Group.

Attachments:-

- A copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July, 2010.

**Contact Name : Karl Battersby, Strategic Director,
Environment and Development Services
Ext 3801
karl.battersby@rotherham.gov.uk**

**ROTHERHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK STEERING GROUP -
16/07/10**

**ROTHERHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK STEERING GROUP
Friday, 16th July, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Dodson, Jack, Pickering, Walker and Whysall.

together with:-

Andy Duncan	Strategic Policy Team Leader
David Edwards	Area Environmental Planning Team Leader
Ken MacDonald	Solicitor
Rachel Overfield	Countryside Planning Assistant
Bronwen Peace	Planning Manager
Neil Rainsworth	Research and Spatial Analysis Officer
Nick Ward	Forward Planner, Housing
Paul Woodcock	Director of Planning and Regeneration

11. INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed those present and introductions were made.

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor St. John, Member for Cultural Services and Sport Gordon Smith	Cabinet Member of the Steering Group Quality and Design Co-ordinator
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12. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18TH JUNE, 2010

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th June, 2010.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a correct record.

13. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

14. TOWN CENTRE RETAIL AND LEISURE STUDY

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Paul Woodcock, Director of Planning and Regeneration, summarising the key findings of the Rotherham Town Centre Retail and Leisure Study.

The report highlighted future floorspace requirements, the recommended vision and objectives, and the consultants' views on the town centre

options presented in the May 2009 Core Strategy Revised options consultation.

The report also identified how the Study would be taken forward, including further work likely to be required to refine the strategy and identify appropriate means of delivery.

The Study had been carried out in accordance with a robust methodology and, whilst Government guidance had changed, it was considered that the Study satisfied the requirements in new PPS4. It had been conducted independently with the recommended visions and actions being based on significant research.

Discussion ensued on the report and the options put forward by the consultants with the following issues highlighted:-

- Boundaries/spread of the town centre
- Arguments for and against a hypermarket
- Independent traders
- Town Centre Policy
- Recreational facilities

Resolved:- (1) That the Steering Group notes the content of this report and the Town Centre Retail and Leisure Study.

(2) That the Study be endorsed as part of the evidence base which would inform preparation of the Local Development Framework.

(3) That Steering Group notes that the Study would also inform the Retail Investment work undertaken within Rotherham Investment and Development Office (RiDO).

15. HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Neil Rainsforth, Research & Spatial Development Officer, informing the Steering Group of the recent announcement by the Government that Regional Spatial Strategies had been revoked, along with 'top down' housing targets.

The report summarised some of the options available in determining a realistic local housing target to the end of the Local Development Framework period in 2027.

Reference was made to various sources of evidence available and the report highlighted what the impact on Rotherham's resulting housing target would be from using these different sources and methodologies.

The report summarised the following options that could act as a guide / source of evidence when setting a local housing target:-

Evidence / Methodology	Resulting Housing Requirement (per annum)
Current RSS targets*	1,160 (up to 1,350 in later years)
CLG Household Projections (current 2006-based projections)	1,100
Estimated 2008-based CLG Household Projections (actual data not yet released)	950
SHMA (2007) Housing need	792
SHMA (draft update) Housing need**	1,100
Past completion rates	708

**Excludes growth point status uplift*

***This is subject to change to take into account revised population and household projections which could see this figure fall below 1,000.*

It was pointed out that it was clear that the revoked RSS target was unlikely to be achievable (and may not be desirable) and could be discounted in setting a local target, given that this level of housing completions was not reached even in the highest year of completions.

Other evidence and methodologies suggest a target in the range of around 700 to 1,100 per annum to the end of the plan period. It was possible that the current requirement to provide a five year supply of deliverable housing sites will be retained and this could form a basis for setting a local housing target.

Consideration was given to the range of options (or combination of options) available to Rotherham in setting a local housing target for inclusion within the Local Development Framework. The following issues were raised:-

- Sheffield City Region
- Duty to co-operate
- Shared housing market/travel to work area
- Green Belt
- Need for Interim Planning Policy
- Consideration required for an interim figure pending the long process

Resolved:- (1) That the Steering Group notes the content of this report and the various sources of evidence on estimating the local future housing need that are available.

