

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

Date: Friday, 18 February 2011

Time: 9.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for Absence.
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Questions from the press and public
6. Matters Referred from the Youth Cabinet
7. Communications
To consider the date of the April meeting (altered because of Easter holidays)
– the suggestion is Tuesday morning 26 April 2011 at 9.30 am

FOR MONITORING

8. Children and Young People's Services - Notice to Improve - Progress and Exceptions (report attached) (Pages 1 - 17)
9. Scrutiny Review - School Closure due to Extreme Weather (report attached) (Pages 18 - 26)
10. Key Stage 2 Assessment Results - Summer 2010 (report attached) (Pages 27 - 34)

11. Key Stage 4 (GCSE) Examination Results 2010 (report attached) (Pages 35 - 42)

MINUTES

12. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 21st January, 2011 (copy attached) (Pages 43 - 48)
13. Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Young People's Trust Board held on 19th January, 2011 (copy attached) (Pages 49 - 54)
14. Minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children held on 19th January 2011 and on 9th February 2011 (copies attached) (Pages 55 - 61)
15. Minutes of meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 14th and 28th January, 2011 (copies attached) (Pages 62 - 71)

***Please note that copies of the above minutes are not attached to the printed document pack. The complete document pack can be viewed on the Council's Website by following the link below:-**

The Council's Website is:- www.rotherham.gov.uk

From the Website:-

- Click on Find information
- Click on Council and Democracy
- Click on Local Democracy link
- Click on Agendas, reports and minutes
- At the page - Browse Committees – choose the relevant Year (i.e. 2011) and select the Committee (eg: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel) from the listed pages – select date of meeting

The agenda, reports and minutes pack should then be available to view.

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Friday, 18 March 2011**

Membership:-

Chairman – Councillor G. A. Russell

Vice-Chairman – Councillor License

Councillors:- Ali, Buckley, Dodson, Donaldson, Falvey, Fenoughty, Kaye, Rushforth, Sharp and Sims

Co-optees:-

Mrs. J. Blanch-Nicholson, Mr. M. Burn, Ms. T. Guest, Father A. Hayne, Mr. T. Marvin,
Mrs. K. Muscroft, Mrs. L. Pitchley, Dr. S. Warren and Parish Councillor N. Tranmer

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 18th February, 2011
3.	Title:	Children and Young People’s Services Notice to Improve - Progress and Exception Report
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary

This report provides an overview of the progress made since the update to Improvement Panel Meeting on 10th December 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.

3 additional actions have been added following the removal of the Notice to Improve and the receipt of the Annual CSA letter in December. There are now 31 individual actions covering the key performance measures (including the 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 and the Children’s Services Assessment recommendations and two actions following the DfE Meeting in December.

6. Recommendations

- (i) That Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Panel notes the progress being made against the targets set in the Notice to Improve.**

7. Proposals and Details

This report provides an overview of the progress made and reported to the Improvement Panel Meeting on 9th February 2011.

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.

3 additional actions have been added following the removal of the Notice to Improve and the receipt of the Annual CSA letter in December. There are now 31 individual actions covering the key performance measures (including the 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 and the Children's Services Assessment recommendations and two actions following the DfE Meeting in December.

Based on a RAG rating the following is the current position as at 27th January 2011.

Red: None

Amber : 24 – 77%

Green: 7 – 23% (of which 1 is complete)

Social Care Indicators

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

	Baseline Performance (Nov 09)	Current Performance	Targets	Statistical Neighbour (March 10)	National (March 10)
NI 68 (Referrals to initial)	59.8%	84.44% 09/10 outturn 73.4%	Oct 10 – 68% Mar 11- 70%	67.5%	64.3%
NI 59 (initial assessment)	73%	81.88% 09/10 outturn 75.2%	Oct 10 – 85% Mar 11- 87%	69.2%	67.1%
NI 60 (core assessment)	68%	82.83% 09/10 outturn 80%	Oct 10 – 84% Mar 11- 87%	77.6%	73.4%

Areas of Concern

The NI59 indicator (initial assessments in 7 days).

Since the 1st April 81.88% of initial assessments have been completed in timescale, this has reduced gradually over the past few months and is now below the milestone target for October 2010 which was 85%

If the 10 day measure is used, as at the 27th January 86.2% of initials were carried out in 10 days

NI60 – Core Assessments in time has also now fallen back below the October 2010 target of 84%, at 82.83% it is thought that the weather conditions in December and the Christmas Break could have had an impact on this. The numbers of assessments not done in time was 13 to meet the 84% target.

Use of Agency staff

There still continues to be a number of agency social workers (11) and team managers (3) in post. However, following the changes to the structure the recruitment process continues and recent appointments have been made to ensure that a minimal number of agency staff are used and permanent staff are in post wherever possible.

The IRO service continues to rely on agency staff, but permanent recruitment is also under way.

All current agency staff assignments are being checked to confirm when they will cease.

Areas of improvement

The use of the Common Assessment Process continues to improve, 611 CAFs were opened between Jan and Dec 2010. 487 CAFs have been registered between April 2010 and 24/1/11, an average of 51 CAFs per month.

Clifton Learning Community area is currently completing the most CAFs (110 in 2010) with voluntary and community sector partners including Rush House and Women's Refuge undertaking half of the CAFs in this community. Increasing numbers of CAFs are for young people 16-18 years – this age range now accounts for 10% of all CAFs completed. There has been a reduction from 12.7% to 8% of referrals NFA'd by localities during 9 months in 2010 compared with the same period in 2009.

As part of the Y&H REIP project a significant reduction in conversation rates has been felt in other LAs, this will be evident over the next few months.

Children's Services Assessment

The rating in the Annual Children's Services Assessment letter is "adequate" with 4 areas for further development which are incorporated into the Action Plan:

- Improve secondary schools so that more are good or better
- Improve the outcomes for children at the end of primary school
- Increase the number of good childminders
- Maintain the momentum of improvement in social care services for children and young people, including the quality of children's homes.

Notice to Improve

A letter from Tim Loughton was received on the 14th January 2011 confirming that the Notice to Improve has been lifted, however the Improvement Panel will continue to operate on a quarterly basis.

A key feature of the letter was the DfE's interest in Rotherham participating in a peer review. This will be planned for as a matter of urgency.

8. Finance

The DfE has contributed £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 was 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 out of authority. 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, the Comprehensive Spending Review and early indications of cuts from the Early Intervention Grant.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

An adoption inspection took place between the 26th and 28th January, results from this feed into the OFSTED profile, however positive feedback was received from the inspectors.

There is also a possibility of another annual unannounced inspection of the Contact and Referral process, if there are any areas for priority action found this can have an adverse affect of future ratings. Work has taken place to plan for such an inspection with a self-assessment being completed and a mock inspection has taken place to establish risks and concerns.

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 annual Fostering Inspection was concluded in June 2010 and found to be adequate. The Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspection took place between the 19th and 30th July, the outcome of this was adequate.

Action plans are in place to monitor the implementation of both sets of recommendations, most of which are now completed.

Failure to address these issues would impact further on the CYPS and the council and could still 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
Fostering Inspection June 2010
Safeguarding and LAC inspection July 2010
CYP Directorate Performance reports
Notice to Improve Action Plan

Contact Name: Sue Wilson, Performance, Information & Quality Manager,
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RMBC Notice to Improve Action Plan

Performance Measures

Date of Update 27th January 2011

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%	84.44%	65% March 2010 68% October 2010 70% March 2011	Howard Woolfenden	↑ Green	From 1st April 2010 to 27 th January 2011 the figure is 84.44% which continues to increase and exceed the March 2011 target. Data checks continue to be undertaken to check accuracy in recording and are part of the QA process and in line with the Data Quality Strategy SN – 67.5% Nat – 64.3%	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%	81.88%	80% March 2010 85% October 2010 87% March 2011	Howard Woolfenden	↓ Amber	81.88% of initial assessments completed between 1st April 2010 and 27th January 2011 were completed in time, this is lower than the figure reported in December (82.67%). Data checks continue to be undertaken to check accuracy in recording and are part of the QA process and the Data Quality Strategy. 86.2% of initial assessments were carried out in 10 working days or less SN – 69.2% Nat – 67.1%	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%	82.83%	80% March 2010 84% October 2010 87% March 2011	Howard Woolfenden	↓ Amber	Between 1st April 2010 and 27 th January, 2011 82.83% of Core Assessments have been completed in time, this has now fallen below the October 2010 target of 84%. Data checks continue to be undertaken to check accuracy in recording and are part of the QA process and in line with the Data Quality Strategy. The number required to meet the 84% target would be 13 SN – 77.6% Nat – 73.4%	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	March 2011	Howard Woolfenden	→Amber	Quality Assurance continues, the Practice Improvement Managers tackled the issues through coaching and mentoring. A new framework has been introduced which also covers the quality of practice. Work is being undertaken to ensure that all audits conform to the new audit tool (IRO / Chairs of Conference) A report is on the agenda for the panel meeting on 9 th February.	Social Work
	Conduct a review on all NFA cases to quality assure the high level of 'no further action' decisions being taken	1.4.2009 to 31.12.2009 34.4% Total Contacts NFA'd, 12.7% Referrals NFA'd 1.4.2010 to 31.12.10 30.7% contacts and 8% Referrals NFA'd	10% reduction in overall contact and referrals which result in NFA by March 2011	March 2011	Howard Woolfenden	→Amber	Quality Assurance continues, the Practice Improvement Managers tackled the issues through coaching and mentoring. A new framework has been introduced which also covers the quality of practice. A report is on the agenda for the panel meeting on 9 th February	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 March 2011	John Dunn, RBT / Rebecca Wragg	→Amber	Key processes have been revisited in line with service reconfiguration and are to be agreed by the Service. High level Child's journey has been approved, LAC review of process to commence end of January. Early Intervention and Prevention incorporated into appropriate processes and interfaces with services and pathways and are awaiting commencement. Now including CAMHS, Adults services and YOT. IRO work has commenced with Private Fostering being explored. The new SCP Director has arranged to meet with the team carrying out the BPR work.	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	611 CAFs were opened between Jan and Dec 2010. 487 CAFs have been registered between April 2010 and 24/1/11, an average of 51 CAFs per month. Clifton Learning Community area is currently completing the most CAFs (110 in 2010) with voluntary and community sector partners including Rush House and Women's Refuge undertaking half of the CAFs in this community. Increasing numbers of CAFs are for young people 16-18 years – this age range now accounts for 10% of all CAFs	Early Intervention

							completed. The CAF team are meeting with the Director of SCP on 7 th February to discuss impact measures on referrals linked to the introduction of CAF. There has been a reduction from 12.7% to 8% of referrals NFA'd by localities during 9 months in 2010 compared with the same period in 2009. As part of the Y&H REIP project a significant reduction in conversation rates has been felt in other LAs	
Implement the recommendations from the recent Fostering Inspection	Develop an action plan and monitoring system to implement the 9 elements of the recommendations	Action Plan Developed	Action Plan developed and actions implemented	Completion of individual actions by June 2011	Howard Woolfenden	↑ Amber	7 recommendations are now complete, 2 are nearing completion. The completed actions have been audited to ensure evidence is robust and in place. The 2 outstanding actions are both in relation to ESCR for carers details and the changes required are with the system supplier with a view to go live in June 2011.	Social work
Implement the recommendations from the recent Safeguarding and LAC inspection	Develop an action plan and monitoring system to implement the 10 recommendations	Action Plan Developed	Action Plan developed and actions implemented	Completion of 3 immediate actions by mid Sept 2010. Completion of remaining 7 actions by 28th February 2011	Howard Woolfenden	↑ Amber	8 recommendations are now complete, 2 are nearing completion. The completed actions have been audited to ensure evidence is robust and in place. The 2 outstanding actions are in relation to the quality of social care supervision and developing an independent visiting service.	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								
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	Howard Woolfenden	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	Number and % of adequate data quality checks conducted - 100%	March 2011	Howard Woolfenden	→ Amber	A report is on the agenda for the panel meeting on 9 th February which details progress on QA checks.	Social Work
	Maintain the momentum of improvement in Social Care Services for children and young people, including the quality of children’s homes is a recommendation in the CSA letter.	Children’s Homes: 2 Good 4 Satisfactory As at 14/1/11	6 Good or Better	December 2011	Howard Woolfenden	Amber	The 3 National Indicators are monitored and reported routinely including the quality of practice. Work continues to improve the quality of children’s homes. The Regulation 33 process is being reviewed to ensure independence.	

