

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

Date: Friday, 18 March 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
8. Consultation on the Reshaping of Children's Centres (report attached) (Pages 1 - 11)
9. Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board - Annual Report 2010/2011 (copy attached) (Pages 12 - 61)
10. Children and Young People's Services - Performance Indicator Quarter 3 Report - 2010/2011 (copy attached) (Pages 62 - 71)
11. Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 18th February, 2011 (copy attached) (Pages 72 - 77)
12. Minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children held on 23rd February 2011 and on 9th March 2011 (copies attached) (Pages 78 - 82)

13. Minutes of meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 11th and 25th February 2011 (copies attached) (Pages 83 - 92)

***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
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- 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:-
Tuesday, 26 April 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 CABINET
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	9 th March, 2011
3.	Title:	Consultation on the Reshaping of Children's Centres
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to set out proposals for changes to the delivery of Children's Centre services in Rotherham, ensuring the Local Authority's statutory duty to provide sufficient Children's Centres to reach under fives and their families is met and to provide a more efficient and effective service.

6. **Recommendations**

- **The report to be received.**
- **That Cabinet endorse the decision to consult on the preferred Children's Centre option as identified within this report.**
- **That Cabinet agree to an eight week consultation period commencing Thursday 10th March 2011, ending on Thursday 5th May 2011.**
- **That Cabinet request that the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children and Young People consider a further report with the findings of the consultation exercise, the Equality Impact Assessment and any further recommendations.**

7. **Proposals and Details**

Reasons for recommendation

Children's Centres are an integral part of a local authority prevention and early intervention strategy and offer services to families with children under the age of five years. Ofsted inspections of Rotherham Children's Centres during 2010/11 have demonstrated the considerable current success of this provision in the Borough. However, a number of recent national reviews of the use of the Centres have highlighted that the focus must be on how we can enable the Children's Centre, working with other partners and professionals, to better target those most in need of their services to intervene earlier in order to narrow the gap for the most disadvantaged in our communities.

The original ring fence around the Sure Start Grants has been lifted so that the Local Authority can make decisions which more accurately reflect local need. The core directive is that Children's Centres need to be more targeted on providing services to those most vulnerable children and their families who are deemed at risk. Moreover, the newly created Early Intervention Grant (EIG), of which the Children's Centre funding forms part, has been significantly reduced for 2011/12. In this context, a thorough review of provision in Rotherham is now urgent.

A decision to extend Children's Centre contracts with both governing bodies of schools and staff working within Children's Centres from 1st April to 31st August 2011 was made in December 2010. The proposed changes, therefore, would need to take effect from 1st September 2011.

Three Children's Centre options have been identified. The first option is to maintain the existing Children's Centre model as it is at present. We consider this option is not feasible due to the overall reduction of the level of funding. The EIG will not provide sufficient finance to sustain the infrastructure at current levels so that some rationalisation of provision is essential if the quality of service is not to deteriorate. Our recommendation, therefore, is a reshaping of the Centres in a cluster format described in Options 2 and 3. Option 2 identifies the potential clustering of 17 lead Children's Centres with 5 Children's Centre satellites, whilst option 3 identifies the potential clustering of 14 lead Children's Centres and 8 Children's Centre satellites.

The principles that underpin these recommendations are:

- Recognition of a significant reduction in funding from Government and a change of national policy direction.
- Confirmation that Rotherham's Children's Centres are instrumental to the Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy enabling an increased focus on supporting and meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and families in each of the 14 geographical Learning Communities.
- Commitment to ensure every geographical Learning Community has at least one Children's Centre as an essential foundation of the core Transforming Rotherham Learning values and aspirations.

There are 22 Children's Centres in Rotherham, all managed and led by governing bodies of schools and Headteachers, on behalf of the Local Authority. Originally there were 23 Children Centres, but 2010 Thrybergh and Dalton Children's Centres were clustered.

All meet the Children's Centre current core offer of the following services:

- Integrated Early Education and Childcare
- Access to specialist services
- Child and Family Health Services
- Family Support- universal and targeted
- Access to Job Centre Plus Services
- Outreach and Family Support including parenting services
- Families' Information Service
- Childminding Support Services, including support for the private and voluntary settings

Children's Centres have already aligned their boundaries with the 14 Learning Communities. This is to enable the potential for more strategic and coherent working practices, improved information and performance data sharing, and further to support meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged children and families, as well as contributing to the 0-19 Transforming Rotherham Learning agenda

- The Government's funding for Children's Centres for the next financial year now forms part of a newly created grant called the Early Intervention Grant. The Early Years and Childcare Service element of the EIG grant for Rotherham has been reduced by £1.75 million for the financial year 2011/12.
- The Early Intervention Grant is a ring-fenced grant with a specific focus on early intervention services and strategies for children and their families. As a consequence, Children's Centres will form an important part of an early intervention approach. Indications from the DfE are that whilst the Local Authority must adhere to its statutory duty to provide Children's Centres, there should be an increased focus on supporting those hard to reach/ most vulnerable families and closing the gap between the most disadvantaged and the rest, including children's levels of attainment.

Current policy is also indicating that there will no longer be a requirement to provide full day care in Children's Centres in the most disadvantaged areas.

Option One - The existing Children's Centre model in Rotherham remains the same, including the offer of day care that is presently being offered in 14 Children's Centres

There are currently 22 Children's Centres covering a population of 18,069 under 5's of whom 9,285 live within the 30% most disadvantaged super output areas (SOA) based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation. 14 Children's Centres offer full day care for children aged 0-5 between the periods of 8.00 am-6.00 pm, 48 weeks a year. All Children's Centres are based on school sites with the exception of Stepping Stones Children's Centre in Maltby. The Local Authority has contracts with school governing bodies to deliver Children Centre services working in

partnership with Health, Job Centre Plus, childcare providers, parents and the local community. These come to an end on 31st August 2011.

Option Two - Geographical Learning Community cluster model – 17 lead Children’s Centres with 5 Children’s Centre satellites. 14 Children’s Centres continue to offer day care, based around sufficiency of provision within the Geographical Learning Community

This option is built around the concept of clustering Children’s Centres based on level of need for vulnerable children and families, whilst maintaining a Centre within each geographical Learning Community (defined by level of deprivation and number of vulnerable groups) See appendix A. There are 14 geographical Learning Communities and where a single current Centre is located, these will remain. Where there is more than one Centre within a geographical Learning Community, and one of those Centres has a relatively low level of need, a lead Centre with a satellite base created from the other is proposed. Where there are two Centres both with high level of need based on index of multiple deprivation, both will remain.

This model includes **the rationale for changes to the childcare offer** where the level of provision will be based on the sufficiency of childcare within the geographical Learning Community. 14 Children’s Centres deliver full day child care. This would result in a proposed change to childcare as follows:

- Where there is sufficient childcare for under 2s within the PVI sector within a geographical learning community, Centres will deliver care for 2 to 5 year olds built exclusively around the early education entitlement (funded through EIG) for the most disadvantaged 2 year olds and the early education entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds (funded through DSG).
- Where there is not sufficient provision for under 2s within the PVI sector within a geographical learning community, Centres will deliver a set maximum level of childcare for this age group as well as care for 2 to 5 year olds.

This would result in 7 Centres delivering a maximum level of childcare for 0 to 5 year olds and 7 Children’s Centres for 2 to 5 year olds. (See Appendix B) In no area of the Borough is there sufficient provision to deliver early education to 2, 3 and 4 year olds from the PVI sector alone.

Option Three - Geographical Learning Community cluster model – 14 lead Children’s Centres with 8 Children’s Centre satellites. 14 Children’s Centres continue to offer day care, based around sufficiency of provision within the Geographical Learning Community

The third option takes the clustering model further by having one Children’s Centre within each geographical Learning Community and all others becoming satellites. This would result in 14 lead Children’s Centre and 8 Children’s Centre satellites. This option also includes the rationale of changes to the childcare offer as described in option two. However in this model the additional 3 satellites Children’s Centres have full day care provision -8am until 6pm, unlike the satellites identified in option 2.

In light of the recent government guidance refocusing the purpose of Children's Centres to be accessible to all but identifying and supporting families in the greatest need, all proposed options could provide the following:

- An increased focus on reaching, supporting and meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and families in each of the 14 geographical Learning Communities.
- Children's Centres remain focused on providing preventative services for 0-5 year olds and their families, particularly the most vulnerable, but could also be expected to contribute to the work across this wider age range, e.g. by signposting to other services, supporting older siblings and continuing to offer support to teenage parents.
- The potential to use a 'pick and mix' integrated support and service delivery, based on an increased assessment of local community needs within each geographical learning community, in order to meet the most disadvantaged children and families needs around child development, early learning, childcare and 'school readiness': parenting and family support, child and family health services, adult learning, and working in partnership with parents and the community.
- Have a 'Think Family' approach to offering targeted family support, outreach and parenting, based on evidence based programmes to support the whole family including older siblings.
- Make more flexible use of Children's Centre buildings for increased community use and also supporting services for 0-19 where appropriate.

Proposed options 2 and 3:

- Could result in better use being made of resources within each geographical Learning Community. For example, the Family Support/Outreach workers from the satellites would have increased capacity to focus on families with greatest need within their overall geographical Learning Community.
- Both options two and three could result in improved value for money, including a more efficient use of resources, than option one, when reaching the most disadvantaged children and families.
- A possible reduction in universal provision delivery from the satellites Children's Centres as resources would be targeted more towards disadvantaged children and families.
- Improve the use of the private and voluntary sector for the potential to run, manage and/or deliver services.

Preferred option to consider

We consider option two as the preferred model for the delivery of Children's Centres from 1st September 2011. This model continues to provide quality children's centre services whilst increasing the refocusing of resources to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged children and families. New contracts from 1st September 2011 would run until 31st March 2013, when the current EIG comes to an end.

We consider option one is not feasible due to the overall reduction of the level of funding available. The EIG will not provide sufficient finance to sustain the infrastructure at current levels so that some rationalisation of provision is essential if the quality of service is not to deteriorate. Option one also does not represent the most cost effective and value for money option within the context of meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged children and families. We consider option three is also not feasible. Although the potential savings from this option are minimal in comparison to the high level of time and disruption this model would cause in addition to the negative community impact with parents and families who have already developed affiliation and identity to their local Children's Centre. Savings from this option are a maximum of £27,000 more than option two.

Consultation

Under the Childcare Act 2006 there is a statutory requirement to consult before opening, closing or significantly changing the services provided through Children's Centres. In addition to this, the Act makes clear that for the purpose of this requirement, a change to either the manner in which, or location at which services are delivered is considered to be a change requiring consultation if it is a significant change. A significant change may include:

- A change to the location of some of the core services or the whole Children's Centre moving to another location.
- Providing a significant new service at a Children's Centre.
- A significant service no longer being provided at a Children's Centre (or particular site of the Children's Centre).
- A greatly reduced level of service provided at a Children's Centre.

If approved the consultation period will start on Thursday 10th March 2011 and continue until Thursday 5th May 2011. A further report with the findings of the consultation exercise, the Equality Impact Assessment and any further recommendations will be produced.

Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment is available to complement this Cabinet report. Any changes required following consultation will be reflected in an adjusted Equality Impact Assessment.

8. Finance

Children's Centres' funding now forms part of the Early Intervention Grant, of which Rotherham's total allocation for Early Years and Child Care Services has been reduced by 1.75 million for 2011/12, which represents a 20% reduction on the 2010/11 baseline.

The baseline allocation for Children's Centres in 2010/11 was £6.23 million. The draft budget for 2011/12 is £5.28 million. This is a reduction of £947,000, which is a 15% reduction.

However, within the total EIG allocation to Early Years and Child Care services for 2011/12, the other funding elements which support the Local Authority in meeting its statutory duties under the Childcare Act 2006 have also been reduced by £802,523 which is a 32% reduction.

The options below show where this reduction impacts on Children's Centre finances.

Option one - Current spending on delivering 22 Children's Centres is £6.23 million. No reduction in funding in 2011/12.

Option two – This option shows a reduction in expenditure of £947,864. This represents a 15% reduction in funding for Children's Centres in 2011/12, which may be achieved by:

Full year realisation of efficiency savings already made in Children's Centres during 2010/11

- Reshaping of Thrybergh and Dalton Children's Centres – £50,000
- Efficiency savings from the 14 Children's Centres with daycare - £200,000

Potential efficiency savings in Children's Centres during 2011/12

- Creation of 5 Children's Centre satellites - £112,000
- Reshaping of daycare in 14 Children's Centres - £50,000
- Non recruitment to various vacancies and potential risk to two further posts in 2011/12 - £ 437,000
- Consideration given to ceasing or reducing various external contracts £37,00
- Funding to Bookstart not renewed £17,000
- Reduction in the funding towards Children's Centre staff training- £10,000
- Reduction in Local Authority funding to support Children's Centre delivery - £34,000

Option three – This option shows a reduction in expenditure of £974,864. This represents a 15% of reduction in funding for Children's Centres in 2011/12, with a slight increase in the reduction of management costs of £27,000 when compared to option two.

EIG funding of places for the most disadvantaged 2 year olds in Rotherham – from April 1st 2011 until 31st March 2012

The Strategic Director for Children and Young People, made an executive decision on 17th February 2011 to approve the element of funding required for the above to enable Children's Centres to allocate places now for the most disadvantaged 2 year olds so that these can be taken up immediately from April 1st 2011. This will result in no gap of provision or places for the most disadvantaged 120 2 year olds in 2011/12. In 2012/13 444 places for the most disadvantaged 2 year olds will be needed, increasing to 660 in 2013/14, and 709 in 2014/15.

9. **Risks and Uncertainties:**

The balance between an increased national steer and focus of provision and delivery of services to both the most disadvantaged children and families as well as continuing to provide a universal offer for all children under 5 and their families.

The governments requirements for the commissioning of Children's Centres from 31st August 2011, may result in a different organisation (s) running and managing the Children's Centres, including the day care, to that of the existing model which is presently run and managed by school governing bodies and headteachers.

Ofsted inspections of Children's Centres will continue to occur throughout the consultation period and throughout the transition period towards the implementation of any agreed proposal from the 1st September 2011. There is a potential for a reduction in delivery of services during this transition period, which could impact on Ofsted judgements.

The possibility of payment by results being introduced by the government to hold Children's Centres accountable to the difference that services are making in meeting both the needs of the most disadvantaged children and families as well access of universal services to all. This has yet to be formally confirmed by the government. However, an accountability framework including performance measures is to be piloted in 15 Local Authorities nationally throughout 2011.

The cost of funding option 1 would result in the Local Authority being at high risk of not being able to meet its other statutory duties as identified in the Childcare Act 2006. This would potentially have a negative impact on the quality assurance of private, voluntary and independent settings in Rotherham, including childminders. More private, voluntary and independent settings may close, which may result in parents not being able to access childcare to enable them to return to work.

For all options identified in this report there is a risk of any contracted body not following the terms and conditions of the contract. This could result in an overspend against budget.

Of the 22 Children's Centres 14 are built as an integral part of the school building, and in the vast majority of cases their provision is delivered in the next room to the children's Early Years Foundation stage 1/ Early Years Foundation Stage 2 education provision offered by the school. There is an increased risk by widening access of services to older vulnerable age groups. Therefore this would need to be further appropriate risk assessments completed to ensure no potential safeguarding issues arise.

For both option two and three there could be potential negative community response to propose changes of local provision and services, especially were families have developed an affiliation and identify with their local Children's Centre, and particularly where child care is predominantly used by working parents.

If for example, the future commissioning of Children's Centres remains with school governing bodies, the savings identified in both options two and three are based on the assumption that the governing body for the lead Children's Centre, takes on

the responsibility for a wider reach area and line management responsibilities, with no extra leadership costs. With option three the reach and line management responsibilities are much greater than option two.

In option two both the Winterhill and Clifton geographical Learning Communities would exceed the maximum reach figure of 800 children and families for a disadvantaged area. This would result in the Local Authority potentially not meeting its sufficiency duty.