(2) That a report be submitted to Cabinet on the next possible steps for the LDF and seek agreement on an interim local housing target.

16. LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Rachel Overfield, Countryside Planning Assistant, seeking approval of an update of the list of Local Wildlife Sites and Regionally Important Geological Sites in Rotherham.

It was explained that this information would form part of the environmental evidence base for the Local Development Framework and be used in the determination of relevant planning applications.

The report highlighted:-

- Local Wildlife Sites
- Regionally Important Geological sites
- Local Site System

Resolved:- (1) That the proposed new Rotherham Local Wildlife Sites and Regionally Important Geological Sites be noted.

(2) That the report be referred to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Transportation, and copied to Cabinet Member for Cultural Services and Sport and Planning Board for information, with the recommendation that the new Local Wildlife Sites and Regionally Important Geological Sites be adopted in preparation of the Local Development Framework and in determination of relevant planning applications.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other items of business raised at the meeting.

18. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of this Steering Group be held on Friday, 17th September, 2010 at 10.00 a.m., venue to be confirmed.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	8th September 2010
3.	Title:	The Council's Response to the DCLG Consultation Paper on Local Referendums to Veto Excessive Council Tax Increases
4.	Directorate:	Chief Executive's

5. Summary

A Consultation paper on Local Referendums to veto excessive Council Tax increases was issued on 30th July by the DCLG. The paper seeks views on the practicalities of implementing local referendums on Council Tax increases at all levels of authority including parishes. Authorities' views on 11 questions are requested by email by 10th September 2010. The Council's proposed response is attached as **Appendix A**.

6. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- That the proposed response to the Consultation Paper be approved as attached at **Appendix A**.

7. Proposals and Details

In line with the policies announced in the Coalition Programme for Government published in May 2010, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) issued a Consultation Paper on local referendums on Council Tax increases on 30th July for responses by 10th September 2010. Responses are requested by email. The document is a technical consultation seeking views on the practicalities of implementing Council Tax Referendums. In the introduction the Coalition Government expresses its commitment to abolishing capping “and giving local people a stronger role in determining annual increases...” in Council Tax. It is intended to introduce legislation to achieve this at the earliest opportunity.

The Current System

The Council Tax, a tax on the capital value of domestic properties was introduced by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and is the main source of locally raised income for local authorities. For Council Tax purposes, authorities fall into 2 categories:

- Billing authorities (like Rotherham) which issue bills and enforce collection; and
- Major precepting authorities (e.g. the Police and Fire authorities) and local precepting authorities such as; town and parish councils, which issue precepts to billing authorities for the collection of Council Tax on their behalf.

Existing Powers

Capping powers have been used by successive governments to limit increases in taxes where “these have been judged to be excessive”. The current powers were inserted into the 1992 Act by the Local Government Act 1999 and have been used against 36 authorities. In order to take capping action the Secretary of State (SoS) must:

- a. Determine whether “the amount calculated by an authority as its budget requirement is excessive”. This is done in accordance with a set of principles. One of these principles will apply to the budget requirement and in practice there has always been at least one other principle based on Council Tax increases.
- b. If an authority sets a budget requirement considered to be excessive the Secretary of State may either - designate the authority for the year in question requiring the authority to re-bill or nominate the authority. This latter process allows the authority to be designated in advance for the subsequent financial year or set a notional budget for the year in question which will be used as the basis for measuring rises in following years and deciding whether they are excessive.

Problems with the Present system:

1. Under the current regime central government policy has been to set capping principles after authorities have determined their budgets - meaning that they cannot be certain whether or not they would be capped.
2. Parish Precepts have been increasing more rapidly than those of English Councils in the last 5 years and these have not been covered by the current capping regime.