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. *Improve the outcomes for children at the end of primary school is a recommendation in the CSA letter.	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 August 2011	David Light	→ Amber	KS2 SAT results in 2010, despite the distortions introduced by the differential impact of the boycott across LAs, confirmed the systemic underperformance across Rotherham Primary schools and the level of challenge the LA faces in raising standards at 11+. Those challenges are compounded by the financial reductions affecting the LA which are producing an abrupt and severe reduction in the central SES workforce and by the shifts in the national policy direction which require the LA to redefine its core remit and relationships with schools. The World Class Primary Schools' Programme, for example, which provided the framework for interventions in Rotherham and elsewhere, is no longer government policy. SES is, therefore, continuing to work intensively with the most vulnerable schools, albeit with a much reduced team, while seeking to establish a 'school improvement' settlement which is increasingly led, staffed and resourced by schools themselves. This is a considerable challenge and the transition period is particularly difficult to negotiate when results must rise in 2011. That urgency underpins SES staffing deployment and practice and was worked through with Primary Headteachers again as recently as 13 January in their Phase meeting.	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	Identify practice issues related to quality and consistency from Quality Assurance audit reports by Locality and Teams.	Further embedding required	Month on month improvement on QA Audits with less issues reported	March 2011	Howard Woolfenden / Warren Carratt	↑Green	Robust programme of learning and development being rolled out to all qualified social work staff in CYPS. 4 x FTE Social Work Practice Consultant posts currently being advertised to carry QA role in fieldwork teams. Both NQSW and generic induction programmes rolled out on a monthly and quarterly basis respectively, with a focus	Social work

Objective	Key Actions	Measures		Target Date	Lead	RAG	Performance Commentary	Lead Workstream(s)
		Baseline	Targets					
3. Leadership and Management/Capacity Building/Support								
complete high quality and timely assessments							on service standards. Team Managers receiving monthly action learning sets since October 2010 with focus on quality issues..	
	Incorporate into L&D activity identifying most appropriate to resolve issues encountered	Initial learning programme rolled out	Review quarterly in line with QA Audits to ensure continual improvement	March 2011	Deb Johnson and Warren Carratt	↑Green	Handover of work from Practice Improvement Partners to Social Work Practice Consultants has taken place. PQ programme has been rolled out to the entire social work workforce. Manager Action Learning Sets being used to inform emergent learning and development programme both single and multi-agency via the LSCB..	Social work
	Evaluate effectiveness of L&D interventions by Locality and Teams in relation to improved practice.	Initial learning programme rolled out	Review quarterly in line with QA Audits to ensure continual improvement	March 2011	Deb Johnson and Warren Carratt	↑Green	38 Social Workers already completed SW Health Check. University of Sheffield due to report findings at end of January. Regular manager Action Learning Sets used to measure improvement and requirements for future learning and development.	Social work
	Track improvement of Locality and Teams in relation to quality issues identified.	Further embedding required	Month on month improvement on QA Audits with less issues reported	March 2011	Deb Johnson and Warren Carratt	→ Amber	A further detailed audit reporting identified issues is on the agenda for the Improvement Panel on 9 th February	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%	March 2011	Julie Westwood/ Warren Carratt	↑Green	PDR training has been rolled out to managers across CYPS. Importance of supervision and performance management covered in manager ALS. Progression Framework for NQSWs has been updated to ensure assessment is completion of the NQSW portfolio, which has robust competencies included throughout (content developed nationally by the CWC) PDRs due in April – May 2011: guidance will be circulated in March to ensure all	Workforce / Performance
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	LAC reviews Social Worker Survey December 2010	March 2010 Oct 2010 and March 2011	Julie Westwood/ Warren Carratt	→Amber	The full staff survey planned for December has been deferred, a social work specific survey is planned for November and will be concluded in December. At the end of December 2010 93% of LAC participate in reviews. In relation to customer satisfaction we have engaged victims of youth crime, satisfaction is consistently high (90-100%) in relation to how they are treated by staff and listened to as part of the remediation work. Young people are engaged with in relation to voice and	Workforce and all Workstreams

Objective	Key Actions	Measures		Target Date	Lead	RAG	Performance Commentary	Lead Workstream(s)
		Baseline	Targets					
3. Leadership and Management/Capacity Building/Support								
							<p>influence and the impact this has on services and in addition the youth service evaluates satisfaction about our early intervention services. Complaints are a key part of the customer experience and work will be carried out as part of DLT to measure impact.</p> <p>The new starter survey carried out for April to September 2010 showed that 61.6% of staff feel a strong sense of belonging, 77% feel comfortable suggesting new ways of working. 77% still intend to be working in Rotherham in the next 12 months which have all increased since the same period last year.</p>	

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	Sue Wilson	↑ 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. Visits have taken place to validate the implementation of recommendations and the state of readiness in terms of achieving a positive outcome in the next inspection. Action plans are in place from the services to shift proportion of services to good or better. The CSA letter was received and rated as adequate, the overall profile as moved from red to amber. 93% of all inspection recommendations monitored are complete.	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	Sue Wilson	↑ Amber	All inspection recommendations (with the exception of schools and which have an established monitoring system) are entered into the reconfigured CYP inspections monitoring system. Reports from these are generated monthly and reviewed by DLT 93% of all inspection recommendations monitored are complete.	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	Sue Wilson	↑ Amber	Using local information shows that 61.8% of inspected settings were good or better. The new super groups have an impact also, we have 2 of these in the top bands, Nursery and Primary Schools and Special Schools and PRUs. The CSA letter was received and rated as adequate.	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	Sue Wilson	→ Green	The LSCB signed off the two outstanding SCR action plans in December 2010. A further Serious Case Review commissioned by the LSCB in November 2010 is making satisfactory progress. The Serious Case Review sub group has also developed a root cause analysis methodology to consider learning from serious cases that do not meet SCR criteria and this has been utilised effectively to identify lessons learned	Performance

Objective	Key Actions	Measures		Target Date	Lead	RAG	Performance Commentary	Lead Workstream(s)
		Baseline	Targets					
4. Performance Management								
							from a recent case. The outcome of this review is to be reported back at the February SCR Sub Group.	
	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	Sue Wilson	→ 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.	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	Sue Wilson	→ Amber	The latest Ofsted profile has been received and is currently being analysed.	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 workers 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	March 2011	Howard Woolfenden	→ Amber	Of the permanent establishment posts we have 13.8 posts vacant (15.4 %) with 11.3 of these covered by agency staff, leaving 4 social worker posts unfilled (2.8%). A further permanent recruitment trawl is in process.	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	March 2011	Howard Woolfenden	→ Amber	There are 15 Team Manager posts in the establishment with 3 vacancies (20%), however all of these are covered by agency staff.	Social Care / Workforce
	Recruit 30 new Foster Carers	126 (January 2009)	156	March 2011	Howard Woolfenden	→ Amber	There are currently 139 foster carers, with 15 being recruited since April 2010 and 8 have resigned. Currently there are 17 being assessed. Our 2010 Fostering Recruitment campaign has generated 74 enquiries since September.	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	March 2011	Howard Woolfenden	→ Amber	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 £998,979 and agency admin £33,837. It is anticipated that the savings target of £440,000 will not be met.	Workforce / Finance
6. Annual Children's Services Assessment – Key Areas for Development								
To ensure that the 4 key elements included in the Annual Children's Services Letter are Actioned	Improve secondary schools so that more are good or better.	3 outstanding 4 good (44% good or better) (current published)	50% good or better	December 2011	Dorothy Smith		Based on those published on the OFSTED website: The profile is currently 3 outstanding, 4 good and 9 satisfactory. 2 schools have received notification that they won't be inspected before Sept 2011 (St Bernards and Wath). There is a distinct possibility that no changes can be made to the profile this year, other than Aston once published, taking the profile upto 50%.	
	Increase the number of good childminders	52.7% of childminders are good or better	TBA further work taking place in EY to establish realistic target	December 2011	Dorothy Smith		Currently the profile of Childminders is: 14 outstanding, 114 good, 114 satisfactory, 1 inadequate (not currently active childminder)	
7. DfE – Milestone Actions								

Objective	Key Actions	Measures		Target Date	Lead	RAG	Performance Commentary	Lead Workstream(s)
		Baseline	Targets					
To ensure that progress continues in key areas following discussions with the DfE in December	Supervision continues to be embedded across the Service	Supervision is still inconsistent across the service	Supervision to be routinely carried out across all areas of the service	April 2011	Howard Woolfenden	Amber	Progress has been made and was demonstrated in the Safeguarding and Looked After Children inspection in July. We will continue to audit supervision records and to ensure that this activity is embedded and that this is standard practice across the whole of the Service.	
	An independent peer review process is developed	Work carried out by Practice Improvement Partners	Yearly external peer review	March 2011	Joyce Thacker	Amber	Calderdale have agreed to work with us on a Peer Review/ challenge process to ensure that we have an external view to the effectiveness or otherwise of practice in Rotherham.	

CYPS Achievements – (CYPP 4 Big Things)

Tackling Inequality

- 96% of children in Rotherham get their first choice of secondary school (2010)
- The Quarter 3 figure for NEETS is 6.6% and is now above the target of 7.1% (Dec 2010).
- 2010 Year 11 school leavers – 94.4% of these are in learning and only 3.8% are not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Nov 10)

Keeping Children and Young People Safe

- 100% of CPP are reviewed within timescales. Children Protection Reviews are maintaining the top 100% performance (2009/10).
- 95% of care leavers are in suitable accommodation higher than the target of 92% and above national and statistical neighbours (Dec 2010)

Prevention and Early Intervention

- 97% of all Rotherham Schools (including PRUs) have achieved National Healthy Schools Status (2009/10)
- Childhood obesity for both reception and Year 6 has improved by 2% and we are now in line with our statistical neighbours. (09/10)
- 86% of children and young people participate in 2 hours+ sport or PE (increase of 25% since 2006) (2009/10)
- Rotherham are the first Authority in the country to have 2 childminders achieve the Quality Mark for Early Years by the Basic Skills Agency (2010)
- Since 2005/6 there has been a 34% reduction in the number of young people entering the criminal justice system. (2009/10)
- 80% of Rotherham's Under 5s are currently part of the Imagination Library Project, that's 12,358 children. 16,378 children have registered since the scheme began and 3,803 have graduated from the programme (Jan 2011)
- 83% of care leavers are in employment, education or training exceeding the target of 67% (Dec 2010)
- Primary School Lunch take up 49.8% in Q3 up from 44.6%
- The number of under 18 conceptions continues to fall. In comparison with our statistical neighbours we rank the 3rd best performance out of 11 as at September 2009 (Nov 10)

Transforming Rotherham Learning

- 97.5% of schools are meeting Extended Services Core Offer. (09/10)
- Ofsted have judged Hilltop School to be outstanding in all major areas including Safeguarding.(2010)
- Thornhill has been judged by Ofsted as outstanding with an outstanding capacity to improve. (2010)
- 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 (2009)
- Rotherham Schools Music Service - Second outstanding Ofsted inspection report. (2009)

- Achievement at Foundation Stage has improved from 50.4% in 2009 to 56.6% in 2010 (including PSE and CLL) (2010)
- A Level achievement in 2010 has shown a 1.1% increase from 2009 (provisional data) (2010)
- GCSE results 5 A* to C has increased by 6.43% since 2009 , 3.41% including English and Maths (2010)
- GCSE results for Looked After Children 5 A* to C including English and Maths 26.9% (11.6% national) and 42.3% (26.1% national) not including English and Maths (provisional data) (2010)
- 100% of SEN statements are issued in 26 weeks (Dec 2010)

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 18th February 2011
3.	Title:	School closures due to extreme weather
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary

This report outlines the progress made by Children and Young People’s Services in response to the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review into ‘School closures due to extreme weather’, undertaken by the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel. (The report and findings were endorsed by Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel and Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee at their meetings of 15 October 2010 and 22 October 2010 respectively).

6. Recommendations

- a. That the Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Panel notes the actions taken by Children and Young People’s Services in response to the report and the progress made.**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 The review, chaired by Cllr Ann Russell, looked at:

- current policy and legal responsibilities
- operational arrangements – what is in place locally and how does this compare with practice elsewhere?
- can other support be provided?
- how we communicate closure to parents

Questions were raised about the procedures for closure of schools during periods of adverse weather or in other emergencies. The Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel was asked to undertake a short review to see if lessons can be learnt to ensure that future disruption is minimised.

The review began its evidence gathering in February 2010. Interviews were organised with Cabinet Members and relevant officers. In addition, the review group received written submissions and spoke to a number of Headteachers and Senior Staff from Primary and Secondary Schools.

7.2 The recommendations from the review are detailed below including the progress made by Children and Young People's Services in response:

1. *The LA should reissue the guidance to schools with an emphasis on the presumption that schools should remain open unless faced by extraordinary circumstances:*

The guidance on exceptional school closures was updated following the recommendations and emphasises the importance of remaining open wherever practical. The guidance is issued to schools termly and in response to severe weather warnings eg snow of 2009 and 2010.

2. *The LA should confirm with governing bodies their approach to delivering the statutory 190 days of learning and in the case of closure, how they are able to make up some or all of the lost time:*

The guidance on exceptional school closures was updated to reflect this recommendation – schools are advised to consider setting work where possible / practical eg in advance of severe weather warnings as a contingency or by using technology eg. Email to parents / pupils, texts, phone calls to parents, school websites etc. The guidance on closures was originally rolled out via chair and vice chair of governors and head teacher briefings with the instruction that it would be reviewed periodically and reissued.

In relation to the delivery of 190 statutory days of learning, schools are able to set more work or homework for pupils to catch up but are not able to require pupils to attend schools for additional hours. Any decision to ask pupils to stay at school outside normal school hours would require parental consent as is the case for detention, out of school clubs etc. Responsibility for the provision of 190 days statutory learning is delegated to the Head Teacher / Governing Body.

3. *The LA should collate strategies or actions that have or would assist in maintaining a 'school open' status. This good practice should be shared with colleagues across cluster groups and wider school communities:*

CYPS / HR Manager are currently in discussion with unions via the Officer / Union group forum, in relation to the feasibility of school staff reporting to the school nearest to their home as opposed to their school of employment in the event of severe weather periods. The guidance on school closures has also been updated to include schools considering later opening, partial closure eg selected year groups attend etc as opposed to full closure. Schools have also focussed on site safety eg only opening one access gate and focussing their efforts on making this point of entry to the site and adjacent footpaths and screening off etc other points eg keeping other gates locked / signage / taping off out of bounds areas etc

4. *The LA should confirm the process for monitoring and reporting on school closures, including any specific circumstances to identify if there are common trends or factors. This data should be used to inform salting routes, continuity planning across clusters and communication issues:*

CYPS communications team have developed an electronic reporting system which the vast majority of schools embraced during the heavy snow of December 2010. The system requires schools to provide justification for the closure eg. unable to make the site safe, insufficient number of staff, local roads inaccessible etc etc Information is then uploaded on to the RMBC website. Further work is being developed to link the system to local media websites so schools will only need to register the closure once with the Authority and all other organisations will be informed. Closures are reported within the Authority to several departments and elected members. Schools reporting dangerous road conditions etc were encouraged to report concerns to the appropriate RMBC department.

5. *Each school should be encouraged to develop their business continuity plans to cover extreme weather to include:*

How minimum staffing levels will be maintained

How sufficient stocks of salt are maintained and linking with other cluster schools

Contact details of local contractors etc who are able to clear snow

Consideration of later opening as opposed to closure

Measures to ensure exams or tests are able to take place

How closure will be communicated to parents

How communication systems are to be maintained

Although schools do not have specific business continuity plans, they all have specific school emergency plans which cover the points above. The emergency planning template was introduced after the floods of 2007 and was rolled out via head teacher and chair and vice chair of governors briefings.

6. *CYPS / HR should explore with schools the feasibility of teachers and support staff being redirected to their nearest school to help deal with staffing shortages, to keep closures to a minimum:*

CYPS / HR are currently in consultation with union representatives re this subject via the union / officer group.

7. *The LA explores with RBT whether cost effective text notification systems or other social networking alternatives are available for those schools without current access to these facilities:*

Following 'lessons learnt' reviews following the heavy snow periods, schools able to invest in text alert systems have done so and schools unable to fund the system at present are planning to factor this in. It should be noted that schools receive allocated funding including a budget for health and safety and emergency planning arrangements. All schools are provided with electronic resources eg RGFL and support from the LA, schools have developed websites and other communication channels in an effort to improve communication with parents.