If following consultation a decision is not reached on the proposed option further delays would put at risk the savings identified in 2011/12.

10. **Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The core purpose of Sure Start Children's Centres has a significant role to play in supporting the delivery of priorities identified in the Local Strategic Partnership Community Strategy; the Corporate Plan; the Children and Young People's Plan: 'The 4 Big Things' and Rotherham's Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy and in addressing child poverty. This supports ensuring the best start in life for children and families, supporting those who are most vulnerable in communities and providing access to training. Within the Corporate Plan the people of Rotherham stated that 'the council must do more to help the poorest communities' and also 'Ensure a range of good quality childcare is available in our poorest communities and that those babies and young children aged 0-3 are most in need are supported in their development'. Within the Children and Young People's Plan the core purpose of the Sure Start Children Centres will also be central to addressing the 4 Big Things, these are : 'Transforming Rotherham Learning: Prevention and Early Intervention; Tackling Inequality and Being Safe. Two recent reviews commissioned by the coalition government both endorse an approach to working with families that emphasise prevention and early intervention. Frank Field's review, 'The Foundation Years: Preventing poor children becoming poor adults', argues for an approach to child poverty that emphasises poverty of opportunity and a renewed focus on giving disadvantaged children better life chances to prevent the cycle of deprivation passing to the next generation. Graham Allen review: The next steps makes the case for specific programmes of intervention to deliver outcomes that are better for families, better for society and better for the economy.

The provision of Children's Centre is fundamental to the Local Authority's Strategy to raise Standards and Achievement for all children and young people. They are a necessary foundation to the work of geographical Learning Communities and critical to the Transforming Rotherham Learning drive to narrow the gap between the progress of the most disadvantaged learner and the majority. Any reorganisation of provision may undermine the security of the local education system and families' confidence in it. There are fundamental challenges for the Council in ensuring equity across and between communities and client groups in a period of national policy change and financial austerity.

11. **Background Papers and Consultation**

Sure Start Children's Centre – Statutory guidance 2010- Department for Education.
Rotherham's Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy.

Childcare Act 2006 duties on Local Authorities in England.

DfE Business plan 2011-2015 – 6 Structural Reform priorities – Priority 5.
Introduce new support for the Early Years. Priority 6: Improve support for children, young people and families, focusing on the most disadvantaged.

The Foundation Years; preventing poor children becoming poor adults. The report of the Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances- Frank Field December 2010.

Fair Society, Health Lives: Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010 – Michael Marmot February 2010.

Select Committee for Children, Schools and Families report on children's centres 2010.

Effective Provision of Pre-School Education (EPPE) report.

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Appendix A – Geographical Learning Communities with their Children’s Centre and their level of need

Children's Centre	Learning Community	Number of Under 5's in Reach	No. of under 5 within top 30% Disadvantaged areas	Vulnerable Groups
Brookfield	Swinton	1070	754	114
Cortonwood	Wath	773	193	227
Wath Victoria		594	363	250
Rawmarsh	Rawmarsh	1257	1027	552
Thrybergh (Dalton)	Thrybergh	706	646	318
Thorpe Hesley	Winterhill	296	0	50
Kimberworth		667	338	275
Central		766	776	304
Rockingham	Wingfield	452	291	167
Park View		423	354	221
Arnold	Clifton	798	656	626
Coleridge		1024	937	1108
Aughton	Aston	1382	389	273
Valley	Oakwood	1292	654	626
Meadows	Brinsworth	1077	350	302
Ryton Brook	Dinnington	656	74	114
Dinnington		677	358	325
Sue Walker	Wales	839	0	129
Thurcroft		362	210	114
Stepping Stones	Maltby	1577	816	517
Listerdale	Wickersley	484	0	84
Flanderwell		897	109	294

Sure Start Children Centres guidance on the definition of vulnerable groups

Teenage parents
 Lone parents
 Black and Minority Ethnic groups
 Disabled children
 Disabled parents
 Workless households
 Fathers

Appendix B- Proposed day care delivery model

0 to 5	2 to 5
Arnold	Aughton
Coleridge	Catcliffe
Dinnington	Central
Park View	Kimberworth
Rawmarsh	Stepping Stones
Rockingham	Valley
Thrybergh	Wath



Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board

Draft V1.8 (PM) 23.02.11

Annual Report 2010 – 2011

Copies of this report are available from the RLSCB website at:

<http://www.rscb.org.uk/Home.aspx>

Although every effort has been taken to avoid jargon in this report, the Glossary of Terms at Appendix 4 may be helpful in explaining the use of any acronyms or abbreviations

AGENDA ITEM 7

Section	Contents	Page
1	Welcome and Introduction from the Independent Chair of Rotherham LSCB	3
2	Executive Summary	4
3	Rotherham Children and Young People in Context	6
4	Governance and Accountability Arrangements	8
5	Progress on Board functions, priority areas and the 2010-11 Business Plan	14
6	Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group	15
7	Serious Case Review Sub Group	23
8	Child Death Overview Panel	24
9	Policy and Procedures Sub Group	25
10	Exploitation Sub Group and Children Missing Education	26
11	Learning and Development Sub Group	27
12	Communication and Publicity Sub Group	28
13	Domestic Abuse	29
14	Management of Allegations Against Professionals, Foster Carers and Volunteers	31
15	Private Fostering	31
16	E-Safety	32
17	Licensing of Premises	32
18	Challenges and Priorities for 2011-2014	33
19	Appendices	34

1. Welcome and Introduction from the Independent Chair of Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board (RLSCB)

I am very pleased to introduce the 2010-2011 Annual Report for the RSLCB. As its independent chair, I am committed to providing a thorough yet succinct annual report to the communities of Rotherham on its achievements, priorities and challenges over the past 12 months.

Although RLSCB has produced previous annual reports, the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 introduced a requirement for LSCBs to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. This report provides an assessment of the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

In the year ahead, and certainly in the longer term, we will have many new challenges as we are in the midst of unprecedented national changes to services for children, families and communities. The death of baby P, the Munro review of child protection services, and the significant cuts in government spending on services provide some of the context, challenges and drivers for change over the next few years.

Locally, here in Rotherham, we continue to have regular inspections from Ofsted, and Children and Young People's Services have recently improved significantly to move from the Department for Education's Notice to Improve.

The role of RLSCB is to ensure that despite these challenges, services and communities can continue to work together effectively to protect and safeguard the children and young people of Rotherham; to provide regular feedback on whether this is the case, and to encourage and coordinate collaborative working continually to improve outcomes for children and young people, who must be at the centre of all that we do.



*Alan Hazell
Independent Chair, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
March 2011*

2. Executive Summary

During the past year, Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board has strengthened its partnership and governance arrangements, building capacity to improve future outcomes for children and young people of Rotherham. It has a new relationship arrangement with Rotherham's Children and Young People's Trust Board, providing improved mutual feedback and accountability on the effectiveness of services to children, young people and their families. This is in the context of Rotherham children's services now being judged to be performing "adequately" for safeguarding children, and a demonstrable improvement such that the formal intervention of the Department for Education has now been lifted. The Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Looked after Children in 2010 appraised the Board as providing effective governance and leadership for its work, providing a good balance of support and challenge to partner agencies.

The Board continues to collaborate productively with the voluntary and community sector, schools and some faith groups, but has further work to do consulting with children, young people and their communities. The Board has welcomed the inclusion to its membership of 3 Lay Members, and it is anticipated that they will add real value to this and other areas of work of the Board.

The remit and responsibilities of some of the Board's 7 Sub Groups and associated task groups were refreshed in 2010, and this has enabled them to focus and deliver on some key priority areas in the past 12 months. As a result, there is a robust learning and development strategy which will enable high quality, value for money commissioning and delivery of multi agency training. The safeguarding policies and procedures have undergone a major review, and are delivered to the children's workforce through an interactive website, providing easy access to the plethora of procedures and practice guidance required by those working in child protection particularly. The Board has taken a robust approach to the serious case review process in terms of improving the review itself, but also in evidencing the implementation of recommendations and actions to initiate change and improve outcomes for children and young people. The approach to reviewing other cases where there are causes for concern has seen the development of different "learning lessons" approaches, and these have proved a useful insight into how services can understand their organisations, delivery, and outcomes for children. The Child Death Overview Panel has maintained a high standard for reviewing children's cases, and initiates key lines of enquiry where there are potential improvements identified that might contribute to preventability and improved single and multi agency working.

The Board is keen to apportion challenge and accountability to agencies and their services, and has developed a performance management framework as a tool to achieve this collaboratively with partners. This strives to strike the balance between performance data measurement and the qualitative aspects that can be achieved through regular practice audit work.

The Board and the Safeguarding Children Service Unit has maintained robust high standards in relation to the management of allegations against professionals, foster carers and volunteers, and has advised on proposed service re-configuration of a number of key aspects of safeguarding, namely, the role of the hospital social worker, the proposal for closer working with South Yorkshire Police on domestic abuse cases, and the multi agency response to children and young people involved in, or vulnerable to, sexual exploitation.

The Board has taken into account the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people in Rotherham, an example of which is the excellent consultation and participation work that has been undertaken to develop awareness and materials to support E-safety and protect children and young people both off and online.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Despite the achievements and progress, there is more to do. The unprecedented reforms stemming nationally and locally will present the Board and its partners with more to achieve with less resource. The focus for the Board, therefore, will be those most at risk of significant harm and in need of protection, and to monitor the impact that early intervention has on reducing the number of children and young people who require a child protection plan or who need to become Looked After. In order to do this in these times of change, the Board will ensure that children and young people are at the centre of organisations' thinking, and will provide appropriate challenge and accountability, ensuring that agencies and services demonstrate their commitment and evidence towards continual improvement.

Some Rotherham children and young people in specific circumstances have been identified as those priority groups most in need and at risk of significant harm, requiring particular focus from services and the Board. These are those children and young people:

- where domestic abuse is a factor,
- who are at risk of sexual exploitation, or
- who are from abroad and are now living in Rotherham

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AGENDA ITEM 7

3. Rotherham Children and Young People in Context**3.1 Population**

At the most recent population estimates (2008), there were approximately 62,918 children and young people, aged 0-19, living in Rotherham; this represents 25% of the borough's total population. The gender split for children and young people in Rotherham has remained constant since the model was produced in 2003. The figures for 2008 were 51% male, and 49% female.

Local birth statistics suggest that Rotherham's birth numbers have been increasing slightly each year since 2000, from 2527 in the 2000/01 academic year to 3381 in 2006/07; birth rates in 2009/10 averaged 2800.

3.2 Ethnicity

The majority of Rotherham's Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population is concentrated in four central wards; Boston Castle, Rotherham East, Rotherham West and Sitwell - this has not altered between 2005 and 2007. In Rotherham South there is a large and growing BME population, based on school pupil data (2005 compared to 2008). The link between an increase in the birth rate and the growth of the BME population is also shown in 2001 Census data, where Rotherham South has the highest number of people living in families with two or more dependent children, with Rotherham East and Boston Castle wards being the two highest wards overall in terms of both families with two or more children and BME school pupils. More recently, there has been a significant increase in the arrival of EU migrants to the borough. In the school year beginning in September 2008 there were 375 new arrivals of school-age children, 58% (204) of whom were of Roma heritage. School registration data suggests that more families have arrived in the 2009/10 school year than in previous years. More than 400 Slovakian Roma children have arrived in Rotherham in the school year that began in September 2009.

3.3 Areas of Deprivation

Deprivation in Rotherham is decreasing according to Communities for Local Government. Rotherham was ranked 48th most deprived district in England in the 2000 Index, and is now ranked 68th in the 2007 index. However, this is still amongst the top 20% most deprived districts in the United Kingdom.

Rotherham, like many areas across the UK, has a significant number of children and young people living in deprived areas; 14.2% of all Rotherham children live in areas which are within the 10% most deprived nationally (using the Index of Deprivation Affecting Children (IDAC) 2007) and 31% of children who live in low income households live in the 10% most deprived areas nationally.

There is a striking variation in vulnerability and life chances for a child who grows up in one Rotherham's most deprived areas compared to one of the least deprived.

As a hypothetical way to demonstrate the levels of inequality in the borough, Rotherham Children and Young People's Plan utilised the concept of 500 babies, born and raised in Rotherham. These were separated into two groups, 317 who were born the ten most deprived areas and 183 who were born in the ten least deprived areas. These numbers are based on statistics that show a higher percentage of children live in the more deprived parts of the borough. For the purposes of this illustration it is as if each baby experiences no significant change in circumstances throughout the course of its life.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Of the 500 babies	183 live in the least deprived areas	317 live in the most deprived areas
Are boys	93	161
Are girls	90	156
Are minority ethnic	10	105
Live in Christian families	144	198
Live in Muslim families	5	72
Are disabled	5	15
Live in a council house	1	122
Grow up in lone parent family on Income Support	5	77
Will be classed as a 'Child in Need'	2	20
Grow up in a workless or very low waged household	10	178
Are eligible for free school meals	7	138
Gain at least 5 GCSEs A-C (including English and Maths)	113	75
Stay on at school or college after 16	152	159
Become NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training)	4	34
Live in a household where the highest qualification is NVQ 4/5 or degree	33	23
Become a professional or manager	31	16
Earn £30k+	193	79
Claim housing / council tax benefit	15	159
Qualify for a means tested DWP benefit	9	143
Become pregnant before 18	3	11
Experience low birth weight or still birth	13	33
Can expect to live until age (males)	80.8	72.4
Can expect to live until age (females)	87.2	78.1
Will experience (annually)		
Violent crime	1	15
Deliberate fire	1	5
Anti-social behaviour	4	38

This profile provides a lucid picture of the vulnerabilities and inequalities for children, young people and their families living in different circumstances. Evidence indicates that the children living in the most deprived areas of the borough are also more likely to become at risk of significant harm, requiring Child Protection Plans and are subsequently more likely to become Looked After Children

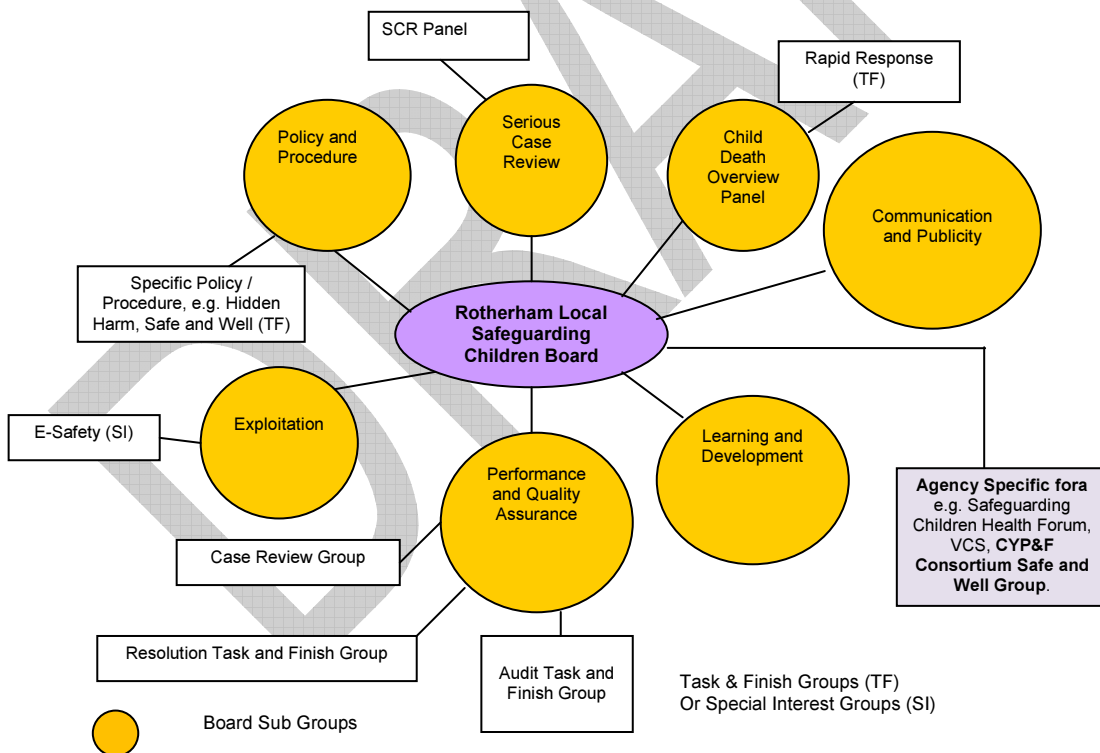
4. Governance and Accountability Arrangements

4.1 Role, function and structure of the Board and its Sub Groups

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children requires effective co-ordination in every local area. The Children Act 2004 required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) by 1 April 2006. The LSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board has a main Board that meets quarterly, and seven Sub Groups, each chaired by a Board member. These Chairs also meet together regularly to ensure coordination across the Sub Groups. Board members are senior representatives from their own organisations, meaning that they can speak confidently on behalf of their agency, can sign up to agreements on behalf of their agency, and make sure that members of their agency abide by the policies, procedures and recommendations of RLSCB. In addition to the Board Sub Groups there are a number of both special interest and task and finish groups. Collectively all the groups are multi agency in nature and undertake the main work of the Board.