Government Proposals

The Government intends to “introduce legislation at the earliest opportunity” to require both billing and precepting authorities setting an excessive Council Tax increase to hold a referendum. The rules will apply to billing, local precepting and major precepting authorities (and to directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners). The key elements of the proposed scheme are quoted as:

- The Secretary of State (SoS) will have the power each year to determine a principle based on “a comparison of an authority’s level of Council Tax with the level in the previous year”. It will be possible to determine different sets of principles for different categories of authority and to set additional principles. Using the previous year’s Council Tax level means that care will have to be taken in respect of Collection Fund Balances - a large change in the sums used could trigger capping.
- The capping rules (principles) will be published for the House of Commons to approve. If the rules are approved, any authority planning an excessive tax rise will be required to prepare a shadow budget based on the maximum increase allowed by the principles. It will also be necessary to “inform the SoS by notice” (the format of the notice and the time frame allowed is not given). In effect authorities will need to develop 2 budgets - the second one reflecting the capping and given the timescales discussed below it may be necessary to identify additional savings to allow for the delay in implementing a revised budget.
- Any billing or precepting authority (including local precepting authorities) which exceeds the principles will be required to hold a referendum of all registered local electors. Local authorities will be free to hold referendums at any point once the rules have been approved by the Commons but they “...must take place no later than the first Thursday in May, to ensure that the process is not subject to delay” and to give authorities some certainty over the new year’s budgets.
This timetable would still mean that authorities could be 5 or 6 weeks into the year before they have confirmation of their budget.
- Authorities proposing “excessive increases” will be required to prepare “supporting factual material setting out the proposed Council Tax and Budget

and the comparative non-excessive council tax and shadow budget and the estimated cost of holding the referendum” to be sent out at the same time as bills to Council Taxpayers. The information will be sent with polling cards to every registered local elector. The relevant authority “would be prohibited from campaigning on the issue but local councillors will “of course be free to make the case for an excessive increase”.

- If the proposed tax rise is rejected the authority would adopt the shadow budget and reduce transfers from the Collection Fund. The authority would also be required to inform the SoS by notice. The billing authority would be able to issue new bills, offer credits at the end of the year or allow credits against liability in the following year, “however billing authorities will be required to refund and rebill any local resident who requests this”.
- It is indicated that there would only be one referendum in each area but a separate vote for each element of the overall tax bill.

Timetable

The proposed timetable that would lead to a referendum is set out below:-

- **November/December** - As a matter of policy it is proposed that the principles will be published at around the same time as the Provisional Local Government Finance Report in late November or early December so both can be debated in Parliament at the same time.
- **December to March** - Budgets will be drawn up in the same time frame as at present.
- **January/February**- Consultation on the Provisional Local Government settlement will end in January and the allocations will be announced in February.
- **14th February** - Deadline for levying bodies to set their levy. Major precepting bodies set their budgets (and if necessary shadow budgets) by 1st March. Billing authorities set their budgets by 11th March and send out tax bills and if necessary details of the referendum.
- **May** - Referendum held by first Thursday. Billing authority releases results of referendum - sends our details of new budget and refunds (if necessary) and charges relevant authorities for the cost of the referendum. Authority concerned moves to shadow budget.
- **Year end** - Refunds paid to residents where necessary.

Double Lock

A de minimis rule would apply excluding authorities where either a. the increase in basic amount of Council Tax is below a defined amount **or** the total income generated is below a fixed level. This will protect authorities where there is a high

increase which will not generate large sums of income. The SoS may also be given discretion to apply different sets of principles to different categories of authorities. The examples quoted relate to the impact of formula grant or service types but it could, as at present, also apply to authorities which have previously had to reduce their budgets.

Operation of Referendums

It is intended that the referendum franchise will be extended to all local electors - not just those paying Council Tax as all will benefit from local services (although it excludes tax payers who do not have the right to vote in local elections). The referendum will be modelled on the provisions for mayoral referendums which would:

- Place restrictions on the steps taken and the expenditure incurred;
- Specifies a time period for the referendum;
- Sets out the structure of the questions; and
- There would be no minimum requirement for turnout and the issue will be decided on a simple majority.

Abolition of Capping

The referendums will provide a direct link between local residents and local authorities spending decisions. It is intended to repeal the relevant section of the 1992 Act but until the provisions for referendums are in place the Government “reserves the option to use existing capping powers”. The 1992 Act also required authorities to calculate a budget requirement - the Government is consulting on whether there is a need to retain this requirement or if it should be repealed with capping.