8. *The RMBC 'school closure' webpage is redesigned with the capacity to instantly capture information for each school including date of closure, reason, expected date of reopening and contact details. This page should have 'quick links' to other relevant pages eg policies, gritting routes etc*

The school closures page on the RMBC website has been revamped and, more importantly the system for updating it has been improved. The page now incorporates a password protected form which schools can fill in to give all the details outlined above. This information is currently manually updated by website editors, although remote access now means that this can be done any time of day or night.

During the recent cold spell updates were added at around 10pm and then updated throughout each morning from approx 7.30am. Although the new system was only put in place days before the cold spell hit the area more than 100 schools were using it by the end of the first week. The page also became the second most used page on the whole website during that period. Rather than linking to other information just from this page, an 'alert banner' was used across all RMBC web pages to link all relevant pages together under an "adverse weather information" section which was updated corporately. In addition, the page includes links to the following sites: BBC Travel, Met Office, Environment Agency, Rother FM, BBC South Yorkshire and Hallam FM. We will also now be linking to the schools directory information which gives contact details for all schools. Currently, school policies are not included on the page as they sit on the RGfL portal.

Communications Officers are now investigating the possibility of schools updating the page automatically and will be soon testing a system which is part of the website's operating system to allow this to happen, meaning officers can have instant updates 24 hours a day.

9. *Guidance to parents is reissued by schools on a timely basis, incorporating details of the updated RMBC website:*

Schools have been made aware of this requirement via the guidance on exceptional school closures, school emergency plans and via communications to schools.

10. *Priority salting routes are reviewed by RMBC and other relevant agencies to accommodate schools wherever possible:*

Schools were encouraged to report concerns re local roads but this is EDS responsibility to prioritise eg 'A' roads will always be their first priority. It should also be noted that within the guidance on exceptional school closures staff have a responsibility to make every effort to attend school as normal. The Head Teacher and Chair of Governors are responsible for the decision whether to pay staff who have not attended work.

11. *The feasibility (with due regard to health and safety, relevant checks etc) of recruiting a pool of volunteers to assist with site clearance, either on a school, cluster or Area Assembly level be explored:*

This recommendation was sent to schools and the success will vary from community to community.

12. *Streetpride explores the feasibility of schools hiring small-plant machinery to clear sites in extreme weather:*

CYPS were able to identify 2 companies who are able to fulfil this role and details were provided to schools and are now included in the guidance on exceptional school closures. Schools were also encouraged to source other contractors and share contact details with other schools. Several schools did invest in site clearance

in an attempt to make site safe and ensure school was able to open as early as possible.

13. *The Cabinet Member and Director of CYPS write to the Minister for Education supporting the LGA call that in the case of extreme events, Ofsted and other regulatory targets should be suspended to enable the most appropriate response to be taken locally:*

Letter sent by Dorothy Smith Senior Director - Schools and Lifelong Learning. No response has been received to date.

8. Finance

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

9. Risks and Uncertainties

In circumstances of extreme weather conditions, the decision to close a school is delegated to its Headteacher in consultation with their chair of governors. Given the likelihood of extreme weather events occurring more frequently in future years, the Local Authority and schools are working together to develop comprehensive plans to mitigate against potential disruption.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Although this review focuses on the closure of schools during periods of adverse weather, other pressures on schools (as demonstrated by the 2007 flooding and the recent threats of flu-pandemic) also require emergency decisions about how to keep the school open. CYPS have worked extensively with schools over recent years to develop policies and procedures, emergency plans and training resources and workshops to cover all reasonably foreseeable situations.

11. Equality and Diversity

No specific Equality and Diversity issues or impacts have been identified and there is no requirement to complete an Equality Impact Assessment.

12. Background Papers and Consultation

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel – 15 October 2010
Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee – 22 October 2010

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Strategic Leadership Team's Commentary on Scrutiny Review of School closures due to Snow

Scrutiny recommendation	Proposed action/ comment	Target date	Link to Themes/ Strategies	Impact Analysis		SLT recommendation to Cabinet
				Benefit/ Risk	Cost implication <i>Impact on revenue/capital budget, MTFS</i>	
Reissue guidance to schools emphasising the importance of maintaining school opening unless faced by extraordinary circumstances	The guidance on exceptional school closures was fully reviewed and updated following the recommendations and emphasises this point.	Completed (Reviewed Termly)	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Achieving	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	
The Local Authority confirm with Governing bodies their approach to delivering the statutory 190 days of learning and how schools will make up this time	The guidance on exceptional school closures reflects this requirement. Responsibility for the provision of 190 days statutory learning is delegated to the Head Teacher / Governing Body.	Completed (Reviewed Termly)	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	
The Local Authority should collate strategies or actions that have or would assist in maintaining a school open status and share with other schools	CYPS / HR are currently in dialogue with unions regarding staff attending a school nearest their home where travel to work is impeded. The guidance on exceptional school closures also advises on other considerations eg later opening etc	Ongoing dialogue via Union / Officer group Completed (Reviewed Termly)	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	
The Local Authority confirm processes for monitoring and reporting closures including specific circumstances. Data should be used to inform salting routes, continuity planning and communication	Communications Team have developed electronic registering of closure procedures which include justification for closure and are establishing further links to media sources internally and externally	Ongoing development	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	

Scrutiny recommendation	Proposed action/ comment	Target date	Link to Themes/ Strategies	Impact Analysis		SLT recommendation to Cabinet
				Benefit/ Risk	Cost implication <i>Impact on revenue/capital budget, MTFS</i>	
Each school should be encouraged to develop business continuity plans to cover extreme weather	Schools have individual emergency plans which cover all the points raised in the recommendations. Plans were introduced in 2007 following the floods via Head Teacher and Chair / Vice Chair of Governors briefings. The template is reviewed annually and reissued and schools are advised to follow suit.	Completed Subject to annual review)	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	
CYPS / HR should explore with schools the feasibility of teachers and support staff being redirected to their nearest school to help deal with staffing shortages	CYPS / HR are currently in consultation with Union Officials	Ongoing	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	
The Local Authority explore with RBT cost effective text notification or other social networking alternatives available to notify closures	Schools have been made aware of text systems available and costs. Schools are delegated funding including budget for emergency and safety issues. All schools have access to RGFL and are able to develop websites etc	Ongoing	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs will need to be met by individual schools from devolved budgets	
The RMBC school closure webpage is redesigned to capture information from schools and quick links to other relevant pages	Extensive work has been undertaken to improve school reporting and web page information including links to local media. It should be noted that the adverse weather / school closure site Had over 30,000 hits in the Dec 2010 snow period	Ongoing	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	

Scrutiny recommendation	Proposed action/ comment	Target date	Link to Themes/ Strategies	Impact Analysis		SLT recommendation to Cabinet
				Benefit/ Risk	Cost implication <i>Impact on revenue/capital budget, MTFS</i>	
Guidance to parents is reissued by schools on a timely basis, incorporating details of updated RMBC website	Schools informed of this requirement via guidance on exceptional school closures, emergency plans and communications. It should be noted that the school	Ongoing	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	
Priority salting routes are reviewed by RMBC and other relevant agencies to accommodate schools wherever possible	Schools were encouraged to report concerns to RMBC during the heavy snow periods of 2010 EDS are responsible for prioritising salting routes	Completed	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events		
Schools explore the feasibility of recruiting volunteers to assist site clearance	Schools have explored this recommendation via PTA and other local forums success will vary from community to community	Ongoing	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events		
Streetpride explore the feasibility of schools hiring small-plant machinery to clear sites in extreme weather	CYPS identified 2 companies able to assist schools some Head Teachers were able to identify other local companies and shared details with other Heads	Completed	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events		

Scrutiny recommendation	Proposed action/ comment	Target date	Link to Themes/ Strategies	Impact Analysis		SLT recommendation to Cabinet
				Benefit/ Risk	Cost implication <i>Impact on revenue/capital budget, MTFS</i>	
Cabinet Member / Strategic Director to write to Minister for Education supporting LGA call for suspension of regulatory targets and appropriate local responses taken during extreme weather events			Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events		

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 18th February 2011
3.	Title:	Summer 2010 Key Stage 2 Assessment Results
4.	Directorate:	Children & Young People’s Services

5. Summary:

The purpose of this report is to inform the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel of performance in Rotherham primary schools at the end of Key Stage 2, in 2010.

6. Recommendations:

- **That the report be received.**
- **That the Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Panel notes the improvements in performance in important areas of Key Stage 2.**
- **That the Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Panel supports the drive to encourage all schools to continue to improve their results.**
- **That the Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Panel endorses the drive to reduce the number of schools below the Department for Education (DfE) new floor target of 60% in both English and Mathematics L4+ and make the expected levels of progress between Key Stage 1 and 2, improve boys’ attainment and that of black and minority ethnic (BME) pupils and Looked After Children (LAC).**

7. Proposals and Details:

All schools must conduct a form of statutory assessment at the end of each Key Stage (ages 7, 11, 14 and 16). At the end of Key Stage 2 (age 11) pupils undertake the externally marked Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs).

a) Summary of KS2 Performance

At the end of Key Stage 2 (age 11) pupils undertake the externally marked Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs). Current comparisons with other local authorities and national averages are difficult due to the national boycott in 2010. Just three Rotherham schools boycotted the tests (3%) whereas the national average figure was 26%.

The positive features of performance were:

- Many of our most vulnerable schools performed well. The number of schools below the national floor target fell for the fourth consecutive year and now stands at ten. Nine schools climbed above the national floor target from the 2009 target group. Three of the five schools that were classed as 'hard to shift' because they had been below the floor targets for five or more consecutive years moved above the floor targets in 2010.
- The vulnerable schools that were part of the Improving Schools Programme and received extensive support from the School Effectiveness Service made good progress. Their scores improved by 1.3% in English and 4% in mathematics.
- The performance of some vulnerable groups of pupils has improved. For example at Level 4+ in English and mathematics combined:
 - The performance of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) has increased by 9% in the period 2006 – 2010.
 - The gap in attainment between children eligible for FSM and those not eligible for FSM has narrowed by 1.3% in 2010.
 - The gender gap was reduced by 2% in 2010.
 - The percentage of Asian Pakistani pupils improved by 18.3% in 2010.

The concerning features of the performance are:

- Overall the Key Stage 2 results were very disappointing. The main reason for this was a 4.5% fall in reading results at Level 4+. As a consequence of this the overall English results fell by 2% at Level 4+ and the combined scores in English and mathematics fell by 2.0% at Level 4+. Results in other subjects were broadly in line with 2009. National averages declined by 3% in Reading but improved by 4% in Writing and as a consequence English remained at 80%, 6% above the LA average.
- The coalition government have introduced new 'floor standards'. Schools are now expected to have at least 60% of their pupils achieving L4+ in both English and mathematics and progress in English and maths is expected to be above national median progression. In 2010 this was 87% in English and 86% in maths. The range in Rotherham schools is much too variable. In our best schools 100% of pupils made the expected two levels of progress but in English the range is from 50% to 100% And in mathematics from 48% to 100%. As a result the LA has too many schools below the new 'floor standards'.
- In some schools there was a significant mismatch between the predicted outcomes, teacher assessment and test results, raising issues about the overall accuracy of teacher assessment and how effectively the information is used by school leaders.

b) Priorities for Improvement

- Further improve standards in both English and mathematics so that they are more closely aligned to statutory targets for 2011 (79%)
- Reduce the number of schools below the new government floor standards
- Improve the performance of more able pupils, therefore increasing the proportion of pupils who reach L5+ in all subjects
- Improve the achievement and standards of vulnerable groups (boys, BME, FSM, 30% Super Output Areas (SOA))

c) Development Activities

Rotherham LA was required to submit an action plan to the Secretary of State for Education on January 29th 2010, outlining how it was going further to improve the profile of Rotherham's Primary Schools. This includes plans to raise standards, accelerate progress, further improve the quality of teaching and learning, and create a system of sustainable autonomous and self improving primary schools for the future. This work is a key element of the government White Paper 21st Century Schools and is designed to create 'World Class Primary Schools'. Key elements of this plan included:

- Amending the School Improvement Partner (SIP) programme. A number of schools now receive extended SIP support for 15 days per year rather than the previous 5 days. Another group will receive 8 days of support.
- There has been an increase in the number of school reviews and these are usually led by the SIP to improve their overall knowledge of the school.
- Further work has taken place within the segmentation of schools and support offered has been extended.
 - 20 schools are now part of ISP
 - 17 schools are now part of Maximising Progress: The Good Schools Project. These are schools that could broadly be described as satisfactory but possibly stuck. The programme is designed to be fast paced to secure the changes that will allow the school to be judged good or better within one year.
 - 34 schools are part of the Primary Partnership Programme which aims to move good schools to outstanding.
- The SIP agenda for the autumn term has been further strengthened. New structures should lead to a greater clarity of judgement and a more accurate correlation between Autumn estimates and actual results .
- The Raising the Bar project continues to raise awareness of the nature of disadvantage and barriers to the learning process for our lowest 20% of pupils. The Extra Mile project is being used to promote 'every lesson a language lesson' in Y3/Y4 in 5 of our schools serving the most deprived areas.
- The LA is extending the use of federations further to drive school improvement where there has been a recent record of underachievement.

8. Finance:

Resources, within the Council, to drive the school improvement agenda are a combination of core budget, DfE grant through the Area Based Grant and Standards Fund and income generation. The introduction of the World Class Primary School Programme and the new Ofsted Framework have placed considerable pressures on a small SES workforce. From April 2011, funding reductions have required a significant contraction of SES, by between a third and a half of the whole Primary team. The challenge, therefore, in supporting Primary Phase improvement has been considerably intensified.

Schools also receive additional funding, through Standards Fund to address the agenda for raising standards. It is still unclear whether budgets from April 2011 will be at a comparable level to 2009/10. Potentially the most disadvantaged schools may lose a considerable element of their funding because of the closure of programmes such as Excellence in Cities.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

Should Rotherham's schools continue to show insufficient progress this could result in:

- Significant numbers of children underachieving which reduces their opportunities in secondary and post statutory education
- The Council's rating, in relation to the quality of services and its statutory responsibility to raise standards will be affected through the CAA and APA systems

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

Pupil achievement is a key performance indicator (Learning), in the Community Strategy, the Corporate Plan and the Children and Young People's Single Plan.