The structure of the Board and its Sub Groups can be represented by the following diagram



The specific and detailed terms of reference for each of the Sub Groups can be found on the RLSCB website, using the link at the references section of this report.

AGENDA ITEM 7

4.2 RLSCB Business Unit and Rotherham Safeguarding Service Unit

Rotherham LSCB is supported by a full time business manager as advisor to the Board, an administrator specifically for the Child Death Overview Panel, and in 2010 appointed an additional administrator to support the responsibilities of five of the Sub Groups. The Board also has full time secretarial support.

The Board's business unit is co-located with, and has close links to, the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Service, which is made up of a multi-agency safeguarding team including representatives from children's social care, health and education. The team provides safeguarding advice and support to professionals across the Borough. The conference chairs chair all child protection conferences and many of the complex strategy meetings relating to children being at risk of harm and allegations against people who work with children. The business support team which supports the work of the safeguarding children service has responsibilities for dealing with child protection enquiries and supporting child protection conferences. In addition to the safeguarding and chairing functions, the service also includes a team of independent reviewing officers who are responsible for reviewing the care plans of every looked after child. The children's social care access team is also currently managed from within the safeguarding children service, and this team receives all new referrals to social care, provides advice to referrers, liaises with the CAF (Common Assessment Framework) service, and forwards all relevant referrals to the appropriate children's social care service area for further assessment.

4.3 Board membership and attendance

Board Development Meeting:

- 12 Nov 2010

Regular Board Meetings:

- 11 June 2010
- 10 Sep 2010
- 20 Dec 2010

Sub Group Chairs Meetings:

- 13 Aug 2010
- 8 Nov 2010
- 2 Feb 2010

All meetings were quorate in accordance with the RLSCB constitution. Board membership and attendance at Board meetings may be found in Appendix 1.

Early in 2011, 3 lay members were appointed from the local community to be members of RLSCB in accordance with the amended Children Act 2004 requirements for LSCBs. The new members were welcomed as observers to the December 2010 Board meeting and from March 2011 become full members, participating in the work of the Sub Groups and adding value to the work of the Board.

School head teacher representation has proved problematic, with the secondary representative resigning within weeks of commencement and the primary representative retiring. To date, it has not proved possible to replace them.

AGENDA ITEM 7

4.4 Relationship to Rotherham Children and Young People's Trust Board and other Boards**4.4.1 Rotherham Children and Young People's Trust Board (CYPTB)**

In its report following the inspection of Rotherham's Safeguarding and Looked After Children services in July 2010, Ofsted noted that "Whilst there is regular monitoring and challenge of key priority areas, there is scope to improve clarity in respect of the mechanism through which the RLSCB hold the CYPTB to account" (para 17). Ofsted also noted that the arrangements between both Boards for the quality assurance and auditing of provision could be more robust. As a result, a meeting between representatives of the two Boards was held on 4 October 2010 to discuss in detail their relationship in terms of accountability and governance. The output of the meeting and due consultation was a Relationship Agreement between the two Boards which came into effect from December 2010.

This, the RLSCB's first statutory annual report, must be published before 1 April 2011. The proposed arrangements for due consultation and advice between the two Boards have yet to be tested; the small window between publication of the RLSCB's Annual Report and of the Rotherham CYPTB's Children and Young People's Plan must be taken full advantage of to ensure congruity between the priorities and action plans in both. The requirements of the annual report necessitate a more formal and closer link between the LSCB and the CYPTB, and a more rigorous critique by the LSCB of the CYPTB's activities contributing to safeguarding children.

4.4.2 Member agencies' management and governance boards

As members of the RLSCB are senior officers within their own agencies and organisations, there are therefore direct links between RLSCB and the respective management and governance Boards of these agencies. As local agencies may be required to restructure in the year ahead, particularly the health service, there will be a need to ensure that effective lines of communication are maintained in order to ensure continued investment in the work of RLSCB. This will be closely monitored by the RLSCB in the coming year as the landscape of statutory services changes under the direction of central government.

RLSCB and the Rotherham Adults Safeguarding Board have begun discussions in relation to practice and service areas of joint interest and these new areas for collaboration are to be progressed during 2011.

4.5 Voluntary and Community Sector

The Rotherham Children, Young People and Families Voluntary Sector Consortium hold a regular Safe and Well Sub Group which is recognised and supported by the Board. The Voluntary Sector chair of the Sub Group is also a member of the Board.

The purpose of the sub group is to consider a range of safeguarding and wellbeing issues as they relate to the voluntary sector and its work with partners in Rotherham, with particular focus on:-

- Supporting voluntary sector representatives on RLSCB sub groups
- Sharing information in relation to safeguarding initiatives, policies and procedures from local and national sources
- Identifying and discussing local practice issues and concerns

AGENDA ITEM 7

- Sharing feedback of front-line experience of voluntary sector organisations with colleagues from the Safeguarding Children Service and Board
- Discussing the implementation in the voluntary sector of lessons arising from Serious Case Reviews
- Organising events, conferences and workshops to promote good practice
- Implementing the voluntary sector safeguarding self-audit toolkit and discussing ways of improving coverage and effectiveness
- Promoting the use of CAF or other assessment tools within the voluntary sector, discussing and reporting on key issues

The Safe and Well Sub Group is valued by the Voluntary Consortium and the Board as a means of engagement on safeguarding issues and developments in Rotherham. Of particular note in 2010, the Voluntary Sector in partnership with the Board sponsored a very successful multi agency conference to consider the continuum of need, early intervention and thresholds. The joint venture between RLSCB and the sector is to utilise a safeguarding toolkit which has been developed, enabling organisations to demonstrate robust safeguarding arrangements. This will include community leisure groups for children as well as those delivering services.

4.6 Faith Communities

RLSCB supports and promotes work with Rotherham faith communities in relation to safeguarding children and recognises their importance in this area. In 2010 the mosques and madrassas of Rotherham with support from RLSCB, developed and launched safeguarding children guidance. To compliment the guidance, a training programme has been agreed that leads into the multi agency safeguarding training prospectus. RLSCB is proactively seeking to strengthen links between it and all faith communities represented in Rotherham.

4.7 Role of the Independent Chair, Director of Children's Services, Lead Member and the Council Chief Executive

4.7.1 Key roles within Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board

There are some key roles on RLSCB which are set out in the *Working Together (2010)* guidance. These are:

4.7.2 Independent Chair:

It is expected that all LSCBs appoint an Independent Chair who can bring expertise and focus to ensure that the LSCB fulfils its roles effectively. Crucially, the Independent Chair provides the separation and independence required from all the agencies which provides a balance in influence and decision making. The Chair is subject to an annual appraisal, to ensure the role is undertaken competently and that the post holder retains the confidence of the RLSCB members.

4.7.3 Director of Children's Services:

The Director of Children's Services (known in Rotherham as the Strategic Director of CYPS) is required to sit on the main Board as this is a pivotal role in the provision of education and children's social care in Rotherham. The Director of Children's Services has a responsibility to ensure that RLSCB functions effectively.

4.7.4 Local Authority Chief Executive Officer:

The ultimate responsibility for the effectiveness of the RLSCB rests with the Chief Executive of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. The Director of Children's Services reports to the Chief Executive, who forms the final link in this chain of accountability.

AGENDA ITEM 7

4.8.5 Lead Member:

The elected councillor who has responsibility for children and young people is known as the Lead Member sits on RLSCB as a 'participating observer'. This means that the Lead Member is able to observe all that happens and can contribute to discussion, but cannot participate in any voting. This allows the Lead Member to scrutinise RLSCB and challenge it if necessary from a political perspective, as a representative of elected members and Rotherham communities.

4.8.6 Lay Members:

Lay members are members of Rotherham community appointed to the Board with responsibilities particularly relating to:

- supporting stronger public engagement in local child safety issues and contributing to an improved understanding of the LSCB's child protection work in the wider community;
- challenging the LSCB on the accessibility by the public and children and young people of its plans and procedures; and helping to make links between the LSCB and community groups.

4.9 Financial Arrangements and Budget**Budget - 2010/11****Projected Outturn based on expenditure as at 31 January 2011**

Income:	£205,438
Expenditure:	£177,467

Overall expenditure for the year 2010/11 is projected to be within budget.

A projected surplus of £27,971 is anticipated to be carried forward to the 2011/12 budget. £11,000 of this surplus represents the cost of the Lessons Learned exercise for Operation Central which has been funded from RMBC's Workforce Development budget with a view to part of the carry forward being used to fund commissioned multi-agency training.

The Board has an agreement in place for two thirds of the cost of any Serious Case Review Overview Reports to be funded by RMBC and one third to be funded by NHS Rotherham.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Budget Statement 2010/11 – Projected Outturn

	Funding Formula	Proposed Income 2010/11	Actual Income 2010/11
	%	£	£
Income 2010/11			
Annual Contributions			
Rotherham Borough Council	51.33%	107,402	
NHS Rotherham	23.01%	48,145	
Rotherham NHS Hospital Foundation Trust	2.60%	5,440	
South Yorkshire Police	15.28%	31,971	
South Yorkshire Probation	(see below)	4,026	
Youth Offending Service	3.46%	7,240	
CAFCASS	0.58%	1,214	
Total Projected/Actual Income		205,438	
Expenditure 2010/11			
LSCB Management Salaries and Agency		111,706	
LSCB Admin Salaries		29,331	
Transport		77	
Public Liability Insurance		700	
IT & Communications		2,923	
Internal Printing		1,018	
Stationery and Equipment		848	
Room Hire		621	
Hospitality (Training & Meetings)		1,677	
Consultants (External Trainers) + Chair		23,199	
TriX Procedure Manual and Services		4,950	
Deficit carried forward from previous year		417	
Total Proposed/Actual Expenditure		177,467	
Projected / Actual Surplus		27,971	

Invoices have been raised for all agency contributions for 2009/10. The level of contribution from South Yorkshire Probation has been capped at £5,980 from 2008/09 which is reflected in the accounts as an under-recovery of income in 2010/11 of £3,799.

The accounts reflect full income recovery for all other contributions but negotiations are ongoing with CAFCASS for contributions from 2008/09 onwards and there is one invoice with South Yorkshire Police in negotiation.

5. Progress on Board functions, priority areas and the 2010-11 Business Plan

5.1 Summary of progress and achievements from the 2010-2011 Business Plan and key policy areas

In 2010-11 RLSCB has:

- Strengthened its governance and partnership arrangements, building capacity to deliver on its priorities
- Developed and implemented a Safeguarding Children Learning and Development Strategy fit for the future
- Revised and implemented a new approach to multi agency safeguarding children policies and procedures
- Concluded outstanding Serious Case Review action plans and is developing new approaches to learning lessons
- Engaged and listened to children and young people directly and through other consultative mechanisms
- Prioritised the needs and response to those children and young people vulnerable and subject to sexual exploitation
- Developed a safeguarding children performance and quality assurance framework through which it can measure effectiveness of services and report back to member agencies and Board
- Implemented communications strategies to protect families and the workforce in high profile cases and has developed plans to improve the RLSCB website
- Undertaken extensive consultation and participation with children and young people to raise awareness of E-Safety and develop and implement supporting materials for schools, libraries, youth centres and Looked After Children
- Effectively reviewed child deaths in the borough, providing robust recommendations to improve future outcomes for Rotherham children and young people
- Supported schools and learning communities with the support they require in relation to safeguarding children
- Measured the effectiveness of member agencies' safeguarding arrangements for "Section 11" compliance
- Engaged with other agencies as key stakeholder in the formulation of a new Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Ensured that the management of allegations against professionals, foster carers and volunteers receive a timely and robust response

AGENDA ITEM 7

6. Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group

Local safeguarding children boards have a duty *“to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the Local Authority and Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve”* (Working Together 2010 paras 3.28 – 3.33).

The LSCB Performance and Quality Assurance (P & QA) Sub Group was established in 2010 as part of the revised RLSCB constitution. The Sub Group has responsibility for developing a safeguarding quality and performance management framework and for monitoring the effectiveness of the work of the LSCB and its partners on positive outcomes for the children and young people of Rotherham.

6.1 Inspection Outcomes

The Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children in July 2010 found that the partnership arrangements are sound and the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board (RLSCB) exercises increasingly effective leadership. There is good challenge with all partners; in particular, health agencies play a key role in the CYPTB and the RLSCB.

Ofsted also noted that Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board operates effectively, and that the new independent chair, appointed in September 2009, is providing good leadership and direction to ensure that all statutory requirements in respect of the Board's work are met. Governance arrangements have been recently strengthened between the CYPTB and RLSCB, though there is scope to improve clarity in respect of the mechanisms through which the RLSCB hold the CYPTB to account.

There is a clear reporting and monitoring schedule for Sub Groups which includes an appropriate focus on core child protection activity. Partnership work, including performance management, between Board members is sound.

Links between the Child Death Overview Panel and the Serious Case Review Panel are effective. The Safeguarding Children Unit provides good assistance to partner agencies to support their contributions. A wide range of high quality multi and single-agency safeguarding training takes place and is well attended, including general practitioners and the voluntary and community sector. The training is valued by stakeholders spoken to as part of the inspection. The RLSCB does not currently evaluate training for impact on practice. However, designated health professionals have undertaken review and evaluation of training, and changes to provision have occurred as a result of this. For example, there has been increased access to training for GP practice staff, including practice managers, receptionists and GPs. Training data shows that all staff within NHSR and Rotherham Community Health Services have completed level 1 safeguarding training and nearly 90% of all other staff have completed levels 2 and 3 training as appropriate to their responsibilities. Processes to ensure safe recruitment of staff in social care and education are adequate, with a central record in place. Human Resource files viewed by inspectors demonstrated that appropriate checks were undertaken and there was evidence of good risk assessment and senior management decision making by the Director for Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting. However, this practice is not underpinned by a protocol to ensure that this happens in all cases.

Adequate improvements in the identification of and response to child protection needs were evident during the inspection. These include the strengthening of initial decision making in the Social Care Access Team and the provision of additional administrative and other resources to enable social workers to spend more of their time working with children and families. However,

AGENDA ITEM 7

there are still some gaps in the recording and tracking of referrals, particularly those that are assessed as requiring no further action. Compliance with statutory requirements is closely monitored through accessible and up to date performance management information. Referrals are promptly followed up, a higher percentage of assessments are being completed within timescales, child protection conferences, core group meetings and child protection reviews take place within required timescales. The out of hours service is satisfactory overall, with a new experienced manager in post, and staff report that this service is now much more responsive to need.

6.2 Performance Monitoring

The P&QA Sub Group has developed a performance monitoring framework (Appendix 2), based on the Every Child Matters continuum of need, with a focus on the National Staying Safe Indicators but also included some local priority areas such as common assessment framework, domestic abuse and sexual exploitation.