Questions for Consultation

The paper sets out 11 questions on the mechanics of the process these are mostly focused on the practicalities holding referendums etc. Mags Evers, Chief Elections and Electoral Registration Officer attended a recent meeting of the Electoral Services Managers of several West & South Yorkshire Authorities which produced a draft group response, the emphasis of which was to ensure that elections and referendums are run as democratically as possible, that the interests of electors are put above all else when legislation is prepared and to consider the practical implications of the process in running a local referendum. The Electoral Services Managers’ response and comments from Financial Services have been incorporated in the Council’s proposed response at **Appendix A**.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report, however should the proposals in the Consultation Paper be implemented they would have implications for the Council’s budget setting process and also the uncertainty around a referendum on a precepting or Parish authority’s Tax could result in delays to payments to the Council with consequent cash flow and collection losses.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Although electoral managers have identified several practical issues and concerns in respect of implementing referendums, it is nevertheless likely that the proposals will be implemented in some form. The Consultation Paper itself states that the proposals are part of the rebalancing of the role of the central state and local communities, wherever possible empowering local communities and legislation to achieve this will be introduced at the “earliest opportunity”.

The Parliamentary processes involved mean that the proposals will probably take effect for the financial year starting April 2012, with the current capping regime being maintained in the meantime. It is not clear how these proposals would interact with the Coalition Government’s proposal to implement a freeze on Council Tax from April 2011.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposals are intended to give local people a stronger role in determining annual increases in tax. If implemented the removal of the current capping arrangements, which is to be welcome, and the introduction of Local Referendums would require the approach to setting the Council’s annual Revenue Budget to be reviewed and revised. As they stand, the proposals have the potential to require the Council to hold referendums in respect of increases in the Council Taxes charged precepting authorities (like the Police and Fire and Rescue Authorities) and Parishes over which it has no control. These referendums could result in increased uncertainty around the Council’s own budget and expose it to the risk of delays in Council Tax collection.

It is not clear how delivering policy priorities will factor in to the setting of the principles that would set the level to trigger a referendum, or if it would be a crude percentage financial measure.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

There is no indication in the consultation paper that the Secretary of State will consult outside parliament, including the Local Government Association, when seeking to set the principles that would lead to triggering a referendum.

Background papers

- Local Referendums to Veto Excessive Council Tax Increases - A Consultation Paper - issued by DCLG 30 July 2010.
- Collective Response by Electoral Services Managers from Barnsley MBC, City of Bradford Council, Calderdale MBC, Doncaster MBC, Kirklees MBC, Leeds City Council, Rotherham MBC, Sheffield City Council and City of Wakefield Council August 2010.

Contact Names:

Anne Ellis, Special Projects and Technical Accountant, extension 82201

Mags Evers, Chief Elections and Electoral Registration Officer, extension 3521

Steve Eling, Principal Policy Officer, extension 54419

APPENDIX A

PROPOSED RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON LOCAL REFERENDUMS TO VETO EXCESSIVE COUNCIL TAX INCREASES

1. *Do you agree that local precepting authorities, such as town and parish councils, should be included with the provisions for council tax referendums? If so,*

- *Are there details about the budget setting process for local precepting authorities which need to be taken into account?*
- *Will the “double lock mechanism work to protect the majority of town and parish councils?*

As the creation of the “double lock” mechanism indicates many parish and town councils set relatively small precepts and it would seem to be excessive to include them within the provisions for council tax referendums.

2. *Are the Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulations 2007 the right model for organising and administering council tax referendums?*

This would be the correct model if the referendums are to be the responsibility of the (Local) Returning Officer but we are aware there are other models which could be considered e.g. that used in relation to Business Improvement District Ballots. However, if council tax referendums are to be held on the same day as local elections on the first Thursday in May, then legislation that mirrors that used for those elections would be the best option i.e. the above mentioned Regulations, and in order to ensure a consistency of approach there should be an overall oversight from the (Local) Returning Officer.