Appendix 1: Trend of Rotherham KS2 Results

Appendix 2: Performance of Vulnerable Groups

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

Summer 2006 Key Stage 2 Assessment Results – Report to Cabinet – 2006/07

Summer 2007 Key Stage 2 Assessment Results – Report to Cabinet – 2007/08

Summer 2008 Key Stage 2 Assessment Results – Report to Cabinet – 2008/09

Summer 2009 Key Stage 2 Assessment Results – Report to Cabinet – 2009/10

Contact Name:

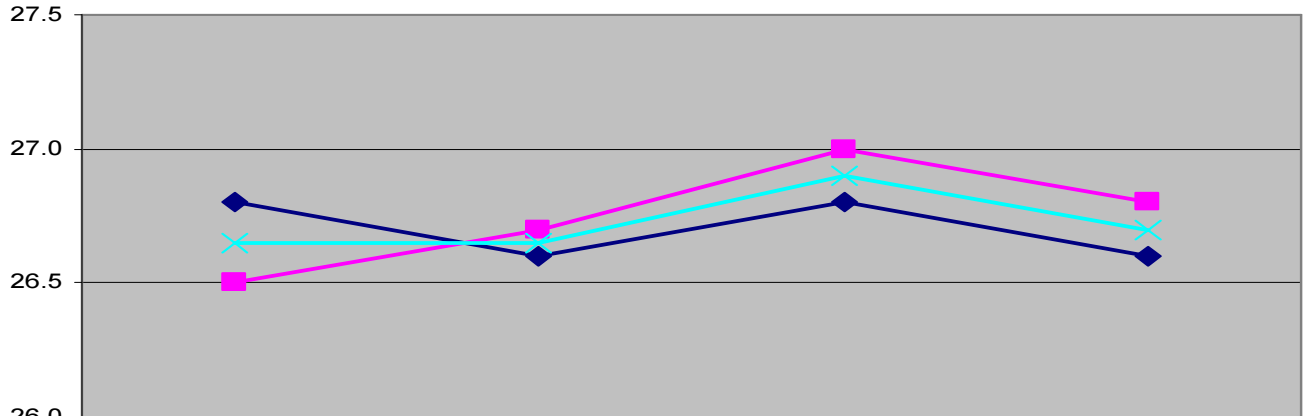
Will Ryan Assistant Head of School Effectiveness

Tel: Extension 55280 Email: willie.ryan@rotherham.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Table 1

**Key Stage 2
Average Point Score**

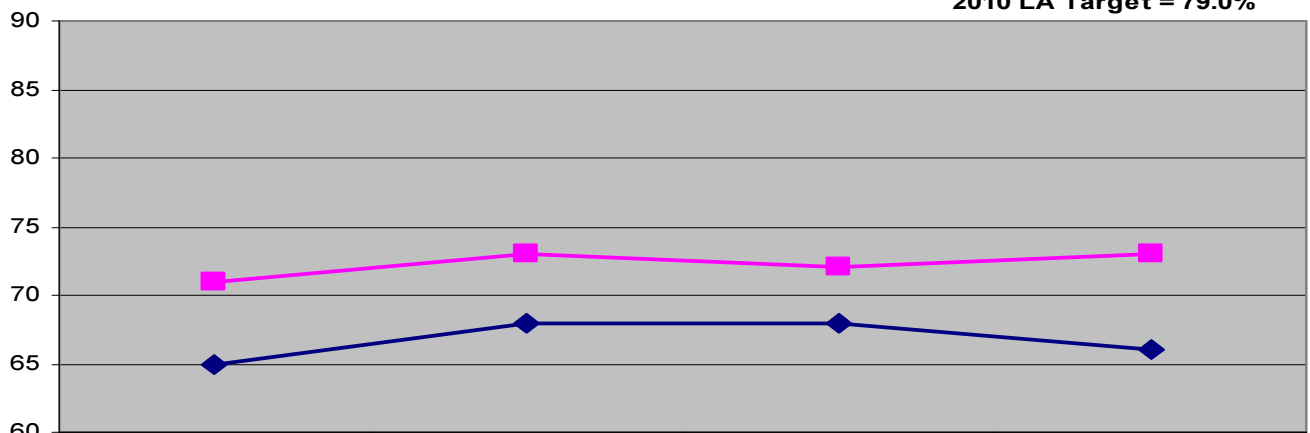


	2007	2008	2009	2010
English	26.8	26.6	26.8	26.6
Maths	26.5	26.7	27.0	26.8
Overall	26.7	26.7	26.9	26.7

Table 2

Key Stage 2 L4+ English and Maths - LA / National Comparison

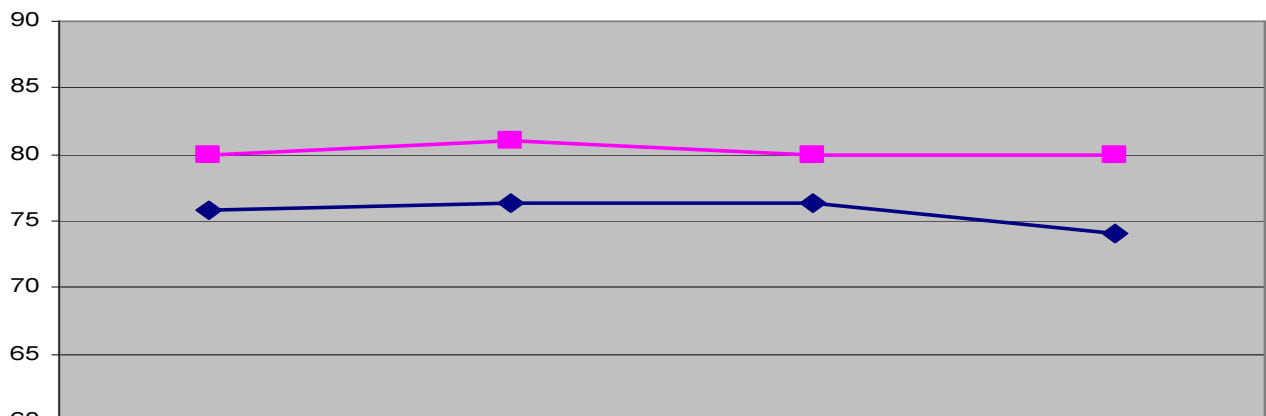
2010 LA Target = 79.0%



	2007	2008	2009	2010
LA	65	68	68	66
Nat	71	73	72	73

Table 3

Key Stage 2 English L4+ - LA / National Comparison



	2007	2008	2009	2010
LA	75.8	76.3	76.3	74
National	80	81	80	80

Table 4

Key Stage 2 Mathematics L4+ - LA / National Comparison

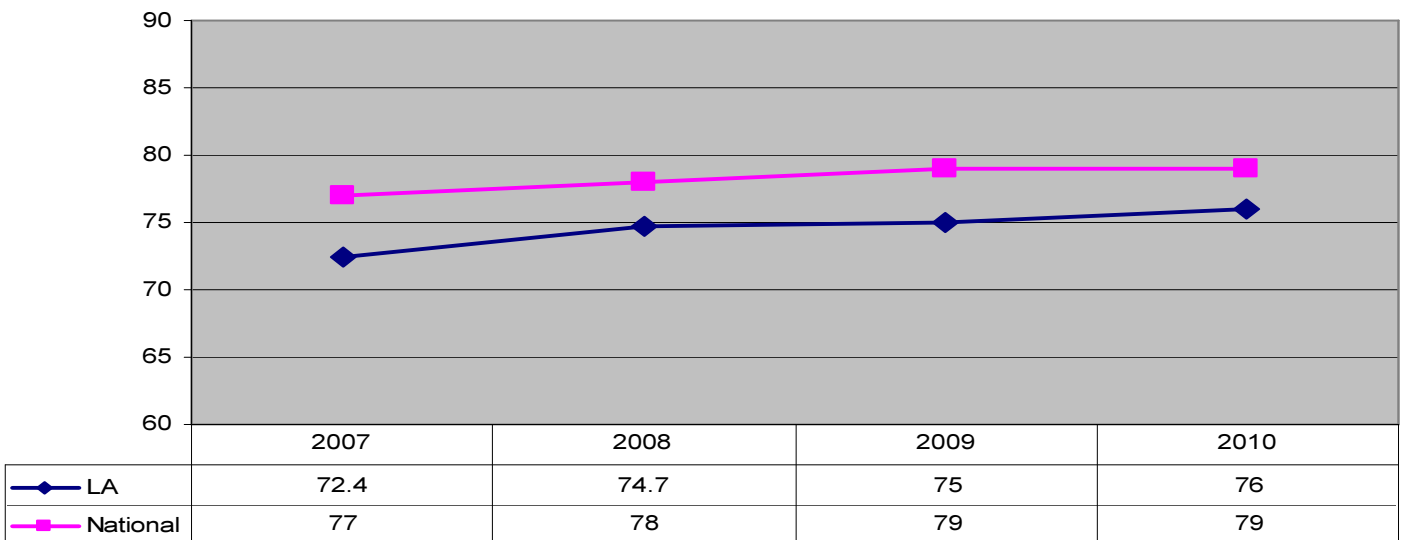


Table 5

2 Levels Progress in English - LA / National Comparison

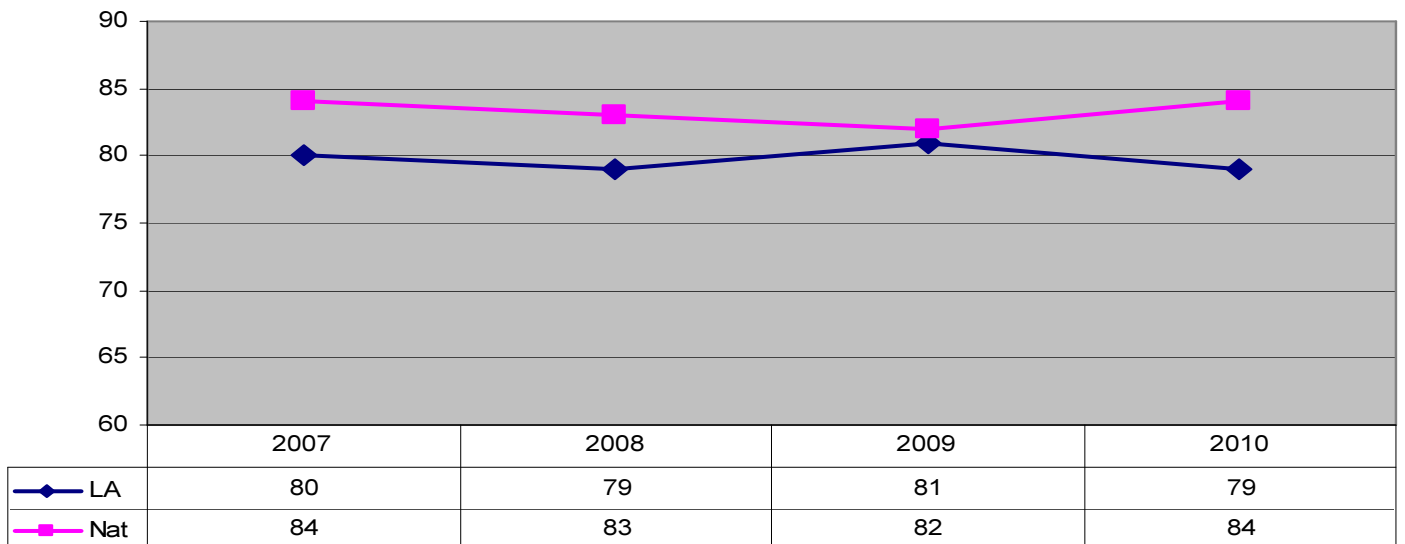
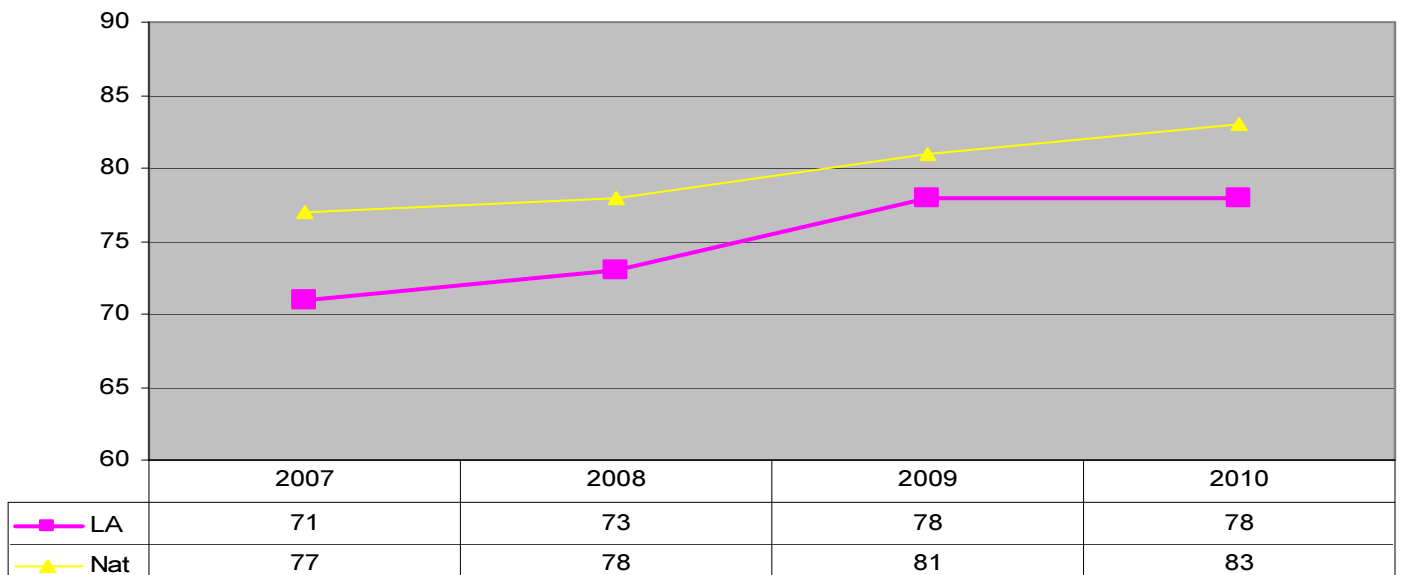