6.2.1 Children subject to a Child Protection Plan and Looked After Children

Like many authorities, Rotherham continues to experience a significant increase in the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) and the number per 10,000 children remains consistently higher in Rotherham than statistical neighbours or the England average (Appendix 3 Fig 1 & 2). Of note is that 43.6% of those children subject to a CPP and therefore at risk of significant harm as at 31.12.10 were under 5 years of age and acknowledged as one of the most vulnerable groups. This suggests that multi agency, early intervention and child protection services should continue to prioritise this group of children and RLSCB will be keen to see the impact in this area over the next 3 years. Similarly there has been an increase in Looked After Children in Rotherham (Fig 7) with some correlation to the increase in children subject to a CPP and although higher than the England average, numbers are on a par with statistical neighbours.

The performance in relation to the timeliness of review Child Protection Conferences, National Indicator 67, remains excellent at 100%. However, in terms of practice and outcomes this has to be balanced with some of the local qualitative measures and inspection findings which have found that the quality of some Child Protection Plans to be variable, lacking clarity in relation to objectives and intended outcomes for children.

6.3 Quality Assurance Activity

Quality assurance as an effective way of achieving continuous improvement and it was intended that the safeguarding children performance data is complemented by quality assurance work and audit activity; to provide qualitative single and multi agency practice evaluation in order to identify areas of strengths and areas for development. In 2010 the Sub Group proposed an ambitious audit plan for 2010/11 which sourced its priorities from core child protection responsibilities and some practice areas arising from themes from inspections, serious cases and lessons learned reviews.

To manage its quality assurance remit, the sub group set up three task and finish groups: A multi agency 'resolution' task and finish group to consider children's cases within 72 hours where there are agency disputes arising from child protection conferences and these cannot be managed as part of the conference process.

A multi agency case review task and finish group where cases are referred from a variety of sources and reviewed. This may be children that have been on child protection plans for 2

AGENDA ITEM 7

years or more, to identify themes that are running through referrals, advice on how systems and processes can be improved for the benefit of safeguarding practice.

The Resolution task and finish group has received 9 referrals (8 from child protection conference chairs and one from the named nurse at RDASH). Of these 2 were dealt with under within the 72 hour provision of the group and 7 were considered at the case review group. One of these cases was considered to be an operational issue. The group has been able to make recommendations back to the referrer and agencies involved in the cases and has identified practice issues in relation to a lack of child focus and assessment of risk factors for the children concerned. The group has identified that in some cases where multiagency non agreement is present, the child protection conference chair is empowered to make decisions and recommendations in relation to the outcome of the conference. Feedback on this has been provided to the safeguarding service unit.

Audit task and finish group. This Group will come together to carry out and/or oversee and co-ordinate agreed multi-disciplinary Audits as commissioned by the Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group

Audits that have been initiated or completed in 2010/11:

- Children subject to a Child protection Plan (CYPS)
- No Further Action decisions on referrals to social care (CYPS)
- Discharge Planning Meetings (RFT)
- Treatment of fractures to children by Rotherham Hospital A&E (RFT)
- Quality of community health referrals to Social Care (RCHS)

6.4 Key Challenges in relation to Performance and Quality

Whilst the development of the safeguarding performance monitoring framework set has is now established, a key challenge in this area has been to engage effectively with agencies, both singly and collectively, in quality assurance activity and for this to be regularly reported back to the LSCB. Audits often reveal areas for development as well areas of strength, and agencies and services should not feel that in sharing these findings in a multi agency setting that they are under negative scrutiny - rather, they are proactively and collaboratively contributing to improving outcomes for children and young people.

6.5 Complaints

In June 2010 a report detailing complaints made to Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) was presented to the Board. The report provided some detailed analysis on the type and number of complaints from children, young people and families, the timeliness of resolution.

The CYPS Complaints and Customer Service Team also provide support and advice to complainants and schools where the issue is school related.

Some common concerns and issues from Looked After Children were:

- Change in their placements
- Actions of other children in their placements
- Contact with family and siblings
- Issues with their allocated worker

AGENDA ITEM 7

All Looked After Children who make a complaint are contacted either by the Customer Service and Complaints Team and/or the Children's Rights Service to ensure that their concerns and issues have been addressed satisfactorily.

The CYPS Customer Service and Complaints Team take appropriate steps to ensure that any policy and practice changes are made within services. RLSCB is to consider whether in future similar reports should be requested from other member agencies in order to assist the Board with its quality assurance and challenge role.

6.6 Views of service users and staff**6.6.1 Consultation and Participation of Children and Young People****Primary Lifestyle Survey**

The Primary Lifestyle Survey asks children a number of questions under the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes. The Staying Safe questions are of particular interest to RLSCB and provide valuable intelligence to future planning of services as well as evidence of consultation with children and young people.

This survey, undertaken by Year 5 pupils (aged 9-10 years), was answered in 2010 by 572 Year 5 pupils, from 15 different Primary schools across Rotherham. 53% of the 572 Year 5 pupils who took part in the survey were female and 47% male. The majority of pupils (90%), who took part in the survey considered themselves to be from a White British ethnic group, followed by 7% who either preferred not to answer or who did not know their ethnicity, 2.5% from Other Black or Minority ethnic groups and 0.5% Asian or Asian British.

6.6.2 Results of Primary Lifestyle Survey**a) Bullying:**

57% of pupils stated that they had been bullied.

Of those 39% had been bullied more than a year ago, 21% in the last year, 13% in the last six months and 24% in the last four weeks. This question had been changed since the previous year, and comparisons with previous surveys cannot therefore be made.

Rotherham has developed an Anti Bullying Standard that we hope will help schools to build on their existing policies and procedures and strengthen strategies to prevent and deal with bullying. The Standard covers Policy, whole school involvement and support, encouraging schools to involve all members of the school community, including parents. 13 schools have now been accredited with the award; 8 of which have achieved gold and 5 silver; a further 37 are working towards the standard.

Most schools across Rotherham now take part in anti bullying week which is held annually in November. Children and young people work on various projects throughout the week and the message is cascaded through school assemblies and workshops.

Many schools in Rotherham now have peer mentor schemes in operation and 'Safe Havens' is a peer mentor scheme which supports young people in secondary schools. The initiative was developed by young people to serve as a young person's mental health and emotional well being service and is now operational in 8 secondary schools and has support from the youth service.

AGENDA ITEM 7

All schools across the borough are supported by the Anti Bullying Development Officer and each school is supported by a Police Young Persons Partnership Officer who is able to deal with any serious incidents of bullying.

The currently model guidance for anti bullying in schools is being developed for use in Children's Homes.

b) Safety:

- Overall, 45% of pupils "never" feel safe when out by themselves compared to 46% in 2008.
- 37% "never" feel safe on local buses or trains compared to 41% in 2008.
- 37% "never" feel safe in Rotherham Town Centre which was the same as in 2008).

The Secondary Lifestyle Survey results are due in April 2011.

6.6.3 Consultation and Participation on E-safety

The RLSCB E-Safety group has done some excellent consultation and participation work this year with extensive consultation and participation from children and young people.

A survey carried out in 2010 with Rotherham Looked After Children indicated that 98% have access to a computer of which 91% have internet access. However, only 41% compared with 78% of their peers (those not "looked after") used social networking sites and 36% as opposed to 67% use chat sites such as MSN. As a result, proposals were made and approved for the laptop PCs provided to Looked After Children to have the filtering amended to provide access where appropriate to social networking sites.

Essential to protecting children on line is the use of information and education in settings where children access the internet. Consultation and participation of Looked After children and young people from Rawmarsh City Learning Centre enabled the development of age appropriate and child centred Acceptable Use Policies and posters to enable children and young people to keep safe on-line. E-Safety packs and materials have been issued to all Looked after Children's residential units, schools, libraries and youth centres.

6.6.4 National Take Over Day 2010

Takeover Day gives children and young people the chance to work with adults for the day and be involved in decision-making. Children and young people benefit from the opportunity to experience the world of work and make their voices heard, while adults and organisations gain a fresh perspective on what they do.

In November 2010 RLSCB held a development day, during which a group of young people were invited to take over a session and discuss various aspects of safety and feeling safe. Issues discussed included E-safety and safety in the community and in particular the town centre and the transport interchange. From the session, RLSCB identified a number of areas that could be pursued through the RLSCB member links with the Rotherham Safer Neighbourhood Partnership.

AGENDA ITEM 7

6.6.5 Consultation with Staff

As part of the preparatory work for the Safeguarding and Looked after Children inspection in Rotherham in July 2010, Ofsted commissioned surveys from the local authority social care practitioners (qualified social workers) and the voluntary and community Sector.

6.6.6 Consultation with Social Workers

The survey of social care practitioners covered the following areas:

- Induction
- Training
- Workload
- Line Management
- Organisational Learning
- Communications
- Equality and Diversity
- Running of the service

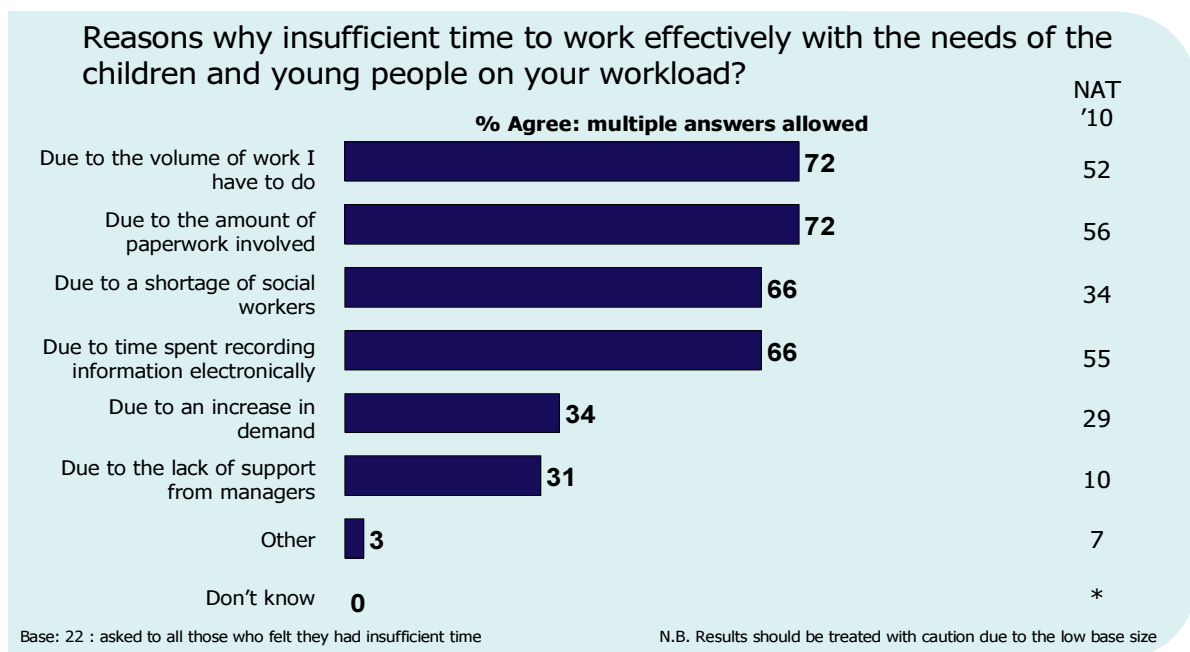
Of particular interest to RLSCB were some of the results relating to:

Workload:

Only 10% of those surveyed feel that they have sufficient time to work effectively with the children and young people who are on their workload.

The reasons given for those who considered they had insufficient time were:

Views from those with insufficient time 



AGENDA ITEM 7

Only 3% agreed that there is an effective caseload management system within the local authority compared to the national average of 25%.

Since this survey was conducted in March 2010, Rotherham CYPS has invested in improving the experience of social work practitioners. First and foremost has been a significant reduction in the vacancy factor of frontline social workers, from a peak of 35.3% (January 2010) to a current rate of 16.8% (though this reduces further to 3.1% if agency workers are included in staffing figures). Filling vacancies ultimately has an impact on the caseloads of employed social work staff, and additional changes to the structure of services (such as establishing a borough wide LAC team in Sept 2010) and the creation of Social Work Practice Consultant posts to work alongside newly qualified and other social work staff will enhance the support services surrounding the individual practitioner and resultant impact on their services to children and young people. The Rotherham Children's Trust has also invested in a new Prevention & Early Intervention strategy in 2010, with a refresh of CAF implementation at its heart. It is expected this investment will reduce the number of referrals to social care and help support families before thresholds for social care intervention are met. Finally, the review of child protection currently being carried out by Professor Eileen Munro is widely expected to address issues of core business, bureaucracy for social work staff and the use of outcome based performance measures.

6.6.7 Voluntary and Community Sector

The survey of the Voluntary and Community Sector (the base size for this survey was 11 organisations)

covered the following areas:

- Partnership Working
- Quality of Services
- Commissioning / Funding Arrangements
- Profile of contributing organisations

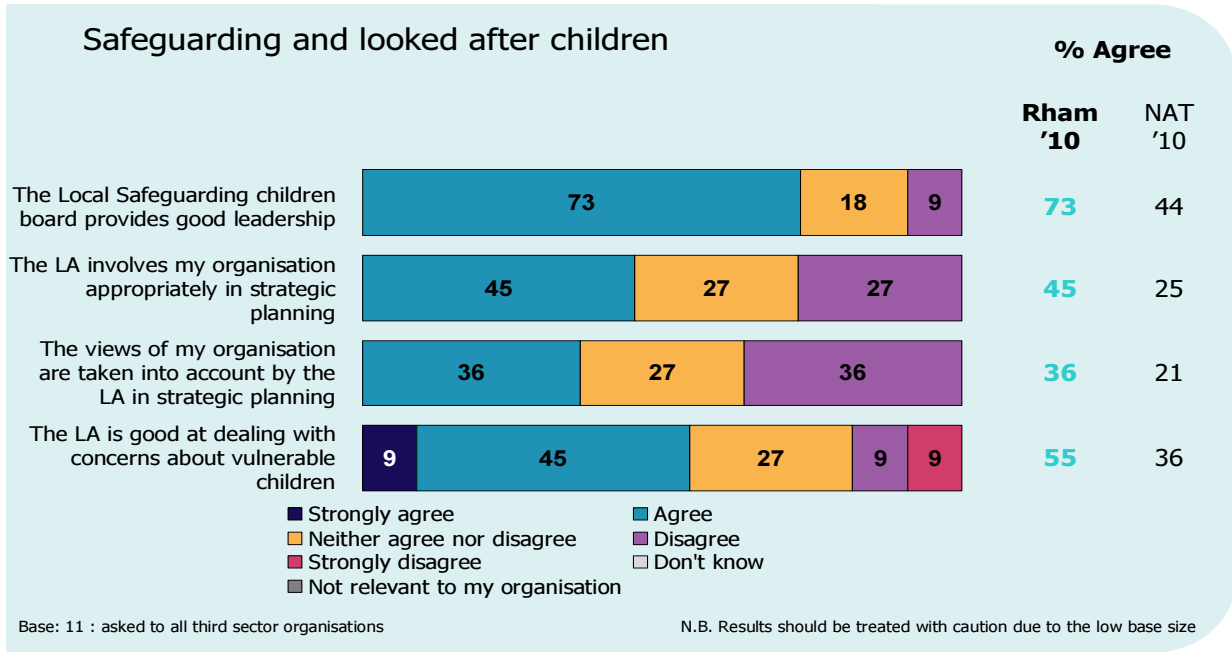
AGENDA ITEM 7

Of particular interest to RLSCB were some of the results relating to:

Partnership Working:



Perceptions of local arrangements



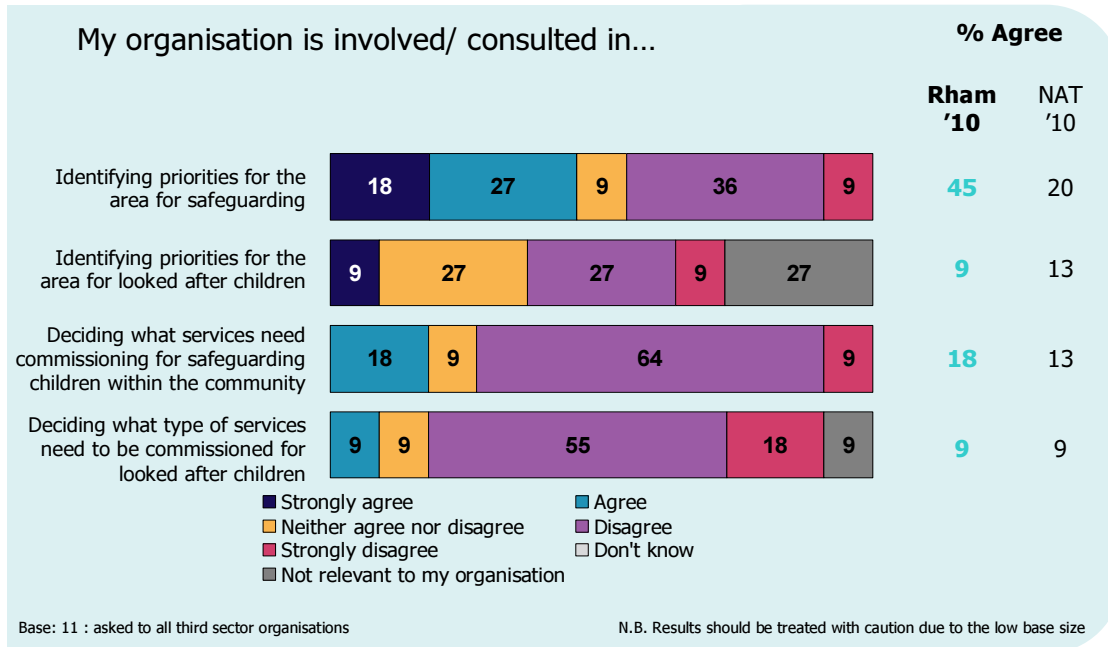
Ofsted survey of third sector organisations 2010 | 8

These results indicate that RLSCB is maintaining strong working relationships with the local voluntary and community sector and the perception and outcomes from this are better than the national picture.