One concern with the proposals is that some Parish and Town Councils have difficulty in meeting the current deadlines for notifying the Council of their budgets resulting in figures arriving late or having to be estimated. This problem would be compounded if their precepts were subject to restriction.

3 *Are there any practical difficulties in requiring council tax referendums to take place no later than the first Thursday in May?*

The main difficulty surrounding this deadline is the uncertainty in relation to combination of elections. Combination presents a number of complications and electoral administrators need to know well in advance of an election if they are to be combined. Given that local authority budgets are not set until late February/early March and that Notice of Election is given 25 working days before polling (usually around 28 March) this makes effective project planning nearly impossible. Evidence of this can be found in a number of post election reports and feedback following the uncertainty surrounding the recent combination of the Parliamentary Election with local elections earlier this year. There are specific issues particularly surrounding printing of poll cards,

preparation of postal voting packs etc. which have an enormous impact on election printing suppliers as well as electoral administrators.

We would particularly draw attention to the conclusions made by Ron Gould in his report into the Scottish elections in 2007 which addressed a number of issues in relation to combination: 'We obviously recommend that all those with a role in organising future elections consider the voters' interests above all other considerations'¹

- 4 *What are the advantages and disadvantages of holding a council tax referendum on the same day as another local referendum, or jointly with a local and/or general election? Current regulations allow for higher expenses per elector in a referendum than in a local election – would this raise any concerns if both votes are held on the same day?*

It can be argued that holding a number of elections on the same day is better for the electorate in that they need only turn out once to a polling station and that turnout for any referendum would be increased if it is held with other polls. However, electoral administrators are well aware how much more confusing combined polls are, even when those polls are similar e.g. in our area last May when voters were voting for one candidate on the parliamentary paper and one candidate on the local government paper it was very apparent in polling stations that many electors arrived thinking they were just voting in the parliamentary election. This resulted in staff having to explain the two ballot papers, all very time consuming.

In 2012, when we presume the first council tax referendums may be held, as well as Local Elections in metropolitan areas there could well be the first Police Commissioner elections and elections of Directly Elected Mayors in 12 cities (this includes Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield and Wakefield in our area). Add to this a council tax referendum and we feel that there would be wholesale confusion in the polling stations and in people's homes when those who had applied would receive up to four different postal ballot papers. In addition to this, these proposals support a number of questions on one ballot paper on the council tax budgets of possibly more than one local precepting authority, which would add further to the difficulties for electors. We are also concerned that we would need to plan for a number of different methods of counting all presumably to be held within 24 hours of the poll. A council tax ballot paper which gives a number of questions, all to be answered 'yes' or 'no' but not all necessarily covering the same electorate e.g. a question on the Police Authority and one on an individual Parish, means a highly complicated count process in addition to counts already being held for other elections. It is important to note that all ballot papers at combined elections must be verified (a very long process) before any individual count can commence. Any further increase in the number of combined elections adds to the already significant risks surrounding the count process and increases the possibility of challenge in the courts.

¹ http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/23_10_07_votereport.pdf

Past experience also shows that any additional ballot takes away from the importance of the other elections held that day; but more importantly it is a recipe for elector confusion.

It is perhaps obvious but important to note that any such referendums would have to be run on a local authority basis (rather than parliamentary constituency basis for example).

We presume the part of this question about expenses relates to those allowed to candidates or campaigning groups and feel this is not a question to which we should respond.

5 *What provision, if any, should be made for properties where the council tax payer is not a local elector?*

Any referendum which allows, for example, in two similar banded properties where the same Council Tax is paid, only one vote in a property with a sole occupant and possibly seven or eight votes in a similar house in multiple occupation cannot be fair. It is the basic principle of 'one person, one vote' but with equal weighting which is fundamental to our democracy in the UK and these proposals do not consider that right.

There are a significant number of other issues of similar nature e.g. foreign nationals who do not appear on the register of electors but pay council tax; students who would have a vote but do not pay council tax; etc.

We would also be concerned, as mentioned in the question, with regard to absentee landlords who do not live in the area and people who have holiday homes in an area and pay council tax but are registered to vote elsewhere (there will be other categories). The register of electors is the fundamental base to the practical running of an election and this would apply under the Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulations 2007.