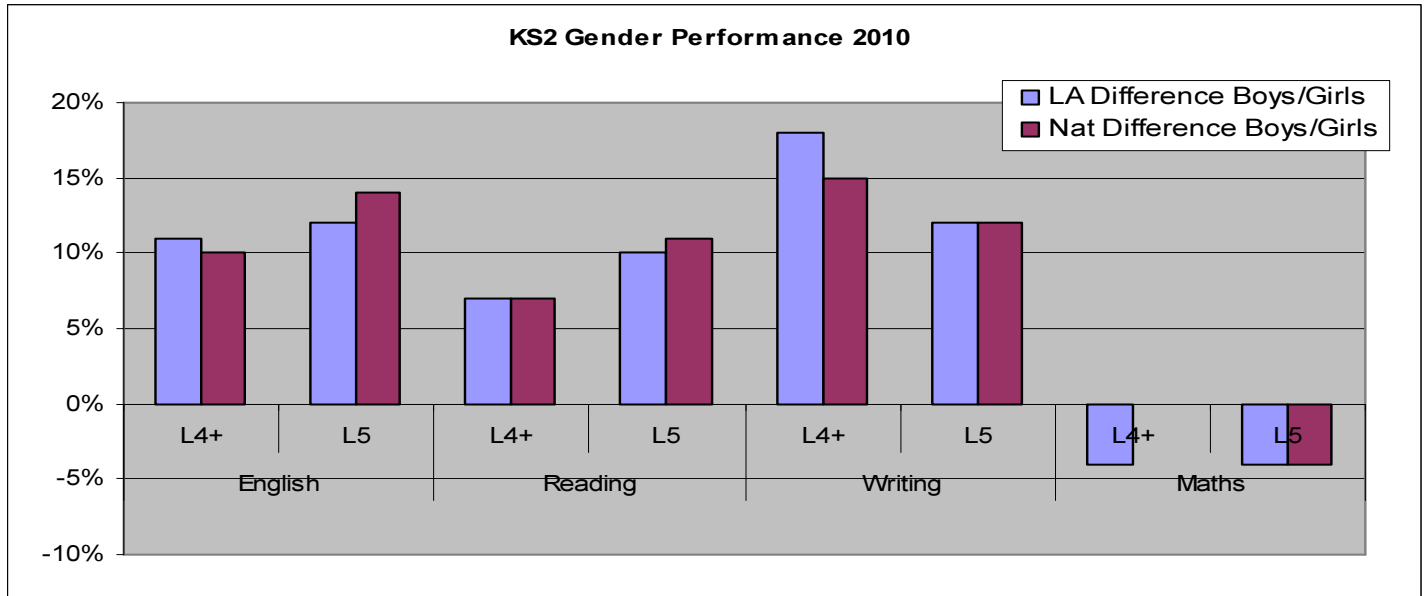
Table 6

2 Levels Progress in Mathematics - LA / National Comparison



Appendix 2

Table 1



The performance of girls is above boys in English, reading and writing but in line with the gender gap nationally. Boys performance is slightly above girls in mathematics again in line with the gender gap nationally.

Table 2

Percentage of Children in Care achieving L4+ at KS2

English 2006–2010

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
% achieving L4+	36.4	29.0	46.6	33.3	28.6
Rotherham CiC Cohort	22	24	15	21	21

Maths 2006- 2010

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
% achieving L4+	50.0	33.3	46.6	28.6	42.9
Rotherham CiC Cohort	22	24	15	21	21

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

Table 3

Performance of pupils eligible for FSM

	L4+ Eng & Ma	2 Levels English	2 Levels Maths
2007	44.2	74	62
2008	45.8	74	63
2009	48.6	76	70
2010	48.3	77	69

Gap between the performance of pupils eligible for FSM and pupils not eligible for FSM

	L4+ Eng & Ma	2 Levels English	2 Levels Maths
2007	25.2	7	11
2008	26.9	6	12
2009	24	5	10
2010	22.8	2	12

Table 4 - Performance by Ethnicity * Black and Minority Ethnic background

English

Boys	2008		2009		2010	
	Level 4+	Level 5	Level 4+	Level 5	Level 4+	Level 5
BME	60.6	10.0	58.8	14.0	67.4	25.2
All	70.3	18.0	70.2	20.2	67.9	20.8
Difference	9.7	8.0	11.4	6.2	0.5	-4.4
Girls	2008		2009		2010	
	Level 4+	Level 5	Level 4+	Level 5	Level 4+	Level 5
BME	73.1	20.8	70.4	19.1	83.5	24.4
All	82.8	31.5	82.7	32.5	79.4	33.0
Difference	9.7	10.7	12.3	13.4	-4.1	8.6
Overall	2008		2009		2010	
	Level 4+	Level 5	Level 4+	Level 5	Level 4+	Level 5
BME	66.2	14.8	65.1	16.8	75.2	24.8
All	76.3	24.5	76.3	26.2	73.8	27.0
Difference	10.1	9.7	11.2	9.4	-1.4	2.2

Mathematics

Boys	2008		2009		2010	
	Level 4+	Level 5	Level 4+	Level 5	Level 4+	Level 5
BME	65.6	17.5	71.3	27.2	71.1	27.4
All	74.7	29.0	76.2	31.7	78.4	28.6
Difference	9.1	11.5	4.9	4.5	7.3	1.2
Girls	2008		2009		2010	
	Level 4+	Level 5	Level 4+	Level 5	Level 4+	Level 5
BME	69.2	19.2	61.1	14.8	77.2	24.4
All	74.7	23.9	75.3	26.4	74.5	24.8
Difference	5.5	4.7	14.2	11.6	-2.7	0.4
Overall	2008		2009		2010	
	Level 4+	Level 5	Level 4+	Level 5	Level 4+	Level 5
BME	67.2	18.3	65.8	20.5	74.0	25.9
All	74.7	26.5	75.8	29.1	76.4	26.7
Difference	7.5	8.2	10.0	8.6	2.4	0.8

(BME) Black and Minority Ethnic background

(WBRI) White British background

The performance of BME pupils has improved in both English and mathematics in 2010.

Comparison with Statistical Neighbours in 2010 has been removed as data isn't available for a number of Authorities due to the number of schools that boycotted the Key Stage 2 Tests.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1	Meeting:	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
2	Date:	Friday 18th February 2011
3	Title:	GCSE Examination Results, 2010
4	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5 Summary:

The purpose of this report is to inform the Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Panel of the GCSE examination results for 2010 and how they compare to previous years, to the national average and to the results of our statistical neighbours.

6 Recommendations:

That:

- **The report be received.**
- **That the Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Panel notes the continued improved levels of performance across all indicators at the end of Key Stage 4.**
- **All schools are encouraged to continue to improve their results, and strive to achieve outcomes at least in line with the national rate of improvement.**
- **That the Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Panel endorses the drive to:**
 - **reduce the gap between Rotherham’s performance and the national average performance especially in relation to 5A*-C including English and Maths;**
 - **continue to improve boys’ attainment;**
 - **continue to improve the attainment of black, minority ethnic (BME) pupils and;**
 - **continue to improve the attainment of Looked After Children (LAC).**

7. Proposals and Details

Key Aspects of Performance

A. Summary Overview

- i. Performance at GCSE 5+A*-C across the Local Authority (LA) rose for the eighth consecutive year. The LA average rose 6.4% against a national average increase of 5.4%
- ii. On the now critical 5+A*-C including English and Mathematics indicator, the LA average also increased by 3.7% which was in line with the national average increase of 3.6%.
- iii. Performance at 5+A*-G including English and Mathematics rose 1.9% against a national average increase of 0.4%. Rotherham exceeds national averages at 5+A*-G (by 2.4%) and 5+A*-G including English & Mathematics (by 5.0%).
- iv. The LA average at both 5+A*-C thresholds exceeds Fischer Family Trust (FFT) "D" revised measures for progress from KS2-4, i.e. progress equal to that of the top 25% of students nationally. 11 out of 15 schools matched or exceeded FFT 'D' at 5+A*-C and 8 out of 15 schools matched or exceeded it at 5+A*-C including English and Mathematics.
- v. The Key Stage 2-4 expected progress measures improved in English by 3% to 67% and Mathematics by 3.4% to 56%.
- vi. There was important improvement in key core subject departments in the Borough's most vulnerable schools, notably in English, which is helping to improve the overall performance of boys

B. Priority areas for action 2010/11

- i. The collaborative programme focussed on 5+A*-C including English and Mathematics performance led by a Consultant Headteacher working with senior leaders across the 16 schools has been sustained for a third year. In 2010 it again promoted significant improvement in targeted schools, well above national averages.
- ii. The culture of high expectations now pervasive across the secondary phase is exemplified in the aspirational targets set by schools for 2010 and 2011, which are consistently above the upper FFT 'D' and RAISE online estimates.
- iii. Improvement in the LA's most vulnerable schools – those with the highest proportion of children receiving Free School Meals (FSM) – remains a priority and has seen significant improvement over the last 3 years.
- iv. All Rotherham schools are above the DfE floor target of 30% 5+A*-C including English and mathematics in 2010; this is the first time this has been achieved. However, government have raised the target to 35% plus a progress percentage from 2011 and one school is currently below that new threshold.

C. Strategic focus of School Effectiveness Service

- i. Targeted support for underachievement is coordinated across the School Effectiveness Service (SES), Consultant Headteachers and the nominated three lead consultancy schools. In 2009/10 we further increased our consultancy resources by commissioning additional support from lead schools in English (Wath CS) and Maths (Wales HS).
- ii. The School Improvement Partner (SIP) programme has sharpened school self-evaluation, increased school leadership capacity and toughened the focus on Standards and Achievement. Rotherham's practice is judged to be Outstanding by the National Strategies. The same strengths have informed our approach to the

National Challenge which is equally highly regarded with all three National Challenge Advisers graded 'outstanding' by the external assessors. This work has contributed significantly to the release of secondary schools from the floor targets at GCSE but will cease in March 2011 when government terminate the contract.

- iii. Programmes promoting the development of senior leadership capacity in the secondary phase are an area of excellence receiving regional and national recognition. The schools' senior leadership group is now working extensively with one of the country's most outstanding schools from Wolverhampton to study their practice
- iv. Core subject consultancy demonstrated significant impact in underperforming departments in 2010 especially in English and Science. Maths remains the key target area for 2011 which would help drive up overall performance at the threshold
- v. Partnership between schools and SES is unprecedentedly close, responsive and productive. It has made the local implementation of the NC relatively straightforward and informs the ambitious vision for Transforming Rotherham Learning (TRL)

D. Overall GCSE Results

Table D1: Overall 5+ A* - C GCSE Results 2003 - 2010

GCSE results	Rotherham (R) %	National (N) %	% Diff between R and N	Statistical Neighbours (SN) %	% Diff between R and SN
5+ A*-C					
2007	54.6	62.0	-7.4	57.9	-3.3
2008	58.3	65.3	-7.0	62.8	-4.5
2009	66.9	70.0	-3.1	69.2	-2.3
2010	73.3	75.4	-2.1	76.9	-3.6

- The percentage of pupils attending special schools in the 2010 cohort was 1.6%.
- The percentage of pupils achieving 5+GCSEs at the higher grade A*-C has increased from 66.9% in 2009 to 73.3% in 2010, against a national average of 70.0% in 2009 to 75.4% in 2010. Rotherham has reduced the gap to national averages by 1.0% but increased the gap to the statistical neighbours' average by 1.3%.

Table D2: Performance at 5+ A* - C (including English and Mathematics)

GCSE results	Rotherham (R) %	National (N) %	% Diff between R and N	Statistical Neighbours (SN) %	% Diff between R and SN
5+A*-C (including English and maths)					
2007	39.0	46.7	-7.7	40.3	-1.3
2008	40.9	47.6	-6.7	42.8	-1.9
2009	47.1	49.8	-2.7	46.7	+0.4
2010	50.8	53.4	-2.6	52.0	-1.2

- In 2010 50.8% of Rotherham pupils achieved 5+A*-C (including English and Maths), against a national average of 53.4% and a statistical neighbour average of 52.0%. Rotherham has reduced the gap to national averages by 2.6% but the gap to statistical neighbours has increased to 1.2%.
- In 2010:
 - 62.3% of pupils gained A*-C in English (66.0% nationally). The LA average rose by 4.0% in line with the national average increase of 4.0%.

- 57.3% gained A*-C in Mathematics (60.0% nationally). The LA average rose by 3.9% against a national average increase of 3.0%.
- 50.8% gained A*-C in English and Mathematics combined (53.8% nationally). The LA average rose by 3.6% against a national average increase of 3.8%.

Table D3: Performance at 5+ A* - G (including English and Mathematics)

GCSE results	Rotherham (R) %	National (N) %	% Diff between R and N	Statistical Neighbours (SN) %	% Diff between R and SN
5+A*-G (including English and maths)					
2007	87.5	87.9	-0.4	88.8	-1.3
2008	90.3	87.4	+2.9	89.9	+0.4
2009	91.8	88.3	+3.5	90.8	+1.0
2010	93.7	88.7	+5.0	92.9	+0.8

- 93.7% of Rotherham pupils gained 5+A*-G (including English and Mathematics), an increase of 1.9% from 2009.
- This is against a national average of 88.7% which increased by 0.4% from 2009 and the statistical neighbour average of 92.9% which increased by 2.1% from 2009.
- Rotherham exceeds both national averages (by 5%) and the average of statistical neighbours (by 0.8%).

Table D4: Performance – Any passes

GCSE results	Rotherham (R) %	National (N) %	% Diff between R and N	Statistical Neighbours (SN) %	% Diff between R and SN
Any passes					
2007	97.0	98.9	-1.9	97.6	-0.6
2008	98.0	98.6	-0.6	98.2	-0.2
2009	98.5	98.9	-0.4	98.5	0.0
2010	99.2	99.0	+0.2	99.1	+0.1

- Only 0.8% of pupils in Rotherham left school in 2010 with no GCSE equivalent passes. Rotherham is slightly above national averages and the average of statistical neighbours.

Table D5: Average Point Score (capped – i.e. results of the best 8 subjects taken)

GCSE results	Rotherham (R) %	National (N) %	% Diff between R and N	Statistical Neighbours (SN) %	% Diff between R and SN
APS (capped)					
2007	281.5	303.1	-21.6	290.2	-8.7
2008	292.9	308.6	-15.7	300.5	-7.6
2009	309.8	318.2	-8.4	313.3	-3.5
2010	324.6	327.6	-3.0	328.2	-3.6

- The capped average points score is calculated from the best 8 GCSEs or equivalent.
- The average (capped) point score for pupils in Rotherham is 327.6, an increase of 14.8 in 2010 compared to a national average increase of 9.4.
- Rotherham has improved its position in relation to National averages and Statistical Neighbour rankings in this critical area (now central to Ofsted inspections).