Commissioning / Grant Funding Arrangements



Level of involvement



Ofsted survey of third sector organisations 2010 | 17

These results indicate that the consultation with the voluntary and community sector in relation to safeguarding priorities in Rotherham compares favourably to the national results, though this could be improved in future.

The Ofsted inspection judgements are not based on the survey results and are intended to assist with the scope of the Safeguarding and Looked After Children inspection and scheduling of future inspections.

6.7 Safeguarding Arrangements - Section 11 compliance

The Section 11 Audit work, started in March 2010, requires a concerted effort by all agencies in 2011 in order to demonstrate a high standard of arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Some agencies have made quicker progress and it is recognised that is a significant piece of work for agencies. The appointment of a Safeguarding Quality Assurance Officer in 2011 will be able to support and advise agencies with this. In this next period, the P&QA Sub Group will be actively pursuing and validating evidence of S11 assessment scores and action plans through a process of peer review.

7 Serious Case Review Sub Group

7.1 Serious Case Reviews

The Serious Case Review Sub Group has met on 6 scheduled occasions from 1 April 2010 to date, all of which were quorate. During this time, Ofsted evaluations were received for 3 serious case reviews – all 3 were adjudged to be “adequate” (1 of these following a review of an initial

AGENDA ITEM 7

judgement of “inadequate”). A number of weaknesses in individual management reviews (IMRs) were highlighted, and Ofsted’s grade descriptors and national research have been used to develop an IMR quality assurance toolkit for commissioners and authors of IMRs.

At the start of the year, 5 action plans from previous case reviews remained outstanding. Until August 2010, Government Office maintained a system for monitoring and signing off serious case review action plans – the introduction in Rotherham of a new system of evidence gathering and logging enabled better evidence presentation to Government Office, and all 5 action plans were signed off during the year

7.2 Lessons Learned Reviews

In January 2010, the Sub Group recommended a lessons learned review (LLR) after considering the case involving the sexual exploitation of a number of young women – Operation Central had at that point moved to criminal proceedings. The Board commissioned an LLR, and the review’s conclusions and recommendations were presented to a special Board meeting in July 2010. All its recommendations were accepted by the Board and translated into an action plan now being monitored by the Exploitation Sub Group.

The child death overview panel referred a case to the Sub Group following the death of a child with parents under 18, and work is currently ongoing using a root cause analysis model.

7.3 Dissemination of Learning

The Learning and Development Sub Group (see below), in partnership with Sheffield LSCB and Sheffield Hallam University held two very well attended 1- day multiagency workshops for both managers and practitioners. The theme was authoritative practice, with a special focus on lessons learned from Rotherham’s serious case reviews and one undertaken by Sheffield in relation to an Oldham child.

7.4 Challenges & Risks in relation to Serious Case Reviews

Of concern is central government’s decision that all new serious case review overview reports should be published in full, in addition to the executive summary. It is imperative, therefore, that all future overview reports should receive legal scrutiny before such publication.

A further challenge is to evidence intended positive impacts and outcomes from review recommendations once they have been implemented.

A further serious case review was initiated in November 2010 and is due to conclude, therefore, in May 2011.

8. Child Death Overview Panel

8.1 The total number of Rotherham child deaths in 2009/10 was 21, 9 of which occurred outside its LSCB area. Thirteen of these had life limiting conditions. Fourteen of the 21 died in hospital. Five deaths required a “rapid response”; 10 deaths were unexpected. Of the 21 deaths, 3 were determined as potentially preventable.

Five deaths were found to be due to severe congenital abnormalities, 3 of the 5 dying shortly after birth- one of these also suffered from severe Vitamin D deficiency. Two deaths were due to chromosomal abnormality or inborn errors of metabolism – consanguineous marriage has been identified as a significant factor in increasing the risk of such births.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Three deaths were due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, 2 of which were associated with co-sleeping and smoking. The association between the risk factors that expose a child to neglect of other harm and the risks to a child that increase the risk of sudden infant death are striking, and Rotherham has developed a risk assessment “triangle” based on the core assessment framework to assist practitioners to gauge these risks and to intervene where appropriate. NHS Rotherham, endorsed by the LSCB, mounted a multi agency campaign in 2010 to reiterate message about safe sleeping, a message that must be sustained. Nevertheless, progress is evident in reducing avoidable infant mortality in Rotherham.

8.2 Challenges & Risks in relation to Child Deaths

Some deaths occurred outside Rotherham because of the need for those children to receive specialist support not currently available in Rotherham. It is therefore proposed to seek to make outreach cardiac echo available in Rotherham.

Discussions with Rotherham Consultant Paediatricians have indicated that Vitamin D deficiency is a significant issue for mothers and babies who have dark skin colour, and it is therefore felt that Vitamin D supplementation should be routine for all pregnant mothers and babies who have dark skin colour.

9. Policy and Procedures Sub Group

The Policy and Procedures Sub Group has met on 5 occasions since April 2010 to date. In March 2010, the RLSCB approved the business case for the procurement and implementation of a web enabled interactive safeguarding children policy and procedures product by TriX Childcare. The benefits of this approach to providing up to date multi agency safeguarding policies and procedures are:

- User friendly and easy to access for procedures
- Useful features such as alerts to procedure updates and links to external guidance and printed watermark to show shelf life validity of hard copies.
- Value for money and tried and tested in other LSCB areas
- Regular review and update by experienced procedure authors

Utilising the TriX product and services will still require the Policy and Procedure Sub Group to remain, as local bespoke changes to procedures will require local and regular multi agency collaboration.

A core set of procedures are agreed and operable across the 3 other South Yorkshire LSCBs, and agreement has been reached on a way forward to achieve consistency, enabling some of the LSCBs to progress with the TriX web enabled approach.

Though there was some delay in the new web enabled system of procedures being launched due to the amount of initial work required and capacity of the Sub Group, the new system was launched at the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board meeting in March 2011.

A further function of the Sub Group is to act as “critical friend” to other agencies’ safeguarding and related procedures considered during the year include:

- NHS Safeguarding Children Policy
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service - Frequent Calls Under 18

AGENDA ITEM 7

- Yorkshire Ambulance Service - Data Flag Procedure
- NHS Practice Guidance on Refusal or Withdrawal from Children's Health Services
- RMBC Protocol – Homeless 16 and 17 Year Olds
- RMBC Looked After Children Internet Safety Policy
- Rotherham College of Arts and Technology Child Protection Policy.

10. Exploitation Sub Group**10.1 Children Missing Education (CME)**

Rotherham appointed its Children Missing Education Officer in September 2006 – the post holder is responsible for monitoring and tracking all children considered to be “missing education”.

The following figures show the increase in both referrals and also active cases:

2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
68 referrals	246 referrals	309 referrals	294 referrals	525 referrals
4 traced	197 traced	182 traced	214 traced	376 traced
64 active	49 active	127 active	80 active	149 active

Despite this challenging increase, there has been no increase in resources to date, and administrative support was withdrawn in March 2008; there remain significant numbers of children not in education.

The number of children of EU Migrant Workers has also increased during this time. These children come from very mobile families and are some of the most difficult to trace. Accurate figures cannot be provided, as some parents are reluctant to declare the ethnicity of their children.

The figures below relate to children and young people from overseas making request for admission to a Rotherham School:

2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
324	405	347	375	554

Consequently, the pressure for school places and the mobility of some families places pressure on both the CME Officer and the Admissions Section to make a decision which would enable the school to remove the child's name from the school roll. A recently published report by Ofsted recognises that this is a national problem.

Other areas currently being revised are:

- Local policy and procedures
- Publicity materials
- Training/awareness raising programmes.

AGENDA ITEM 7

11. Learning and Development Sub Group**11.1 Learning and Development Strategy**

The RLSCB Learning and Development Sub Group superseded the Training Sub Group in April 2010. The change of name and its Terms of Reference emphasises the wider issues relating to children's workforce learning and development needs and more explicitly links those activities to the work of the RLSCB. The chair of the group is the CYPS Director of Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting Services, and the membership of the L&D Sub Group now more clearly reflects the Working Together partnerships in the borough.

In addition to the regular Sub Group meetings, an additional Strategic Learning and Development Stakeholder Day took place in September 2010. The purpose and outcome was the draft RLSCB Learning and Development Strategy. The event included representatives from Safeguarding, Health, Early Years, the Voluntary Sector, and Workforce Planning and Development, and considered issues such as quality assurance, e-learning, commissioning, gaps in current training provision/needs analysis, learning from SCRs, and the use of Learning and Development to inform induction for newly appointed/qualified workers across the children's workforce.

Every Child Matters identifies six core skills (*information sharing, effective communication and engagement with children and their families, multi-agency working, child development, safeguarding and supporting transitions*) for the children's workforce; these attributes promote child-centred practice whatever the legislative and local procedural context, and should underpin and inform the learning and development process. The core skills are also used as a quality assurance tool in ensuring ensure that learning and development activities promote the safeguarding of children and young people, and can also be used in training needs analysis. In addition, Working Together 2010 suggests 8 levels of targeted groups in the multi agency children's workforce; each level is commensurate with an individual's role, responsibilities and/or level of contact with children and their parents/carers. This is the model that RLSCB has adopted to undertake training needs analysis within and across agencies and organisation in Rotherham.

11.2 Quality Assuring Learning and Development Activity and Embedding Learning into Practice

"Outcomes of Interagency Training to Safeguard Children: A Report to the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health" suggests a number of models for quality assuring learning and development activity and measuring the impact on outcomes and these were explored at the stocktaking exercise. It was felt that the process of measuring and assessing the impact of training can be fraught, as the diversity of the audience inherent in multi-agency training precludes a common method of assessing the impact, and participants may be reluctant to engage in an assessment process pre and post training. It was affirmed that learning and development must be seen as an ongoing process and may require a change in the mindset of learners to achieve this, with the Learning and Development Sub Group steering the process.

11.3 Multi Agency Safeguarding Training in 2010/11

Twenty multi-agency training courses were delivered between April and November 2010. 330 workers, volunteers and school governors received training during this period, representing 28 agencies and organisations, including the voluntary and community sector. The courses included child protection foundation training, Hidden Harm (the impact of substance misuse on

AGENDA ITEM 7

parenting) Safe Recruitment, Safe Caring, Recognising and Responding To Sexually Concerning Behaviour, the Impact of Domestic Violence on the Child, and Child Protection Conference Training.

Agencies and organisations contributing to the delivery of the programme included: Risky Business, Know the Score, RDASH, Barnardos, MIND, the Community Safety Unit, the multi agency Safeguarding Service Unit.

Other learning events include conferences on Learning Lessons from Serious Case Reviews and Authoritative Practice delivered in conjunction with Rotherham and Sheffield LCSB staff and Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University, with over 60 delegates attending. Feedback was extremely positive. A further multi agency event on thresholds, sponsored by the voluntary sector, was well attended and positively received.

11.3.1 E-learning

This provision is not accessed on a consistent basis, and if more widely used may reduce the demand for some of the current training. However, it was agreed that e-learning has its limitations in that it may not always address attitudes, and should not be a substitute for all safeguarding training.

11.4 Commissioning approach to training

Learning and development is cost free for all staff working with children and young people in Rotherham where the Working Together framework applies, though a cost recovery policy for non-attendance is currently under consideration. In 2010-11, there has been an expectation that a volunteer training pool would provide a sustainable resource and mechanism for delivering learning and development. However, with the Board's move to a commissioning model, service level agreements, underpinned by quality standards, are being developed for implementation in 2011-12. It is anticipated that any SLA would also include a "buy back" element for training officers, to ensure that partners can sustainably support experts giving their time and resource to the RLSCB's programme.

12. Communication and Publicity Sub Group

The work of the Sub Group has focussed on improving the way in which the RLSCB promotes and communicates the work it undertakes and supports it in and the production and dissemination of these activities. The group has made significant progress towards achieving the objectives set out in its annual work plan but has also had to refocus some of its activity alongside the board adopting a sharper focus on child protection.

12.1 Key achievements of the Sub Group in 2010-11

- Establishing the Sub Group as a new sub group of the Board.
- The production and publication of 3 Safeguarding newsletters, practice updates and learning events for staff.
- The review of distribution lists and mechanisms for all agencies and organisations.
- The establishment of a clear media and communications strategy.
- The effective use of task and finish groups to complete elements of the work plan.

In particular the Sub Group provided a multi agency perspective to the communications and media work related to the sexual exploitation criminal case in 2010 and the production and publication of serious case review executive summaries.

AGENDA ITEM 7

12.2 Key challenges and priorities for the Sub Group

Key priorities for the Sub Group during March and April 2011 are to refresh the RLSCB website, including its infrastructure to enable a more flexibility in terms of appearance and content. A further priority is to produce the publicity materials required for the launching of the new web enabled safeguarding children procedures, using the website as a basis for this.

The group has made progress in relation to effective communication with the workforce across agencies and organisations but needs to undertake further work around communication and feedback with children, young people and their families. The group needs to build on the positive contribution of young people to the boards development day and has plans in place to undertake some of this work through the web site provision, however further work across a variety of mediums will be required to fully achieve this objective. It is also hoped that the appointment of Lay Members and invitation for them to join the Sub Group will provide some insight into how this should be undertaken

It is not as yet clear what the impact of the current agency and service spending reviews will be on communication officers and some future projects of the Sub Group may have financial costs associated with them.

13. Domestic Abuse

Over the past two years, Rotherham has worked hard to ensure that cases of domestic abuse receive a co-ordinated response from the agencies involved, and in particular, where the risk of domestic homicide or serious injury is high. Rotherham has recently re-launched the CAF (Common Assessment Framework), and all multi-agency domestic abuse training has been redesigned to ensure that all agency workers are aware of the indicators, impact on victims/families, and current good practice in the multi agency approach to domestic abuse.