The Electoral Registration Officer has no access to any other information and no means of collecting it under current legislation.

This would necessitate a major change to electoral registration law to collect information regarding every person over 18, regardless of nationality and not necessarily living in the area, and there would be a number of complex difficulties in maintaining such an extended electoral register.

6 *Does the timetable at Annex A provide sufficient stability and certainty for local authorities in planning their budgets? Does it provide sufficient time to organise and administer referendums?*

Part One - in terms of the budget setting timetable the proposals are broadly similar to the current arrangements and should not therefore cause additional difficulties for authorities.

Part two - this is the primary concern of electoral administrators in relation to these proposals. The coalition government has a number of plans to increase the number of elections: a referendum on the AV system; proposals for an elected chamber in the House of Lords; elections to Police Management Boards. All of these are likely to take place on the first Thursday in May at

varying times over the next few years and be held at the same time as local elections of varying descriptions.

We do not feel that it is possible to plan effectively for elections if we do not know until March which elections will be combined. Once again the Gould report² was clear on this matter '.....To avoid these problems, we would recommend a practice found in the electoral laws in other countries. These laws provide that electoral legislation cannot be applied to any election held within six months of the (new) provision coming into force.'

The reasons supporting our view are varied and many but include our ability to provide poll cards to inform electors correctly about elections taking place in good time to enable them to apply for postal votes; the preparation of postal voting packs – most authorities now have upwards of 15% of people who vote by post; (Rotherham has 25%) the ability of suppliers to make adequate plans for production of poll cards, postal vote packs and ballot papers; effective planning and preparation for counts including booking appropriately sized venues in advance of elections.

We feel that it is not realistic to propose questions regarding the council tax proposals of different precepting authorities on one ballot paper particularly because of the difficulty in counting ballot papers bearing more than one question. The ballot papers would have to effectively be processed twice. There will be a desire by government and local authorities to minimise cost by combining such things as poll cards and postal vote packs but this can only lead to voter confusion given the different voting systems to be used. The consultation document also proposes that supporting information explaining the referendum should be sent with poll cards but we are concerned that there would be insufficient time to prepare this information to go out with the cards prior to the election.

There are also considerable training implications for staff who work in polling stations, often only once a year, in what will be an extremely complex process to administer if there are anything up to four elections/referendums on one day.

7 *Is it right to give local authorities the discretion to issue new bills, offer refunds or allow credits against liability the following year?*

The DCLG is not clear on the costs of rebilling - who will meet them? For Rotherham the cost of rebilling Council Tax would be £75,000. Is it assumed that by having a shadow budget the spending plans and Council Tax will be set out for tax payers and there will be no need to issue new bills as taxpayers will already have the information? The uncertainty surrounding Council Budgets in the event of a referendum is likely to result in delays in payment and increased levels of arrears, which will not only result in cash flow losses but also require additional work to collect.

² http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/23_10_07_votereport.pdf

- 8** *How should billing authorities treat bank interest earned on excessive increases that have been rejected in a referendum?*

The sumes here are likely to be minimal. Perhaps a more important question is to ask what compensation will be offered to a billing authority where payment is delayed and arrears rates rise because a precepting authority is holding a referendum which impacts on all payments?

- 9** *What practical difficulties, if any would there be for a billing authority seeking to recoup the cost of a referendum held on behalf of one or more precepting authorities?*

We feel it would be important to set out in law which costs could be recouped from the precepting authorities so that there is a consistent approach throughout the country. However, the complications surrounding sharing costs at a number of elections held on the same day should not be underestimated.

If these referendums are held under current electoral law it will be important that the costs are recouped by the (Local) Returning Officer.

- 10** *Are there any technical difficulties with the removal of alternative notional amount reports?*

None have been identified.

- 11** *With the abolition of capping is there any reason why authorities should be required to calculate a budget requirement each year?*

The BR1 return was required for capping. However, the 1992 Act set out how Council Tax was to be calculated and this uses the Budget Requirement. It is therefore unclear what benefit there would be in not requiring the calculation for capping purposes.

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