E. Performance Profile of Individual Secondary Schools

	Cohort	5+A*-C inc Eng & Ma	5+A*-C	5+A*-G	At least one qualification	APS
LA Average	3589	50.8%	73.3%	95.2%	99.2%	445.9
England Average		53.4%	75.4%	92.8%	99.0%	438.5
Aston	311	68%	80%	98%	99.0%	438.5
Brinsworth	244	55%	74%	98%	100%	417.9
Clifton	258	33%	67%	97%	100%	438
Dinnington	241	51%	63%	94%	99%	437.5
Maltby	212	51%	67%	98%	100%	442.3
Oakwood	208	50%	75%	94%	99%	421.1
Rawmarsh	229	41%	72%	99%	100%	442.8
Saint Pius Catholic High	128	55%	70%	98%	100%	407.9
St Bernard's Catholic High	128	66%	92%	98%	99%	485.9
Swinton	193	40%	55%	94%	99%	408.9
Thrybergh	116	45%	81%	95%	100%	434.8
Wales High	246	48%	83%	95%	99%	507.1
Wath	289	56%	83%	94%	100%	494
Wickersley	300	67%	88%	98%	100%	526.5
Wingfield	178	46%	65%	98%	100%	448
Winterhill	308	47%	72%	96%	100%	434

F. Vulnerable Groups

(i) Gender

Table F1: Analysis of Performance by Gender - 5+A*-C Grades

5+A*-C	Boys		Girls		Difference	
	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat
2007	48.8	57.7	60.5	66.4	11.7	8.7
2008	54.1	60.9	62.6	69.9	8.5	7.3
2009	63.2	65.8	70.8	74.4	7.6	8.6
2010	69.9	70.9	76.4	79.0	6.5	8.1

- The gap between the performance of girls and boys at 5+A*-C is 6.5%; this has decreased in 2010 by 1.1%. Boys' performance improved by 6.7%. Girls' performance improved by 5.1% between 2009/2010.
- The gap in national performance between girls and boys is 8.1%; this has decreased by 0.5% from 2009. The gender gap nationally is 1.6% above the Rotherham average gap.

Table F2: Analysis of Performance by Gender - 5+A*-C grades (including English and Mathematics)

5+A*-C	Boys		Girls		Difference	
	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat
2007	32.7	42.4	45.5	51.2	12.8	8.8
2008	37.2	43.2	44.8	52.3	7.6	9.1
2009	44.0	45.7	50.3	54.1	6.3	8.4
2010	48.1	51.2	53.0	59.1	4.9	7.9

- The gap between the performance of girls and boys at 5+A*-C (including English and Maths) is 4.9% and reduced by 1.4%. Boys' performance improved by 4.1%. Girls' performance improved by 2.7% between 2009/2010.

- The gap in national performance between girls and boys is 7.9%; the national gap is 3.0% above the LA gap.

Looked After Children

Table F3: Percentage of Looked After Children (LAC) achieving 5+ GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade A*-G (2006- 2010)

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Rotherham %	50	26	47	45	59.3
Rotherham LAC Cohort No.	30	23	36	25	27

Table F4: Percentage of Looked After Children achieving 1+ GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade A*-G 2006-2010

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Rotherham %	70	61	78	72	96.3
Rotherham LAC Cohort No.	30	23	36	25	27

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

Performance by Ethnicity (mainstream schools)

Table F5: Performance by Ethnicity 2007 – 2009

		Number in Group	3+ A* to A	5+ A* to C inc Eng & Maths	5+ A* to C	5+ A* to G
2007	BME	273	16.8%	39.9%	55.3%	93.0%
	WBRI	3427	14.5%	39.8%	55.4%	90.4%
	ALL	3700	14.7%	39.8%	55.4%	90.6%
2008	BME	262	14.5%	34.7%	56.9%	93.5%
	WBRI	3489	17.0%	42.0%	58.7%	92.8%
	ALL	3751	16.8%	41.5%	58.6%	92.9%
2009	BME	295	20.7%	42.4%	63.1%	94.2%
	WBRI	3282	22.2%	48.3%	68.2%	94.8%
	ALL	3616	22.0%	47.7%	67.7%	94.8%
2010	BME	389	22.4%	44.0%	67.1%	95.4%
	WBRI	3196	25.5%	52.4%	74.6%	96.3%
	ALL	3582	25.2%	51.6%	74.1%	96.7%

(BME) Black and Minority Ethnic background

(WBRI) White British background

Data Source – NCER website

- The percentage of BME pupils has increased slightly from 2009 (8.1%) to 2010 (10.8%)
- While the performance of BME pupils continues to improve, the rate of improvement needs to be accelerated and monitored carefully
- The BME cohort does not yet reflect the significant numbers of EU migrant children now entering the secondary school system

Free School Meals

Table F6: Performance by Free School Meals (FSM) Eligibility

	5+A*-C in E&M	5+A*-C	1A*-G	A*-C English	A*-C Maths
2007	15.3	28.5	89.1	23.4	24.7
2008	14.9	28.4	92.9	24.7	21.6
2009	20.8	39.2	93.3	30.1	27.7
2010	24.0	47.6	94.3	33.6	31.4

FSM cohort average – 17.5%

- The performance of pupils on FSM shows an encouraging rise on all indicators

Table F7: Gap between the performance of pupils eligible for FSM and pupils not eligible for FSM

	5+A*-C in E&M	5+A*-C	1A*-G	A*-C English	A*-C Maths
2007	27.8	30.5	8.3	32.2	27.8
2008	30.7	35.3	5.1	32.5	32.4
2009	30.7	32.2	4.9	33.1	30.3
2010	31.2	29.4	4.5	33.6	30.4

- The performance of pupils eligible for FSM has increased for all indicators in 2010 but the gap to mainstream pupil performance remains too wide.

G. Contextual Value Added (CVA)

Table G1: Overall CVA – Number of schools designated in each category

	2008	2009*	2010*
Number of Schools 1000+	9	6	5
Number of Schools less than 1000	7	10	10
Number of Schools Significant -	4	0	4
Number of Schools Significant +	1	2	5

Minus sign (-) means significantly below national average

Plus sign (+) means significantly above national average

- The outcome measure used in the KS2-KS4 2010 overall CVA model has changed to reflect an increased emphasis on English and Mathematics outcomes. The outcome measure for the overall CVA is now capped at the best 8 GCSE or equivalent qualifications plus a separate bonus for English and Mathematics performance.
- 6 schools are in line with the national average, 5 schools are significantly above the national average and 4 schools are significantly below the national average in 2010.

8. Finance:

Resources, within the Council, to drive the school improvement agenda, are a combination of core budget, DfE grant through the Standards Fund and income. Funding to SES has already been significantly reduced and will fall sharply from April 2011. The capacity, therefore, of the central team to support secondary schools will be very limited and other core drivers will need to develop quickly to fill that space. This challenge is currently being addressed with Secondary Headteachers.

Schools also receive additional funding, through Standards Fund, to address the National Strategies agenda re raising standards. These areas are in doubt for 2011/12 and the full scope of school budgets in relation to previous income remains unclear.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

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

The coherent implementation of a range of nationally funded projects has been instrumental in achieving this improvement but they will now terminate at April 2011 and must be replaced by other locally designed and delivered approaches.. This is a fundamental shift in practice and provision which must be managed successfully or students will be the losers. Failure to achieve the targets will limit the economic prospects of the young people and damage their life chances.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

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

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

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

- GCSE Examination Results 2005 - Report to Cabinet 2006.
- GCSE Examination Results 2006 - Report to Cabinet 2007.
- GCSE Examination Results 2007 - Report to Cabinet 2008.
- GCSE Examination Results 2008 - Report to Cabinet 2009.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
21st January, 2011

Present:- Councillor G. A. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Buckley, Dodson, Falvey, Fenoughty, Kaye, License, Sharp and Sims.

Also in attendance were:- Councillor Paul Lakin (Cabinet Member for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children) and co-opted members Mr. M. Burn and Mrs. L. Pitchley, Mrs. J. Blanch-Nicholson and Dr. Susan Warren.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ali, Donaldson and Mr. C. A. Marvin.

86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

87. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

88. MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE YOUTH CABINET

(a) Holocaust Memorial Day – Thursday 27th January, 2011 – the Youth Cabinet was hosting an event at Rotherham Town Hall to celebrate the cultural diversity in Rotherham;

(b) Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) – the Youth Cabinet was arranging for a questionnaire to be completed (during the Rotherham Show in September 2011), enabling young people to express their views about the PSHE curriculum in schools; the results of this latest questionnaire will eventually be compared with the previous questionnaire undertaken as part of the scrutiny review.

89. COMMUNICATIONS

Two members of this Scrutiny Panel were invited to attend the performance clinic about pupil attainment at Key Stage 2, which would be held on Thursday, 17th February, 2011.

90. SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The Scrutiny Panel received information from Paul Carney (Principal Officer, Governor Support)) about the role of school governors, the importance which Government places upon that role and the also the support which is provided for school governors. Various salient issues were discussed:-

- the contents of the Government's Schools White Paper 2010, about the importance of teaching, detailing proposals in respect of school governing bodies;
- the White Paper's proposals to clarify the accountability and responsibilities of school governing bodies;

- the school governing body must identify the strategic direction of a school, being a critical friend to and challenging head teachers and the management of the school;
- the local authority's changing role to commission support services for school governors, rather than be a provider of services; the cost and availability of such services supplied by private sector providers (it was acknowledged that this aspect of school governing bodies is developing and changing very quickly);
- the appointment of trained clerks to school governing bodies, in order to advise and support governing bodies more effectively;
- the importance of continuing training for school governors (eg: development of on-line training materials for chairs of school governing bodies; possible use of cluster training and learning communities for the future delivery of training; opportunities to shadow and learn from existing school governors);
- the level of scrutiny of the role of school governors (nb: it is not yet compulsory for school governors to undertake training relevant to the role);
- introducing more flexible models of governing body structure; the possibility of school governing bodies being allowed to change their composition to suit their own needs (parents will continue to be represented on school governing bodies);
- encouraging people with a background in business and with professional skills to become members of school governing bodies;
- vacancy rates amongst school governing bodies and the type of vacancy (ie: whether staff, parent or local authority governor);
- removing some of the prescription currently placed upon school governing bodies and simplifying the amount of decisions which school governing bodies are required to take;
- whether there should be a salary applied to the role of school governor, reflecting their level of professionalism, or whether the current system of unpaid volunteers should remain;
- the methods used to recruit school governors and ensuring that information about the extent of the role and the training provided is readily available to people who may be interested in joining a school governing body;
- development of Academies and free schools, operating independently of the local authority; the Scrutiny Panel noted that, currently, the few Academies in the Rotherham Borough area intended to continue working in partnership with the local authority;
- the White Paper proposes no changes in respect of foundation governors of voluntary aided schools;

- the continuing review of the need for Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks and whether prospective school governors ought to undertake such checks (currently, school governing bodies make their own decisions as to whether their members ought to undertake CRB checks); the Scrutiny Panel acknowledged that it is good practice for school governors to undertake CRB checks.

Resolved:- (1) That the information about school governing bodies be noted.

(2) That a further report on the Schools White Paper "The Importance of Teaching", including the development of support services for school governing bodies, be submitted to a future meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel.

91. EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Consideration was given to a report, submitted by the Assistant Head of School Effectiveness, providing information about the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) which was introduced in 2004 to support and encourage learners from low income households to continue in post-16 learning. The EMA is a weekly allowance of up to £30, payable to young people in the 16-19 years age group who participate in a valid post-16 education or training programme based upon their weekly attendance. In 2009/10, EMA was paid to 3,930 Rotherham learners, a total cost of £108,550.

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

- some 40% of learners in Rotherham, who are eligible for the EMA, currently receive the allowance (although this figure fluctuates throughout the academic year), the majority attending local further education colleges;
- the intention of HM Government to replace the EMA with an enhanced Learner Support Fund; (nb: young people already in receipt of the EMA, will continue to receive it until the end of the current (2010/11) academic year in July 2011; new applications for the EMA are no longer being processed, the closing date for applications being 31st December, 2010);
- the implications for young people's learning of the withdrawal of the EMA and whether learning opportunities will reduce;
- most of the EMA appears to be spent on students' transport/travelling costs in order to access education;
- the intention of the coalition Government to ensure that young people aged 16-18 years continue to engage in learning;
- collection of data, locally, sub-regionally and nationally of the progress in learning made by young people, with the help of receiving the EMA;

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- any possible impact upon young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs); it was acknowledged that it was difficult to assess any direct impact, because of the wider effects of the economy;
- the desirability of targetting support for young people from economically deprived backgrounds; whether other types of state- or local authority-funded benefits may be available for eligible young people to assist with their travelling and meal costs whilst accessing further education and learning.

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

(2) That this Scrutiny Panel places on record its concern at the decision of the coalition Government to withdraw the Education Maintenance Allowance.

(3) That the issue of financial support for young people accessing learning opportunities continue to be debated at meetings of this Scrutiny Panel.

92. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 2 - 2010/2011

Consideration was given to a report, submitted by the Performance Management Officer outlining the performance of the Children and Young People's Services Directorate at the end of 2010/11 quarter two against targets, with direction of travel against previous year's performance and comparisons with statistical neighbour and national data. The report and the Scrutiny Panel's subsequent debate highlighted these issues:-

- the various areas of success and under-performance;
- arrangements for performance clinics;
- educational achievements of school pupils;
- the quality of support provided by the local authority for schools, alongside the reduction in the school effectiveness service;
- federations of schools (eg: primary schools alongside secondary schools);
- schools in special measures.

It was noted that the format of performance indicator reports was currently under review.

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

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

93. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - NOTICE TO IMPROVE - PROGRESS AND EXCEPTIONS

Consideration was given to a report and action plan, submitted by the Performance, Information and Quality Manager, providing an overview of the progress made since the Notice to Improve was received by Children and Young People's Services in December 2009. The report stated that the overarching action plan used to monitor improvements identifies a red-amber-green 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.

The Scrutiny Panel was also informed that the Council had very recently received a letter from Tim Loughton MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, which has lifted the Notice to Improve. The Service was now deemed to be performing satisfactorily.

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

(2) That the progress being made against the targets set in the Notice to Improve be noted.

(3) That the lifting of the Notice to Improve for Children and Young People's Services be welcomed.

94. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL - WORK PROGRAMME 2010/2011

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Senior Scrutiny Adviser containing the current year's (2010/11) work programme for the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel. Members considered that the following issues should be added to the work programme:-

- support for children and young people identified as being gifted and talented (either in academic study or in activities such as music or sports);
- primary school-age childhood obesity (from school Foundation stage to school Year 6 age group);
- pupil attainment levels at Key Stage 2;
- the health of children, in the light of the White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People" published in 2010 by the coalition Government.

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

(2) That the contents of the Scrutiny Panel's 201/11 work programme be approved with the inclusion of the various issues listed above.

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95. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2010

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 10th December, 2010 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

96. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2010

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Trust Board held on 15th December, 2010, be noted.

97. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE CABINET MEMBER AND ADVISERS FOR SAFEGUARDING AND DEVELOPING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER 2010 AND ON 5TH JANUARY 2011

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children held on 15th December, 2010 and on 5th January, 2011, be noted.

98. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2010

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 17th December, 2010 be noted.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD
Wednesday, 19th January, 2011

Present:- Councillor Paul Lakin (in the Chair); Andy Buck, Brian James, Dr. David Polkinghorn, Alan Hazell, Ann Jackson, Gill Alton, Joyce Thacker, Richard Tweed and Janet Wheatley.

In attendance:- Dorothy Smith, Clare Burton, Shona McFarlane, Pippa Wise, John Lambert, Paul Grimwood and Dean Fenton.

Apologies for absence were received from Martin Kimber.

D52. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2010

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th December, 2010 were approved as a correct record.

D53. MATTERS ARISING

The following issues were noted:-

(1) Minute No. D43 – the final draft of the Partnership Agreement for the Children and Young People's Trust Board had been issued to all members for agreement and signature.

(2) Minute No. D44 – the draft proposal for the development of Prevention and Early Intervention Services would be submitted to a future meeting of this Board.

(3) Minute No. D48 – the Board noted that the number of Looked After Children registered with the Council had reduced.

D54. COMMISSIONING FOR OUTCOMES AND EFFICIENCIES PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation from Clare Burton, Business Development and Partnerships Manager, about commissioning for outcomes and efficiencies within Children and Young People's Services. Board members also participated in workshop exercises to:-

- : enable outcomes to be identified in a consistent way across Children and Young People's Services;
- : meet year on year efficiency savings;
- : deliver sustainable improvements; and
- : accelerate commissioning activity where appropriate to achieve efficiencies at a faster rate.

After the workshop exercises had ended, the Board discussed the following salient issues:-

- maximising the use of limited resources available;

- children's and young people's safety, both preventing them from committing crimes and from becoming the victims of crime;
- ensuring early intervention and good quality communication about health and social issues (for example, to minimise the rate of teenage pregnancy);
- ensuring the good attendance of children and young people in the correct setting – ie: at school, college, training and employment, etc.
- ensuring that children and young people have adequate means of access to the service they require, with appropriate people to be their advocates where necessary;
- the most common causes of harm to children and young people (nb: to receive the NHS Rotherham paper about the incidence and causes of childhood deaths);
- to assess accurately the outcomes which children and young people require and ensuring that services are equipped, via the commissioning process, to be able to respond effectively to the needs of children and young people (ie: taking preventative action at an early stage, instead of having to react to issues later).

At the conclusion of the presentation and exercise, the Board agreed that:-

- (1) in terms of safeguarding children, the most common causes of harm to children ought to be identified and formally recorded;
- (2) the budget for commissioning in respect of the 4 Big Things should be identified;
- (3) in view of the limited resources available, to identify the most important issues to receive priority in the commissioning process;
- (4) to place these issues on the agenda of a future meeting of this Board, to enable the Board to determine which are the most important issues to receive priority in the commissioning process.

D55. YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report presented by Paul Grimwood, Youth Offending Service Manager, detailing the outcomes of the recent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) Core Case Inspection of Rotherham's Youth Offending Services (YOS). The report and Action Plan have been considered and approved by the Youth Offending Service Management Board. A copy of the Action Plan was appended to the report submitted.

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

(2) That the positive outcome of the HMIP Core Case Inspection be welcomed.

(3) That the progress of the various items within Action Plan be reported to a future meeting of the Children and Young People's Trust Board.

D56. CO-ORDINATED FAMILY SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services concerning the need for strategic partners to develop co-ordinated family services. The report stated that the strategic priorities for these services are:-

- to develop coherent, responsive outcome based services that effectively meet the needs of children, young people and their families who have high levels of vulnerability;
- to develop collaborative partnerships with other agencies and
- to develop and improve service delivery ensuring a consistently high professional service.

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

(2) That a further report about the proposals for co-ordinated family services be submitted to a future meeting, enabling the Children and Young People's Trust Board to consider this issue in detail.

D57. VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR (VCS) ISSUES

Consideration was given to a report presented by Janet Wheatley, Chief Executive of Voluntary Action Rotherham, providing a background and analysis of issues currently facing Rotherham's voluntary and community sector (VCS), especially in relation to Children and Young People Services. The report explored both the opportunities available and challenges faced by the VCS to meet changing market demands. The report also discussed the role and capacity of the local VCS to increase delivery in priority public service areas, against revised priorities within the Community Strategy, the 4 Big Things in the Children's Plan and the concepts underpinning a 'Big Society' and increased localism.

The Board expressed the view that further information was required about the specific organisations within Rotherham's voluntary and community sector (VCS) which were dealing with the current challenges.

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

(2) That this report be referred to a meeting of the Children and Young People's Executive for further detailed consideration.

D58. ROTHERHAM CHARTER FOR PARENT VOICE

Consideration was given to a report presented by Pippa Wise, Parent Partnership Service Manager, stating that an Innovative Practice Project, (one of seven projects funded by the Department for Education) is being carried out in Rotherham following the publication of the 'Lamb Inquiry: Special Educational Needs and Parental Confidence'. A working group comprising members of the Rotherham Parents and Carers Forum, Children and Young People's Services' representatives, school staff and school governors have collaborated to develop a Charter for Parent Voice based upon research using the narratives of Rotherham parents who have children with special educational needs.

The Charter is a commitment to care, include, communicate and work in partnership with parents and their children. It has four key principles, each underpinned by criteria against which schools and services may evaluate their partnership with parents. The Charter will be supported by a practical toolkit and a training module for use by schools and services. A Charter Management Group, made up of parents, school and service personnel, will be established to assess and monitor the achievement of the Charter, including at gold standard. Initially designed for parents of children with additional needs, the Charter has the potential to apply to school and service involvement with all parents.

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

(2) That the constituent members and organisations of the Children and Young People's Trust Board endorse the Charter for Parent Voice as the contract between the Council, its partner organisations and parents.

(3) That the Children and Young People's Trust Board actively encourages all schools and services to use the supporting materials to achieve the Charter.

(4) That it be noted that the official launch of the Charter will take place on Wednesday, 23rd March, 2011.

D59. RISK REGISTER REPORT

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Risk and Regulation Manager, concerning the Children and Young People's Services' risk register (a copy of the register was appended to the submitted report). The report is submitted further to the Risk Management workshop held on 8th September 2010 and the development of content using the Council's Risk Management monitoring system JCAD Risk. The risk register outlines:-

a description of the risk
 who has overall responsibility for managing the risk
 pre mitigation risk rating

mitigating actions
 Persons responsible for mitigating actions
 Percentage progress
 Completion / review date
 Post mitigation risk assessment

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

(2) That the current position with regard to risk management monitoring be noted.

D60. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2010/2011 QUARTER 2

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services outlining the performance of Children and Young People's Services at the end of 2010/11 Quarter two against targets, with direction of travel against previous year's performance and comparisons with statistical neighbour and national data.

Agreed:- (1) That the Performance Report be received and the performance details noted.

(2) That the recommendations regarding performance clinics, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be approved.

D61. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following matters were discussed:-

(1) Membership of the Children and Young People's Trust Board – the place for a school head teacher on the Board still remained vacant;

(2) Children and Young People's Trust Board Logo – the Board had awarded a £50 voucher to the pupil who had designed the logo;

(3) the need to arrange an early meeting between representatives of this Board and of the Safeguarding Children Board, to consider the annual report of the Safeguarding Children Board;

(4) Ann Jackson stated that she was leaving the area and would longer be attending meetings of this Board; everyone thanked Ann for her contribution to the Board's role and work;

(5) The Board was informed that the Council had received a letter from Tim Loughton MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, which has lifted the Notice to Improve from the Children and Young People's Service. The Service was now considered to be performing satisfactorily.

D62. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Trust Board take place at the Town Hall, Rotherham on Wednesday, 9th March, 2011, commencing at 4.00 p.m.

**SAFEGUARDING AND DEVELOPING LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN - 19/01/11**

**CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFEGUARDING AND DEVELOPING
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN
19th January, 2011**

Present:- Councillor Lakin (in the Chair); Councillors Havenhand and Sangster.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Currie

D102. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 5TH JANUARY, 2011

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th January, 2011 be approved as a correct record.

D103. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2010/2011

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, providing details of expenditure, income and the net budget position for the Children and Young People's Services Directorate compared to the profiled budgets for the period ending 30th November, 2010 and the projected year end outturn position for 2010/2011. Members discussed the following issues:-

- : currently, the Directorate was forecasting a balanced outturn;
- : the Directorate's budget had been increased from £39.852 million to £45.470 million, due to increases of £5.1 million to cover the projected overspend identified in-year and £518,000 to cover the in-year Area Based Grant cut. This also included the Area Based Grant cuts of £1.578 million, all of which were agreed at the Cabinet meeting held on 17th November, 2010.

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

(2) That the current forecast outturn position for the Children and Young People's Services Directorate, based on actual costs and income to 30th November, 2010 and forecast costs and income to 31st March, 2011 be noted.

D104. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2010/2011

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services indicating that the Children and Young People's Services' Capital Programme 2010/2011 was £21.730 million and was forecast to be spent fully by 31st March, 2011. The submitted report showed the capital programme's actual expenditure to 15th November, 2010 and projected expenditure to 31st March, 2011.

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

(2) That it be noted that the Children and Young People's Services' Capital Programme for 2010/11 was £21.370 million and expenditure to 15th November, 2010 was £9.458 million and that the Capital Programme was expected to spend to budget by 31st March, 2011.

D105. BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE AND THE CAPITAL SPENDING REVIEW

Further to Minute No. 62 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children held on 22nd September, 2010, consideration was given to a report presented by the Children and Young People's Services Capital Projects Officer stating that, on 5th July, 2010, the Department for Education ceased the Building Schools for the Future Programme. For Rotherham this ended the plans for a number of new secondary and special schools, as well as a 'state of the art' ICT infrastructure. In total, the programme was worth £222 million, alongside £24 million for ICT. The Secretary of State for Education, the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP, emphasised to all local authorities that this did not mean the end of capital spending on schools. A Capital Review Group was established by the Government to make recommendations on the future direction for capital expenditure on schools, with a special emphasis on how it should be procured. The submitted report provided an update on the results of the capital review and the financial settlement on education capital spending for 2011/2012.

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

- national capital allocation
- reduced capital allocation for Rotherham
- Devolved Formula Capital
- Modernisation Capital Maintenance
- Basic Need
- Rotherham's Primary Capital Programme
- access initiative funding
- extended schools
- risk factors

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

(2) That the financial settlement for Rotherham's education capital spending 2011/2012, as now reported, be noted.

[The Chairman authorised consideration of the following item to keep members informed]

D106. SUSTAINING SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT IN ROTHERHAM

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services indicating that the Council was working intensively with Rotherham schools to design and deliver a new 'school improvement partnership' with effect from April, 2011. At that point in time, fundamental shifts in Government policy on schools and local education provision would combine with stringent financial cuts to local authorities and make current practice unsustainable.

The Council would need to establish a new settlement with schools and new approaches to individual and collective school improvement to ensure that the Borough's children and young people continued to progress as they should. This proposed partnership built on the considerable successes of Transforming Rotherham Learning (TRL) over the last five years, but would require a step-change in system leadership, support structures and resourcing to be effective.

The report described the aims of the proposed 'Transforming Rotherham Learning Partnership Executive' which would combine the functions of the current TRL Executive (which authorised the Partnership Plan and commissions work in Leadership, Inclusion and Learning) and Schools' Forum (which contracted use of the Dedicated Schools Grant within the Local Authority). The policy and financial governance would be invested in a single body made up primarily of school leaders, using the Schools Forum constitution as a legal core.

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

(2) That the proposal for a new Rotherham school improvement partnership, as detailed in the report now submitted, be supported and a further detailed report be submitted to Cabinet.

D107. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

D108. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FOSTER CARERS

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Service Manager, Long Term LAC Team concerning a request for financial assistance, from a couple who were foster carers, for a building extension to their home to enable them to be considered as long-term foster carers for three children currently residing with them on a task-centred basis. The application was made under the provisions of the Adoption Support Services (Local Authority) (England) Regulations 2003.

Resolved:- That consideration of this matter be deferred pending the submission of three written estimates for the required work.

D109. GANI MARTINS

It was noted that this was Gani's last meeting prior to taking up a new position with Salford City Council.

It was placed on record that Gani be thanked for her services to the Council and she be wished every success in her new appointment.

**1DCABINET MEMBER FOR SAFEGUARDING AND DEVELOPING LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN - 09/02/11**

**CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFEGUARDING AND DEVELOPING LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN
Wednesday, 9th February, 2011**

Present:- Councillor Lakin (in the Chair); and Councillor Sangster.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Currie and Havenhand.

D110. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 19TH JANUARY, 2011

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th January, 2011 be approved as a correct record.

D111. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD HELD ON 19TH JANUARY, 2011

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Trust Board, held on 19th January, 2011, be noted.

D112. ANNUAL DETERMINATION - THE LOCAL AUTHORITY (POST COMPULSORY EDUCATION AWARDS) REGULATIONS 2000

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Principal Officer (Student and Business Support) stating that, in accordance with the Local Authority (Post-Compulsory Education Awards) Regulations 2000, local authorities are required to make an annual determination on exercising powers to make financial awards to new Higher Education (HE) and Further Education (FE) students.

The Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 removed the power for local authorities to make discretionary awards to FE (and HE) students under the Education Act 1962. Prior to this, the Authority had operated a scheme of financial support to FE, sixth form and some HE students who would otherwise have not been eligible for funding. Section 129 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 conferred a revised power on local authorities, should they wish to use it, to make awards to new FE (and HE) students, and to 16-19 year olds who are still attending school.

In parallel with the removal of the power to make discretionary awards, funding was withdrawn from the then Standard Spending Assessment from 1999-2000. From that date, the Authority determined not to make any new awards. New funding was available to students from a new Standards Fund (now YPLA allocated grant) in the form of Learner Support Funds. Authorities are however still required to make an annual determination for each financial year with regard to the revised power conferred in 1998.

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

(2) That this Council determines not to take up the power contained in

Section 129 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 in any circumstances and not make provision for considering applications for awards to new Further Education and Higher Education students, nor to 16-19 year olds who are still attending school.

D113. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2010/2011

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Principal Accountant providing details of expenditure, income and the net budget position for the Children and Young People's Service's directorate compared to the profiled budgets for the period ending on 31st December 2010 and the projected year end outturn position for 2010/11. Currently, the Directorate is forecasting a balanced outturn.