Towards the strengthening of the multi agency approach to cases where children are part of the household, a social worker is to be based at South Yorkshire Police Rotherham Public Protection Unit (PPU) on a part time basis, assisting to screen Police referrals to the Children's Social Care Access Team, ensuring that appropriate cases are being referred in a timely manner and that resources are being targeted appropriately from an early stage. There is the opportunity for this social worker to link in with the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) who attends at the PPU on a weekly basis.

Rotherham also delivers a robust Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) system. All agencies in Rotherham (with the exception of South Yorkshire Police) are now using the DASH risk assessment tool and should be referring to MARAC and IDVA processes simultaneously (as agreed by the South Yorkshire Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) Steering Group).

Rotherham has also identified the need for young people (aged 17) who are assessed as being of high risk of domestic homicide to benefit from a seamless transition of service, and has agreed an informal protocol that these will be referred to MARAC to ensure that all agencies are working together to reduce risk during the transition of service provision.

However, despite this positive progress, there is evidence to indicate that awareness of domestic abuse and what is good practice in the domestic abuse sector, including the MARAC and role of the IDVA, is inconsistent amongst professionals. Domestic abuse risk assessment in cases where domestic abuse is an identified feature is not taking place routinely, and the

AGENDA ITEM 7

recognition of stalking behaviours and honour based violence, which are two the key indicators of the risk of domestic homicide, is also inconsistent. With this in mind, a domestic abuse risk assessment training module is being developed by the MARAC and Domestic Abuse Co-ordinators to ensure that risk assessors and operational managers are fully trained to undertake domestic abuse risk assessments in an informed and consistent manner.

Central government has recently released its strategic vision, "Call to End Violence against Women and Girls" confirming that the focus of the work should now be delivered through four themes:

- **Prevent** through challenging attitudes/behaviours
- **Provide** adequate levels of support
- **Partnership** working to ensure best possible outcomes for victims and families
- **Risk reduction** to protect victims and families in addition to holding perpetrators to account for their behaviour

In its vision, the Government now indicates that health providers also have a role in ensuring early identification and intervention. Through the IDVAs, health professionals are being engaged in the domestic abuse risk assessment processes, with intensive work being undertaken to ensure that they can recognise cases of domestic abuse, feel comfortable screening for domestic abuse and are clear of the need to undertake full risk assessment and ensure this is carried out. Though this work has been delayed the future funding of the IDVAs is considered by the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

The Rotherham Domestic Abuse Strategy was refreshed last year and sent to partners for consultation to be undertaken, just before the change in Government. At the point of this change, the Domestic Abuse Priority Group agreed that Strategy should be "held" until the Government strategy was released. However, the Group has recently agreed that the strategy, in its current format, will be released as an interim strategy, with the understanding that it will be further refreshed once the Government's strategy is released, with full consultation, with a view to formal launch of it taking place in November 2011.

To ensure strong performance against the South Yorkshire Specialist Domestic Violence Court core components and that both groups are functioning to their optimum, the Domestic Abuse Priority Group and the Rotherham Domestic Violence Forum have undertaken developmental work over the past year. The result of this work will now ensure that current and future work in the domestic abuse sector is undertaken in a focussed, robust way that coordination is better focussed:-

- the Domestic Abuse Priority Group has now agreed that it will own the strategic lead in the domestic abuse sector and manage performance of the reduction of repeat incidents going through MARAC
- Compliance with the SDVC components and MARAC QA recommendations
- The Domestic Abuse Forum will now undertake the operational lead in the sector, and will report back to the Priority Group frequently.

To ensure that Rotherham is complying with the SDVC components at an operational level and any barriers to service delivery are dealt with promptly, the Domestic Abuse Forum will no longer operate through its sub groups, but now undertake its targeted work through time limited "task and finish" groups.

AGENDA ITEM 7

One of the key changes that has occurred within the last year, is the change in terminology. Instead of “domestic violence”, all agencies in Rotherham are now being encouraged to use the term “domestic abuse”. This is to ensure that professionals will be able to recognise the wide range of abusive behaviours that occur within a domestic abuse context and respond accordingly.

14. Management of allegations against professionals, foster carers and volunteers

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) role is integrated within the Rotherham Safeguarding Service Unit and has responsibility for the multi agency liaison and strategy meetings in relation to these cases.

Between April 2010 and October 2010 (6 months) there were 49 referrals to the LADO:

Referrals on employees / volunteers by sector:

Social Care	3
Connexions	1
Education	12
Foster Carers	14
Health	1
Child Minders, Nurseries	11
Voluntary Sector	7

Of these 21 were unsubstantiated or required no further action, 2 resulted in a criminal investigation and 10 were referred to a regulatory body.

The figure compares to 70 referrals for the previous 12 months indicating a predicted increase of approximately 30% in 2010-11.

This complex area of work requires effective multi agency liaison and oversight of all the cases subject to the procedures at any one time. Though Rotherham is confident that it provides a robust service in respect of these cases, it is recognised that the number of referrals is increasing and the complexity of them remains consistent. In order to maintain the effectiveness of response to this important area of safeguarding children, there is a commitment in 2011 to create a dedicated LADO post from within existing resources and to improve the capability of the data base utilised to support this work.

15. Private Fostering

RLSCB has a duty to ensure that the local policies and procedures safeguard and promote the welfare of privately fostered children. Rotherham Children and Young People’s Service has the legal responsibility to ensure that the welfare of children who are or are proposed to be privately fostered within the Borough is being, or will be satisfactorily safeguarded and promoted, as detailed in the Children Act (1989), the Children Act (2004), and the Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005.

A proper balance needs to be maintained between parental rights to make private arrangements for the care of their children, and the Local Authority’s obligations to satisfy themselves about the welfare of the children. The welfare of the child is of paramount importance in all private fostering arrangements, and the general principles as set down in the Children Act (1989) should be adhered to throughout.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Numbers of children identified as being in Private Fostering arrangements are low (and consistent with comparator Local Authorities). The Private Fostering return 2009/10 identified 3 new private fostering arrangements within the financial year and the 2010/11 outturn figure though not available at the time of writing is expected to be similarly low.

15.1 Private Fostering service developments

In order to improve the service to children fostered through private arrangements and the families who foster them, the assessment duties were devolved to the fostering service in March 2010. Families who privately foster are now able to access the Kinship care support groups. The statutory visiting duties remain with the Locality teams. This mirrors the division of assessment and support to carers to Looked after Children through the mainstream fostering service with statutory visits by locality team and provides the best possible safeguards.

In April 2010, information posters and leaflets were widely re-distributed across professional and local community service access points. Aimed at professionals, families and children and young people, these provide clear information about Private Fostering; the requirements to report all private Fostering arrangements and information on how to contact the service.

16. E-Safety

RLSCB has an established E-safety Group to deliver on this important area of safeguarding children. The group has done a lot of work on internet safety and has CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) Ambassadors on the group who are trained to work with young people on internet safety, providing them with the knowledge and skills to manage risks online.

We now recognise that eSafety risks are posed more by behaviours and values online than by the technology itself. Our approach must therefore change: rather than restricting access to technology, we need to empower learners to develop safe and responsible online behaviours to protect them whenever and wherever they use technology. Acceptable Use Policies (AUPs), when embedded within a wider framework of eSafety measures, can help to promote the positive behaviours needed.

As part of the Labour Government and Becta's (the previous Government's agency providing guidance on ICT in Education) Home Access Programme, young people in residential accommodation received laptops with internet access. The standard package that was purchased had strong levels of filtering meaning that sites such as Facebook and MSN and other social networking sites are blocked. Following consultation with young people in Rotherham, however, this has now been amended - see above (para).

17. Licensing of Premises

Under the Licensing Act 2003, children will normally have access to licensed premises, unless there is a clear need for them not to and Rotherham LSCB is the 'Responsible Authority' as defined by the Act for safeguarding children. As the 'Responsible Authority' for safeguarding children the Board regularly engages with the other agencies in Rotherham in order to share information about premises and their responsibilities towards children and the public. In circumstances where there are concerns and clear evidence to support this, RLSCB will make and support representations to the Rotherham Licensing Board to have conditions attached to licenses and in extreme circumstances, to have them revoked.

18. Challenges and Priorities for 2011-2014

- Ensure that in the context of change, children and young people are at the centre and are the focus of our work
- Continue to consult children, young people, their parents and carers about what works for them and what doesn't
- Prioritise the safeguarding of those children and young people deemed to be most at risk of significant harm
- Continue to strengthen existing working relationships between RLSCB and partners in the context of financial pressures and organisational change
- Be clear about the impact of impending public spending cuts on how we can best protect children, and work together to minimise risk as much as possible
- Ensure agencies achieve and maintain a high standard of safeguarding arrangements as set out in Section 11 of the Children Act 2004
- Embed lessons learned from local and national serious case reviews and research
- Promote, commission and monitor quality assurance and service audits as an effective way of evidencing impact and achieving continual improvement
- To provide high quality and value for money learning and development opportunities staff at all levels across all agencies and organisations
- Monitor and advise on the interface between early intervention and child protection services and the impact on and outcomes for children.
- To have a particular focus and priority for children and young people:
 - where domestic abuse is a factor
 - who are at risk of sexual exploitation
 - who are from abroad and are now living in Rotherham
- Maintain adequate funding to enable RLSCB to fulfil its responsibilities and embrace the priorities set out in the RLSCB Business Plan for the next 3 years.

AGENDA ITEM 7

19. Appendices

Appendix 1 – RLSCB Membership and Attendance



Name	Job Title & Agency	Role on RLSCB	Attendance at the 5 Board meetings held since April 2010 (including extraordinary meetings and development days) *
Ailsa Barr	Service Manager, Safeguarding Children Unit, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Advisor	2 (out of 2)
Alan Hazell	Independent Chair of Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board	Chair	5
Catherine Hall	Nurse Consultant Safeguarding Children, NHS Rotherham	Advisor	5
Cherryl Henry	Domestic Abuse Coordinator, Safer Rotherham Partnerships, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Advisor	1
David Blain	Head of Safeguarding Yorkshire Ambulance Service - Safeguarding Team Office	Receives minutes	N/A
Deborah Wildgoose / Sam Davies	Deputy Nurse Director, RDASH / Named Safeguarding Nurse, RDASH	Member / Deputy	5
Diane Smith	Lay Member	Member	1 (out of 1)
Dorothy Smith / John Lambert	Senior Director - Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council / Consultant Headteacher, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Member / Deputy	3 (out of 4)
Frances Jeffries	Legal Adviser, Legal Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Advisor	3
Gani Martins	Director of Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting Services, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Member	5
Gary Smith	Lay Member	Member	1 (out of 1)
Geraldine Sands	Strategic Lead Safeguarding and Partnership NHS Yorkshire and the Humber	Receives minutes	N/A
Hilary Barrett	Head of Service, CAF/CASS	Member	1
Howard Woolfenden	Interim Service Manager, Safeguarding Children Unit, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Member	5
Jackie Bird	Chief of Quality and Standards / Chief Nurse, Rotherham NHS Hospital Foundation Trust	Member	4
John Radford	Director of Public Health, NHS Rotherham	Member	3
Joyce Thacker	Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Member	5
Judy Oldale	Head of Rawmarsh Children's Centre, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Member	2

AGENDA ITEM 7


Name	Job Title & Agency	Role on RLSCB	Attendance at the 5 Board meetings held since April 2010 (including extraordinary meetings and development days) *
Justine Skeats	Children's Services Manager, NSPCC	Receives minutes	N/A
Karen Potts	Service Manager, Business Development, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Advisor	2
Maryann Barton	Service Manager, Action for Children	Member	4
Maryke Turvey	Head of Rotherham Delivery Unit, National Probation Service	Member	4
Paul Lakin	Councillor – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services	Participating Observer	4
Pete Horner	Manager of Public Protection Unit, South Yorkshire Police	Member	2
Phil Morris	Local Safeguarding Children Board Business Manager, Rotherham LSCB	Advisor	5
Richard Burton	Lay Member	Member	1 (out of 1)
Sherif El-Refee	Designated Doctor, Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	Advisor	2
Shona McFarlane	Director of Health and Wellbeing, Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Member	4
Simon Palmer	Detective Inspector, Public Protection Unit, South Yorkshire Police	Advisor	4
Simon Perry	Director of Community Services, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Member	5
Warren Carratt	Workforce Strategy, Planning and Development Manager, Children and Young People's Services, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Advisor	1 (out of 2)
Yvonne Weakley	Associate Director, Children & Young People's Services, Rotherham Community Health Services	Member	4
Zafar Saleem	Community Engagement Cohesion Manager, Chief Executive's Office, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Advisor	0

* Where the person listed has not been in post during the full period from April 2010 to the present, their attendance takes into account the maximum number of meetings they could have attended during the period of their employment and this is shown in brackets.


Appendix 2 - Safeguarding Children Performance Monitoring Table 2010

Appendix 2 - Safeguarding Performance Monitoring Table 2010/11												
		PREVIOUS PERFORMANCE			2010 PERFORMANCE [01/01/10 - 31/12/10]							
		01/01/08 - 31/12/08	01/01/09 - 31/12/09	Number		%	Year on Year Direction of Travel [Since 2009/10]					
				Numerator	Denominator	%	Statement	Difference	% variance			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">CAFs</div> 	Number of Open CAFs			620								
	Number of new CAFs this financial year											
	Number of CAFs ceased this financial year											
	Number of open CAFs with Team Around the Child and additional needs plan											
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Contacts, Referrals and Assessments</div> 	Number of Contacts to children's social care services	13831	14184	18676			More	4492	31.7%			
	Of these; those which are new cases	68.9%	69.4%	12137	18676	65.0	Less	-4.45	-6.41%			

AGENDA ITEM 7

		Contacts progressing to referrals (threshold criteria met)	28.4%	30.0%		4778	18676	<u>25.6</u>		Less	-4.45	-14.8%
		Referrals progressing to Initial Assessments (NI68)	56.3%	61.5%		4146	4866	<u>85.2</u>		Good perf should be stable figure	23.70	38.5%
		Initial Assessments completed within 7 working days of referral (NI 59)	78.7%	75.1%		3321	4143	<u>80.2</u>		Better	5.06	6.7%
		Core Assessments completed within 35 working days (NI 60)	80.3%	80.5%		1019	1237	<u>82.4</u>		Better	1.88	2.3%
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Children in Need </div> 		Number of Children in Need (excluding LAC & CPP cases)	1747	1788		<u>1766</u>			Less	-22	-1.2%	
		Number of new CIN this financial year	3740	4165	4165	<u>4626</u>			More	461	11.1%	
		Number of CIN ceased this financial year	3484	3771		<u>3802</u>			More	31	0.8%	
		Children in Need (exc LAC & CPP) Not Allocated	19.0%	13.5%		41	1766	<u>2.3</u>		Better	-11.16	-82.8%

AGENDA ITEM 7

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Child Protection</div> 	Number of Children with a Child Protection Plan	265	280		<u>344</u>				More	64	22.9%
	Number of new children subject to a CPP this financial year	323	307		<u>382</u>				More	75	24.4%
	Number of CPP which discontinued this financial year	244	292		<u>318</u>				More	26	8.9%
	Number of Child Protection Plans by category										
	Emotional Abuse	21.9%	17.5%	1	42	344	<u>12.2</u>		Less	-5.29	-30.2%
	Neglect	61.5%	49.6%	49	184	344	<u>53.5</u>		More	3.89	7.8%
	Physical Abuse	6.8%	27.9%	27.9	103	344	<u>29.9</u>		More	2.04	7.3%
	Sexual Abuse	3.8%	4.6%		15	344	<u>4.4</u>		Less	-0.24	-5.2%
	Multiple	6.0%	0.4%	0.4	0	344	<u>0.0</u>		Less	-0.40	-100.0%
	Child Protection cases - Total Not allocated	7.5%	0.4%		0	344	<u>0.0</u>		All cases allocated	-0.40	-100.0%
Of these; Allocated to a team but not Qualified	2.6%	0.0%		0	344	<u>0.0</u>			0.00		