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

D114. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - RISK MANAGEMENT

Further to Minute No. 71 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on 6th October, 2010, consideration was given to a report presented by the Risk and Regulation Manager, concerning risk management for the Children and Young People's Services' (CYPS) Directorate. Members noted the following details:-

- following the previous report (6th October 2010), updates, new mitigations and new risks appear in bold type in the current report, for ease of reference;
- the BSF / PCP risks at SLT (10) and CYPS (19) register levels were renamed 'Capital Programme'; after a review of the Council's Asset Management Service and transfer of the remainder of the Building Schools for the Future Team into the Service, the Capital Programme risk has now been transferred to Environment and Development Services;
- the Machinery of Government (MOG) risk at SLT level has been withdrawn;
- after the re-direction of funding to YPLA, residual operational risks are captured in the CYPS 20 MOG register; the pre-mitigation rating has been raised to RED and the post mitigation rating to AMBER;
- a workshop within the CYPS Directorate will take place on 8th March 2011, to review all CYPS risks on JCAD risk and align them to new Corporate and CYPS structures.

Resolved:- That the report be received and the current position with regard to risk management activity within the Children and Young People's Services' Directorate be noted.

3DCABINET MEMBER FOR SAFEGUARDING AND DEVELOPING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN - 09/02/11

D115. BRINSWORTH ACADEMY - GOVERNING BODY

Discussion took place on the need to appoint someone to fill a community governor vacancy on the Governing Body of the Brinsworth Academy. Reference was made to:-

: changes to the structure and categories of membership of the Governing Body as a consequence of the Brinsworth Comprehensive School attaining Academy status with effect from 1st October, 2010;

: the eligibility requirements of school governors who are also, or who have been local authority elected members or employees, as prescribed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;

: the governing body of the Wales Academy, which had retained a place for a governor appointed by the Borough Council.

It was agreed that further discussions should take place with the Brinsworth Academy and a report submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children.

D116. KEY STAGE 2 RESULTS - SUMMER 2010

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Assistant Head of School Effectiveness detailing the performance in Rotherham primary schools at the end of Key Stage 2, in 2010.

The report listed the key actions being taken by School Effectiveness Service to raise attainment levels at Key Stage 2 (eg: the 'raising the bar' project with the cluster of primary schools around the Rotherham town centre).

Reference was also made to:-

: the performance clinic about pupil attainment, taking place on Thursday, 17th February 2011;

: the role of schools' governing bodies in helping to improve pupil and school attainment levels; and the training requirements of school governors;

: the very small number of Rotherham schools which had boycotted the Key Stage 2 tests during 2010.

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

(2) That the improvements in performance in important areas of Key Stage 2 be noted.

(3) That the drive to encourage all schools to continue to improve their results be supported.

(4) That the drive to reduce the number of schools below the Department for Education new floor target of 60% in both English and Mathematics L4+ and make the expected levels of progress between Key Stage 1 and 2, improve boys' attainment and that of black and minority ethnic pupils and of Looked After Children be endorsed.

D117. KEY STAGE 4 (GCSE) RESULTS - SUMMER 2010

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Head of School Effectiveness containing information about the Key Stage 4 (GCSE) examination results for 2010 and how they compare to previous years, to the national average and to the results of this Council's statistical neighbours.

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

(2) That the continued improvement in levels of performance across all indicators at the end of Key Stage 4 be noted.

(3) That all schools be encouraged to continue to improve their results and to strive to achieve outcomes at least in line with the national rate of improvement.

(4) That Members endorse the drive to:-

(i) reduce the gap between Rotherham's GCSE performance and the national average performance, especially in relation to 5A*-C including English and Maths;

(ii) continue to improve boys' attainment;

(iii) continue to improve the attainment of black, minority ethnic pupils and;

(iv) continue to improve the attainment of Looked After Children.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
14th January, 2011

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

Also in attendance for item 109 below were Councillors Cutts, Parker, Smith and Turner.

An apology for absence was submitted from Councillor J. Hamilton.

107. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Councillor Smith declared a prejudicial interest in item 109 below, being the Cabinet Member taking the decision called in and only remained in the room to answer questions and explain the reasons for the decision.

Councillor Swift declared a personal interest in item 109 below having been, as Vice-Chair of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel, present at the meeting when the Cabinet Member took the decision subject to the call-in.

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

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

109. CALL - IN FLASH LANE, BRAMLEY - PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and the process and procedures were explained.

The Committee considered Minute No. G87 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment held on 13th December, 2010 regarding the proposed traffic calming scheme on Flash Lane, Bramley. Also considered was the report that was submitted to the above meeting.

Councillor Turner, supported by Councillors Cutts and Parker, presented the objections to the proposals covering the following issues and views:-

- need to mitigate the situation and meet the requirements of the public
- in the Section 106 agreement the developer had contributed £10,000 towards the provision of a pedestrian crossing
- some residents in sheltered accommodation were reluctant to go out and rather than cross Flash Lane, got on the bus to the terminus and back up Flash Lane to alight at the other side
- £10,000 of the £45,000 calming scheme estimated costs was for the provision of a pedestrian crossing

- arguments for a formal pedestrian crossing were supported by speeding vehicles on Flash Lane, high activity of people and vehicles on Flash Lane at peak hours due to school, supermarket, youth centre and play area increasing the vulnerability and danger
- concordance from the community regarding the need for a formal pedestrian crossing
- costs for formal crossings quoted by engineers excessive compared to own investigation of costings
- sensible acknowledgement of the needs of the community would be reflected in the provision of dropped kerbs, striped crossing, two belisha beacons and two full length speed retarders situated at the beginning of Flash Lane off Bawtry Road and prior to the cemetery
- lack of consultation with the people living off Flash Lane e.g. housing estates using Flash Lane as an access road
- need for an urgent public meeting to determine what was wanted by the community
- LED's could be solar powered obviating the need for expensive excavation costs to connect to lamp posts

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

- the Section 106 referred only to a pedestrian crossing not the type of crossing
- there was insufficient monies for a controlled crossing
- speed cushions and a flat top road hump had been proposed but when consulted the public objected and those objections were acceded to
- the appropriate consultation had taken place
- LTP monies were specifically for speed cushions and flat top hump nothing else, so when the cushion proposal was dropped, as a result of the public consultation, the money had to be returned to the LTP
- the Department for Transport criteria for the implementation of a controlled crossing could not be met and indeed fell short of the criteria by a long way
- other options therefore had to be considered leading to the scheme that was consulted on and the resulting amendment to remove cushions and the flat top hump from the scheme

The sponsors of the call-in answered, where possible, questions from the Committee covering:-

- why no objection from the sponsors of the call - in to the scheme at the time of the public consultation
- were there any objections from sponsors to the removal of the speed cushions from the scheme
- clarification that the sponsors wanted a controlled rather than an informal crossing
- clarification that the sponsors wanted a public meeting
- what the sponsors expected to achieve from a public meeting bearing in mind the consultation already carried out

Councillor Smith, together with an officer, answered, where possible, questions from the Committee covering:-

- costs of a zebra crossing/belisha beacons/LED's
- extent of the public consultation exercise
- suitability of speed cushions working as a 'pinch' point on Flash Lane
- effectiveness of speed cushions
- effectiveness of zebra crossings
- who suggested the Section 106 issue regarding a pedestrian crossing and why
- why had there been a delay in designing the proposed scheme
- cost of the scheme
- was the consultation area too narrow
- consultation process followed
- clarification that proposed calming scheme prepared following discovery that criteria could not be met for the provision of a controlled crossing

Councillor Smith answered questions from members of the public covering:-

- criteria for the provision of a controlled crossing
- refusal of the Authority to leaflet drop the Broadlands estate and limited public consultation exercise undertaken

At the conclusion of the questioning Councillor Smith left the room and the Committee deliberated.

Resolved:- (1) That the call-in request be not supported.

(2) That clarification be sought regarding the consultation exercise.

(3) That the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel be requested to look at costs and strategies regarding the provision of pedestrian crossings.

(Councillor Smith declared a prejudicial interest in the above item and left the room at the conclusion of the questioning and prior to the Committee's deliberations

Councillor Swift declared a personal interest in the above item)

110. PLANNING FOR THE 2011 CENSUS

Further to Minute No. C136 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 15th December, 2010, Miles Crompton (Research Co-ordinator) accompanied by Michael Whetton (Census Area Manager) presented the submitted report which set out details of the next UK Census which would take place on 27th March, 2011. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) was working in partnership with local authorities to benefit from their knowledge of local areas. The Council could help ONS to achieve the highest possible coverage in the Borough which would improve the accuracy of local statistics and maximise Government funding determined by census data.

The 2011 Census would offer online completion for the first time, as well as postal response. ONS had begun recruiting staff who would work on the Census with local agencies and communities to maximise response from those who have difficulty in completing the form, or who otherwise did not respond.

The Council and partner agencies were supporting the Census Area Manager to make use of local knowledge, experience and additional sources of data to ensure the success of the 2011 Census.

The 2011 Census would cost the Government £480 million, but there would be no direct cost to Rotherham MBC. During 2010 and 2011 there would be in-kind contributions through officer time to support preparation for and implementation of the Census.

The risks involved with the Census largely related to response rate and how accurately the data represented the actual population which were the responsibility of ONS. There was a risk to the Council from an under-count of population because a large amount of Revenue Support Grant was based on Census data. It was, therefore, in the interests of the Council to assist in maximising Census coverage locally.

The report covered:-

- maximising response
- Census content and topics
 - population and usual residence
 - housing
 - national identity
 - ethnicity
 - language
 - health
 - migration
 - 2011 census data
- Census Operation
- Contribution by Rotherham MBC
 - address register
 - enumeration and intelligence
 - community engagement
 - recruitment and logistics
 - communications and publicity
 - elected members
- Contribution from Rotherham Partner Organisations.

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

- engaging the hard to count population
- census timescales
- non responders and chase up activity
- utilisation of Ward Councillors, parish Councils (Parish Network) and community groups to assist in maximising responses
- online usage and need to gear up community buildings
- future of the Census
- partner organisations
- penalties for non-compliance
- CRB checks for census staff
- potential help from recommendations of previous scrutiny review

- need for a hotline number for elected members
- awareness of disabilities that could lead to non-compliance e.g. dyslexia

Resolved:- (1) That the importance of the 2011 Census to local intelligence and funding, and contribution which the Council and partners could make to its success locally be noted.

(2) That the key role which the Council and local partners could play in promoting the Census, maximising coverage and thereby ensuring the accuracy of data for planning and funding purposes be noted.

(3) That it be noted that Cabinet agreed that Rotherham MBC work with the Office for National Statistics and local partners, as set out in the Draft Census Partnership Plan, summarised in Sections 7.5 and 7.6 of the submitted report.

(4) That, following the completion of the 2011 Census, a further report be submitted on the outcomes, lessons learnt etc.

111. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th December, 2010 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

112. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) The Mayor (Councillor McNeely) reported that the review of private landlords was nearing its completion and that next week's Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel meeting was to include a visit to Rotherham Crematorium.

(b) Councillor Whysall reported that the latest meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel had considered the response to snow events in November and December, 2010 and that a joint scrutiny review was being arranged.

The next meeting of the Panel was to be held at the Advanced Manufacturing Park. A future meeting of the Panel would consider arrangements for a scrutiny review regarding pedestrian crossing strategies and costs.

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

- The Demographic Change for Rotherham
- Diabetes Review
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service : Potential Indicators for 2011/12 Quality Accounts
- The Rotherham Foundation Trust : Improvement Areas for 2011/12

- presentation on the collaborative study of hospital in patient falls

(d) Councillor Austen reported that the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel would look at consultation processes across the Council.

113. CALL- IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
28th January, 2011

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

An apology for absence was received from The Mayor (Councillor McNeely).

114. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

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

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

116. SCRUTINY REVIEW - FUTURE OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

The Chairman indicated that, given the new landscape, like other parts of the Council, it was essential that overview and scrutiny reviewed its arrangements to ensure that the job was done even more efficiently and effectively whilst continuing to provide value for money. It was important to improve the outcomes of the scrutiny process which could mean adopting new ways of working and/or structures.

The review was underway and this session was to focus on what was being done, what needed to be done and what, if anything, could be done differently.

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny, contextualised the rationale behind the review and challenges being faced. Reference was made to the support being given to the review from Sheffield University.

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, elaborated on the questionnaire that had been sent to members and officers and the responses so far.

Caroline then facilitated the discussion and members responded to the following questions:-

- What do the public expect from scrutiny
- What are your views on the following areas that had featured as the most important issues from the questionnaire responses and were they the right areas for scrutiny to focus on:-
 - Holding the Council and other partners to account for their performance (as part of self regulation)
 - Need to provide challenge to budget proposals and expenditure (to ensure transparency and value for money was achieved)
 - Reflecting and articulating the public voice

- Scrutiny should play a far greater role in policy development. Looking less at issues after decisions have been taken and more at big issues and finding the solutions, influencing the way services develop.
Is that the right approach and, if so, what needed to change.
- How effective were the monthly or six weekly panel meetings.
- Did there need to be better engagement of back bench members and, if so, how could that be achieved
- What further support did members need to fulfil the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair and what kind of support did back bench members need
- Should the role of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee change how should the Committee relate to other areas of scrutiny
- Considering the future for scrutiny and the need to do more for less, what three things would you retain and what three things would you change

The Chairman thanked everyone for their participation.

Resolved:- That the comments and views be considered as part of the review process.

117. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th January, 2011 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

118. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor Austen reported that the latest meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel had been themed on crime and disorder and considered:-

- Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill
- Rotherham Victim Support
- National Indicator Set and Fear/Perceptions of Crime : Current Situation
- Partners and Communities Together (PACT) Meetings
- Procurement Strategy : Red Status Actions

A special meeting of the Panel had been arranged for 3rd February, 2011 to consider:

- scrutiny review of the Council's website
- the future of overview and scrutiny

(b) Councillor P. A. Russell reported that the latest meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel had considered:

- adverse weather conditions and the effect on heating in Council properties
- crematorium services (including a visit to the crematorium)

(c) Councillor Whysall reported that the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel was awaiting the report on winter maintenance and that the next meeting was to be held at the Advanced Manufacturing Park.

(d) Councillor Jack reported that the next meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel would focus on health training

(e) Councillor G. A. Russell reported that the latest meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel had considered:-

- support for school governors
- education maintenance allowance
- Children and Young People's Services performance indicators : quarter 2
- Children and Young People's Services Notice to Improve : progress and exceptions
- Work programme

119. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.