AGENDA ITEM 7


	Social Worker											
	Initial Child Protection Conferences held within 15 working days of strategy discussion	95.6%	87.0%		287	471	<u>60.9</u>		Worse	-26.04	-29.9%	
	Child Protection Reviews within timescales <i>(NI 67)</i>	97.9%	100.0%		230	230	<u>100.0</u>		Good performance maintained	0.00	0.0%	
	Children subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time <i>(NI 65)</i>	11.2%	11.1%		46	382	<u>12.0</u>		Good perf is between 10 - 15%	0.97	8.8%	
	Children subject to a Child Protection Plan lasting 2 years or longer	2.6%	3.9%	3.9%	7	344	<u>2.0</u>		Less	-1.87	-47.8%	
	Child Protection Plans which have ceased which lasted 2 years or longer <i>(NI 64)</i>	7.0%	1.0%		22	318	<u>6.9</u>		Good perf is typified by low %	5.92	591.8%	
	Number of Looked After Children	389	384		<u>400</u>				More	16	4.2%	




AGENDA ITEM 7

Looked After Children	Number of new admissions to care this financial year	148	140		<u>193</u>				More	53	37.9%
	Number of discharges from care this financial year	118	144		<u>177</u>				More	33	22.9%
	Number of LAC with a Child Protection Plan	17	5		<u>16</u>				More	11	220.0%
	Looked After Children - Total Not allocated	2.1%	4.7%		0	400	<u>0.0</u>		All cases allocated	-4.70	-100.0%
	Of these; Allocated to a team but not Qualified Social Worker	1.5%	4.2%		0	400	<u>0.0</u>			-4.20	-100.0%
	LAC with three or more placements (NI62)	26.7%	21.4%	21.4	36	400	<u>9.0</u>		Good perf is typified by low %	-12.40	-57.9%
	LAC who have been looked after for more than 2.5 yrs and within the same placement for 2yrs or placed for adoption (NI63)	79.0%	74.0%	74.0	122	170	<u>71.8</u>		Worse good perf is generally high	-2.24	-3.0%
	LAC Reviews within timescales, (for those who	91.8%	96.8%		349	367	<u>95.1</u>		Worse	-1.70	-1.8%

AGENDA ITEM 7

		have been looked after for at least 4 continuous weeks) [NI66]											
		LAC with a care plan	-	-		358	400	89.5		-	-	-	
		LAC with up to date Personal Education Plan	76.3%	79.1%		209	258	81.0		Better	1.91	2.4%	
		LAC with up to date Health Assessments	72.5%	85.7%		203	276	73.6		Worse	-12.15	-14.2%	
		LAC with up to date Dental Assessments	84.6%	88.1%		181	276	65.6		Worse	-22.52	-25.6%	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Placements [as recorded in SWIFT]</div> 	Number of mainstream LAC in Rotherham fostering placements	55.5%	43.5%		165	400	41.3		Less	-2.25	-5.2%	
		Number of mainstream LAC in Out of Authority fostering placement	19.0%	23.4%		111	400	27.8		More	4.35	18.6%	
		Number of mainstream LAC in Rotherham residential placements	4.9%	5.2%		21	400	5.3		More	0.10	1.9%	
		Number of mainstream LAC in Out of Authority residential	5.7%	6.0%		27	400	6.8		More	0.75	12.5%	

AGENDA ITEM 7

	placement											
	Number of mainstream LAC Placed with Parents	8.2%	7.6%		29	400	<u>7.3</u>		Less	-0.35	-4.6%	
	Number of mainstream LAC who are Independent Living	1.0%	3.6%		16	400	<u>4.0</u>		More	0.40	11.1%	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Adoptions</div> 	Number of children awaiting adoption who have SHOBPA (best interest) decision in place	65	93		<u>65</u>				Less	-28	-30.1%	
	Number of children referred to adoptions team awaiting SHOBPA (best interest) decision	94	10		<u>67</u>				More	57	570.0%	
	Number of these children who's best decision was over 12 months ago	23	47		<u>54</u>				More	7	14.9%	
	Number of adoptions this	16	20		<u>39</u>				More	19	95.0%	

AGENDA ITEM 7

		financial year											
		Adoptions within 12 months of best interest decision in current financial year [NI 61]	62.5%	60.0%		27	39	69.2		Better	9.2	15.4%	
	Social Care Workforce	Social Worker Vacancy Rate	-	34.7%		13.8	89.8	15.4		Better	-19.33	-55.7%	
	(Fieldwork Only)	Team Manager Vacancy Rate	-	33.3%		3	15	20.0		Better	-13.30	-39.9%	
<p>NI 62 figure is not accurate and we can only give a true figure at year end on completion of the 903 for information the outturn figure for 09/10 was 11.11% and for 08/09 was 13.30%</p> <p>NI 63 figure is not accurate and we can only give a true figure at year end on completion of the 903 for information the outturn figure for 09/10 was 64% and for 08/09 was 55.22%</p> <p>LAC care plans only recorded on Swift from 2010 therefore unable to supply previous year data</p>													
<p>CYPS Performance & Data Team - cyps-performance@rotherham.gov.uk</p>													

Appendix 3 – Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) and Looked After Children (LAC)

Figure 1

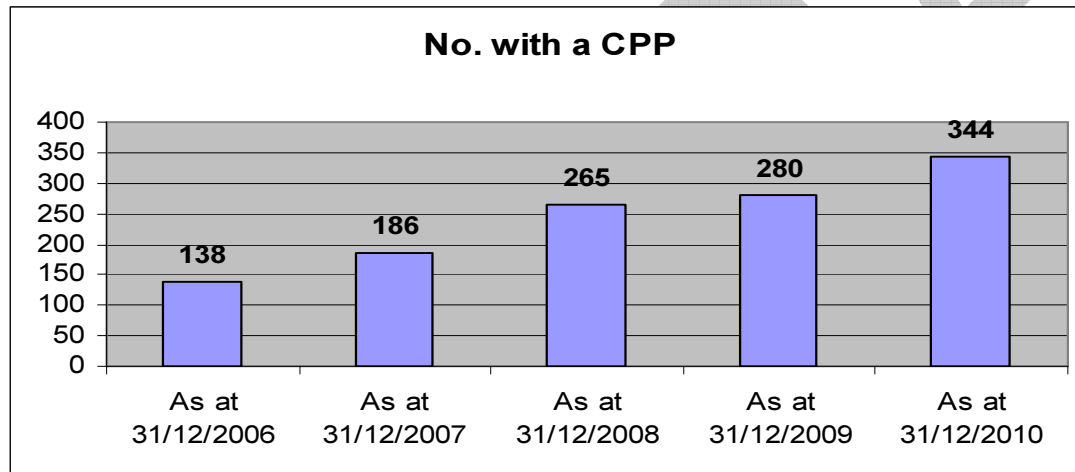


Figure 2

AGENDA ITEM 7

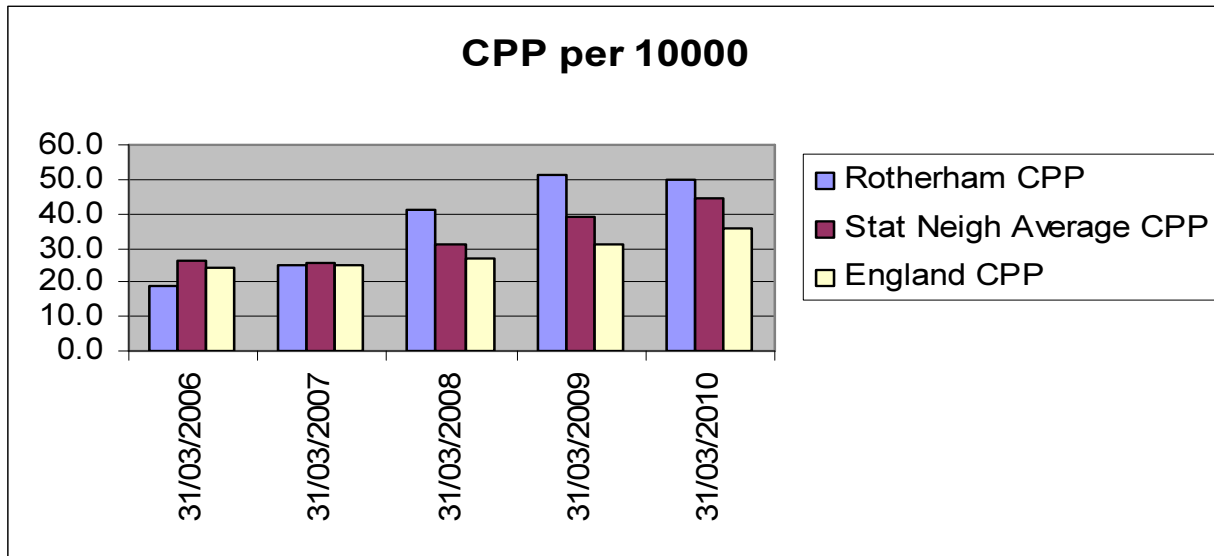
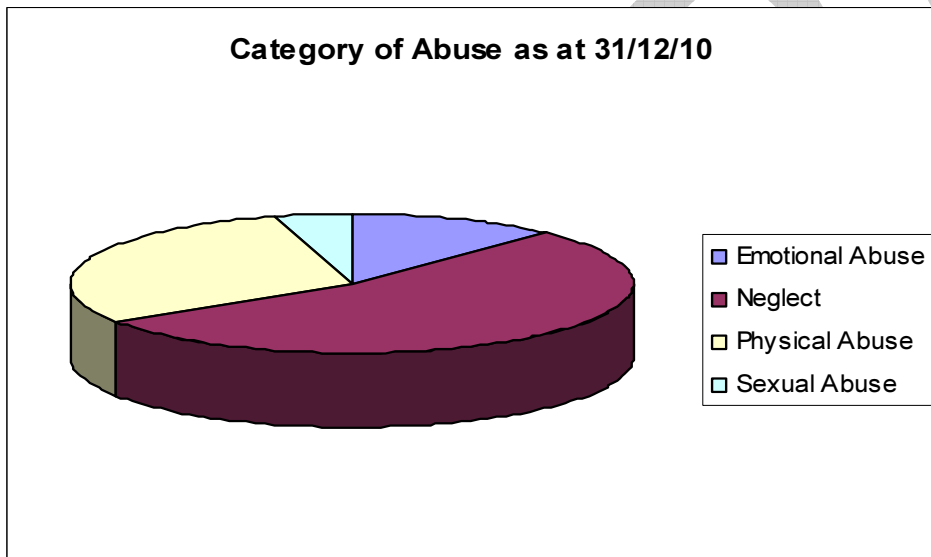


Figure 3

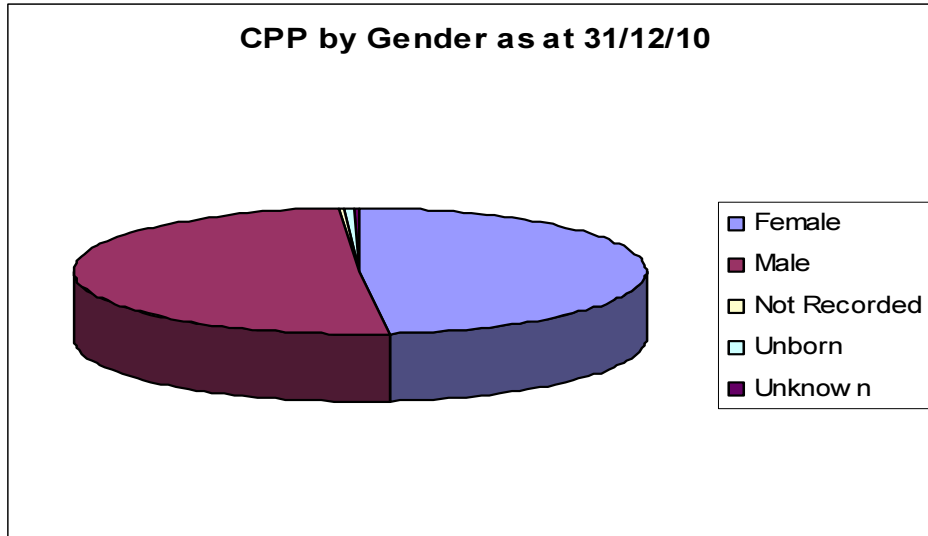


No. CPP as at 31/12/2010 by Category

Emotional Abuse	42
Neglect	184
Physical Abuse	103
Sexual Abuse	15
Total	344

AGENDA ITEM 7

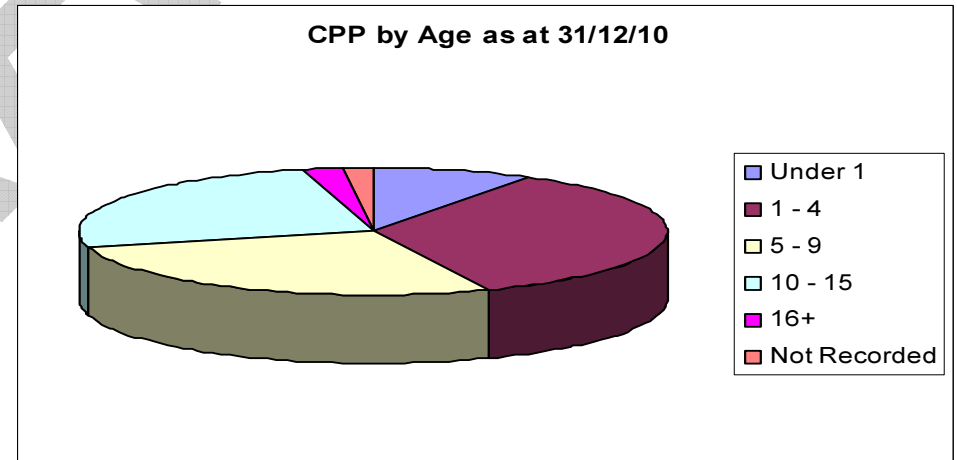
Figure 4



No. CPP as at 31/12/2010 by gender

Female	166
Male	174
Not Recorded	1
Unborn	2
Unknown	1
Total	344

Figure 5



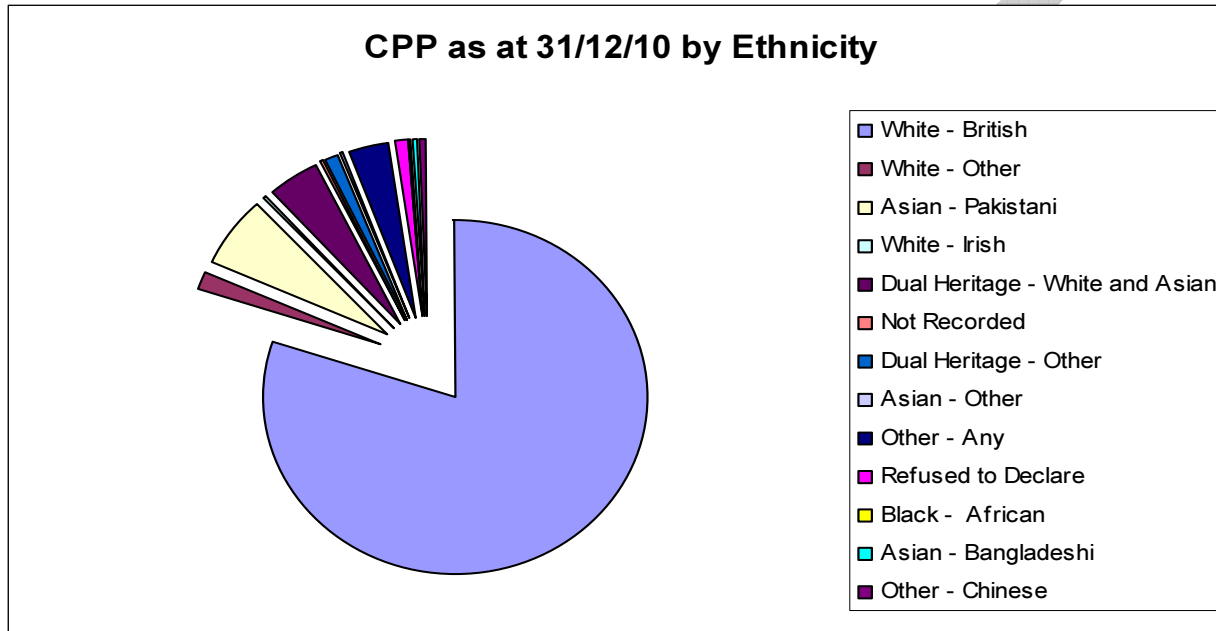
CPP as at 31/12/10 by Age

Under 1	31
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AGENDA ITEM 7

1 - 4	119
5 - 9	94
10 - 15	87
16+	7
Not Recorded	6
Total	344

Figure 6

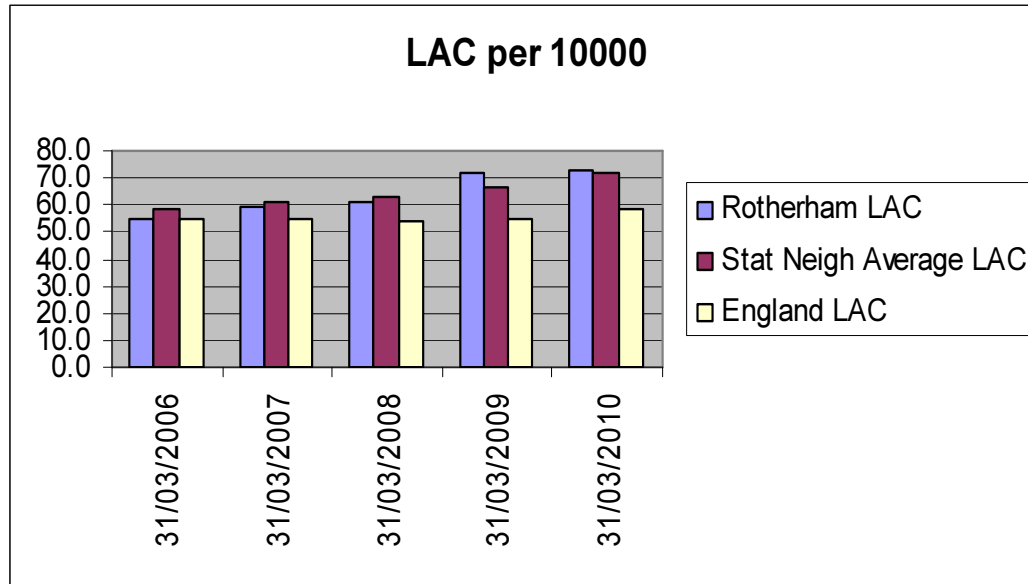


CPP as at 31/12/10 by ethnicity

White - British	275
White - Other	6
Asian - Pakistani	22
White - Irish	1
Dual Heritage - White and Asian	15
Not Recorded	1
Dual Heritage - Other	4
Asian - Other	1
Other - Any	11
Refused to Declare	4
Black - African	1
Asian - Bangladeshi	1
Other - Chinese	2
Total	344

Figure 7

AGENDA ITEM 7



	Rotherham LAC	Rotherham CPP	Stat Neigh Average LAC	Stat Neigh Average CPP	England LAC	England CPP
31/03/2006	55.0	19.0	58.8	26.27	55.0	24.0
31/03/2007	59.0	25.0	61.3	25.91	55.0	25.0
31/03/2008	61.0	41.0	62.8	31.18	54.0	27.0
31/03/2009	72.0	51.0	66.90	39.36	55.00	31.00
31/03/2010	73.0	49.8	72.2	44.7	58.0	35.5

Appendix 4 - Glossary of Terms

Although great effort has been taken to avoid jargon in this report, this Glossary of Terms may be helpful in explaining again the use of any acronyms or abbreviations.

CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
Contact Point	The national data base for information sharing
CPP	Child Protection Plan
CYPS	Children and Young People's Services
CYPTB	Children's Trust Board
DASH	Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence
DCS	Director of Children's Services
DfE	Department for Education
IMR	Individual Management Reviews
ISA	Independent Safeguarding Authority
LAC	Looked After Children (in care)
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
NAS	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education
PCT	Primary Care Trust
RCHS	Rotherham Community Health Services
RDASH	Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust
RFT	Rotherham Foundation (Hospital) Trust
RLSCB / Board	Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
SCR	Serious Case Review
YOT	Youth Offending Team

AGENDA ITEM 7

Appendix 5 - References

Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children: 2010 HM Government

Call to End Violence against Women and Girls: HM Government 2010

Children's Trusts: statutory guidance on co-operation arrangements, including the Children's Trust Board and the Children and Young People's Plan: DCSF March 2010

Ofsted Rotherham Inspection report of LAC and Safeguarding 2010

RLSCB / CYPTB relationship agreement 2010

Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board website: <http://www.rscb.org.uk/Home.aspx>

DRAFT

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Friday 18 th March 2011
3.	Title:	<p>Performance Indicators Children and Young People's Services Performance Indicator Report - 2010/11 Quarter Three Appendix A – Performance Assessment by Every Child Matters Outcome Appendix B – 'CYPS Performance Monitoring Table – 2010/11 Quarter Three (Sept – Dec 2010)</p> <p>[Wards affected – All]</p>
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

This report and accompanying appendices outline performance at the end of 2010/11 Quarter three against targets, with direction of travel against previous year's performance and comparisons with statistical neighbour and national data.

6. Recommendations

That the Performance Report be received and performance noted.

7. Proposals and Details

Attention is drawn to 'Appendix A - Performance Assessment by Every Child Matters Outcome' which provides details of performance by each Every Child Matters theme including;

- Performance against targets (Comparing performance against set targets)
- Direction of travel analysis (Comparing 2010/11 quarter 3 performance to 2010/11 quarter 2 performance)
- Year to Date Performance (Judged by corporate monitoring system Performance Plus)
- Performance against Statistical Neighbours average
- Performance against National average
- Areas of Success
- Areas of Under-performance

Full details of performance and commentary at indicator level are provided in the table within Appendix B which is referenced throughout the Performance Assessment (Appendix A).

8. Finance

There are no financial implications to this report. The relevant Service Director and Budget Holder will address financial implications of the Action Plans. Members will be consulted where appropriate.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

A category of risk is applied to each Performance Indicator using the PI managers' projection of year-end performance and takes into account any known internal or external influences with comparison against targets.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

As detailed within the report the National Indicator Set forms one of the blocks of evidence (Block C) for the Ofsted Comprehensive Area Assessment for CYPS (CAA). Ofsted use it to support its process for arriving at the annual rating for Children and Young People's Services (CYPS). They also use the available NI data to ensure the rating takes account of councils' broad responsibility for children's well-being, including those aspects not inspected directly by Ofsted.

Poor performance compared to statistical neighbours and national can have a significant impact on the overall rating of CYPS. Ofsted form a provisional view/rating of CYPS by reviewing "Block A: inspected and regulated services and settings" and "Block B: inspections of safeguarding and services for looked after children; annual unannounced inspections; findings from any triggered inspection; and serious case review evaluation findings". Blocks A and B are weighted in the rating but then "Block C: National Indicator Set" is then used to support the overall rating. If there are concerns in Blocks A and B, the rating is likely to be confirmed as 'performs poorly' if performance against a large majority of indicators in the NIS, including those for staying safe and enjoying and achieving, is lower than in similar areas.

Central Government has indicated that the Comprehensive Area Assessment and the Audit Commission have been abolished. There is no indication that the CYPS/Ofsted CAA will change in the short/medium term.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Comprehensive Area Assessment: Annual rating of Children's services – arrangements and guidance
- Children & Young People's Plan 2010- 2013
- Local Area Agreement 2008-11 (including 2009 refresh)

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Rotherham Children and Young People's Services

Assessment of Performance by Every Child Matters Outcome

2010/11 Quarter Three Report (End of December 2010)

This report outlines performance at the end of 2010/11 Quarter Three against targets, with comparisons against previous performance and statistical neighbour and national data where possible.

It should be read in conjunction with the 'CYPS Performance Monitoring Table – 2010/11 Quarter Three (Appendix B) as it includes references throughout the text to the numbering structure within the table.

Please note the following data health warnings;

- Comparative data relates to the latest available data and therefore date periods for some indicators may vary. It has been sourced via the DFE Local Area Interactive Tool.

Notes on overall performance

- Across all themes, 50% of the National Indicator components targets have been met. This is a 3% increase from 47% in the 2010/11 quarter 2 report.
- There are 43% of all indicators which are not meeting targets which represents a 2% decrease from 45% in quarter 2. The Staying Safe and Making a Positive Contribution themes are particularly underperforming with 56% and 57% of indicators not meeting targets. Future targets are being reviewed with managers to ensure that they are appropriate and realistic, whilst continuing to drive improvement. This is specifically highlighted within Staying Safe because 7 of the 9 indicators are inline or above statistical neighbours and 8 of the 9 indicators are inline or above the national average which illustrates that we are potentially setting overly ambitious targets for ourselves.
- This quarter, the benchmarking data downloaded from the Local Area Interactive Tool shows that 61% of indicator components are inline or above the national average with only 18% being below.
- Comparison against statistical neighbours show that 61% of components are inline or above and 21% are below the statistical neighbour average.

Areas of Success

Being Healthy

- All four of the national indicator components for Being Healthy were on target at the end of quarter 3.
- Take up of primary and secondary school lunches (No 1 a & b / NI 52 a & b). Performance in quarter 3 shows that both of these components are on target and have a positive direction of travel from quarter 2 and are both above the national average. Primary school lunches showed a quarter 3 figure of 49.8% against the national average of 41.4% and secondary school lunches showing a quarterly figure of 38.9% against the national average of 35.8%

Staying Safe

Two indicators are performing at least 2% or better above target and show a positive direction of travel. These are;

- Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales (No10 / NI67) has maintained top performance of 100% and is above the statistical neighbour average of 98.4% and the national average of 96.8%.
- Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment (No 11 / NI68). This indicator has a quarter 3 figure of 84.2% against a target of 70% and shows improvement from the quarter 2 performance of 81.7%. This is significantly above both the statistical neighbour and national averages of 70.4% and 65.5% respectively.

Enjoying and Achieving

- Special Educational Needs – statements issued within 26 weeks (No 14 a & b / NI 103 a & b) has maintained top performance (100%) in part a) excluding exceptions. This exceeds the target of 95% and is above the statistical neighbour average of 97.2% and the national average of 91%. Part b) including exceptions has also exceeded the target of 92% with a top performing Q3 figure of 100%. This is also above the statistical neighbour average of 94.4% and the national average of 82%.

Making a Positive Contribution

No indicator out of the 5 reported within this theme is showing both on target and a positive direction of travel.

- Young offenders' engagement in suitable education, training and employment (No 17 / NI 45) has been reported as 74.2% which is a significant improvement from quarter 2 which was 56.6% and is also above both the statistical neighbour and national averages of 70.6% and 73.3% respectively.

Achieving Economic Wellbeing

- All three of the national indicator components for Achieving Economic Wellbeing were on target at the end of quarter 3.
- 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET) (No 20 / NI117) has a Q3 figure of 6.6% which is better than the target of 7.1%, shows a positive direction of travel and is better than the statistical neighbour average of 8.1% although we are still slightly below the national average of 6.4%
- Care leavers in suitable accommodation (No 21 / NI147) has achieved quarter 3 performance of 95% which is above the target of 92% and shows an improvement on the quarter 2 figure of 92.3%. This is above the statistical neighbour average of 88.8% and the national average of 90.3%.

Areas of Under-Performance

Staying Safe

Four indicators within this theme are currently off target and also showing a negative direction of travel. It must be noted that targets will be reviewed as three of these four indicators are inline or above the national and statistical neighbour averages.

- Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement (No 4 / NI 60). This indicator shows quarter 3 performance of 82.8% against a target of 87% and also has dropped from a quarter 2 figure of 87.1%.

- Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption (No 5 / NI 61). Quarter 3 performance of 61.3% is below the target of 72% and also shows a negative direction of travel from the quarter 2 figure of 68.4%. It must be noted that a significant amount of quality assurance has been undertaken regarding this indicator and it is likely that the target will be amended.
- Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more (No 7 / NI 64). Quarter 3 performance stands at 5.2% against a target of 4% so has dipped from 3.5% in quarter 2.
- Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales (No 9 / NI66). Quarter 3 performance of 93.5% is below the target of 97% and continues to have a downward direction of travel.

- **Enjoying and Achieving**

None of the 3 indicators within the Enjoying and Achieving theme have deteriorated since quarter 2. We still however have 5 schools in special measures against a target of 0 and only 69% of secondary schools are judged as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour against a target of 90%.

Making a Positive Contribution

- Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody (No 16 / NI43). This National Indicator performance of 9.1% does not meet the target of 5.0% and shows a downward direction of travel from 7.9% in the previous quarter. Performance is also worse than both the statistical neighbour average of 4.5% and the national average of 5.5%.

Performance Summary – All themes

Number of Indicators: 22

Number of Components: 28

The tables below shows performance data by Every Child Matters outcomes. These are abbreviated as follows;

BH = Being Healthy SS = Staying Safe
MPC = Making a Positive Contribution

EA = Enjoying & Achieving
AEW = Achieving Economic Wellbeing

Performance against Targets (Comparing this quarter's performance against set targets)

On Target	Interpretation	BH		SS		EA		MPC		AEW		All	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
✓	Has met target	3	75%	4	44%	2	40%	2	29%	3	100%	14	50%
✗	Has not met target	1	25%	5	56%	2	40%	4	57%	0	0%	12	43%
- / n/a	No targets set (ie new and/or baseline yr)	0	0%	0	0%	1	20%	1	14%	0	0%	2	7%
Total Number of Indicators		2		9		3		5		3		22	
Total Number of Components		4		9		5		7		3		28	

Direction of Travel "DOT"

DOT	Interpretation	BH		SS		EA		MPC		AEW		All	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
↑	Top performance or improvement	3	75%	3	33%	2	40%	3	43%	2	67%	13	39%
→	Performance has maintained	0	0%	1	11%	2	40%	0	0%	0	0%	3	11%
↓	Performance has declined	1	25%	5	56%	0	0%	3	43%	1	33%	10	32%
- / n/a	No comparison can be made	0	0%	0	0%	1	20%	1	14%	0	0%	2	18%
Total Number of Indicators		2		9		3		5		3		22	
Total Number of Components		4		9		5		7		3		28	

Performance against Statistical Neighbours

Outturn Perf.	Interpretation	BH		SS		EA		MPC		AEW		All	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
★	2% above statistical neighbour or top performance	1	25%	4	44%	2	40%	2	29%	3	100%	12	43%
●	Same as statistical neighbour or above by less than 2%	2	50%	3	33%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	5	18%
▲	Below statistical neighbour	1	25%	2	22%	1	20%	2	29%	0	0%	6	21%
- / n/a	No statistical neighbour data to compare	0	0%	0	0%	2	40%	3	43%	0	0%	5	18%
Total Number of Indicators		2		9		3		5		3		22	
Total Number of Components		4		9		5		7		3		28	

Performance against National

Outturn Perf.	Interpretation	BH		SS		EA		MPC		AEW		All	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
★	2% above national or top performance	3	75%	7	78%	2	40%	1	14%	2	67%	15	54%
●	Same as national or above by less than 2%	0	0%	1	11%	0	0%	1	14%	0	0%	2	7%
▲	Below national	1	25%	1	11%	1	20%	1	14%	1	33%	5	18%
- / n/a	No national data to compare	0	0%	0	0%	2	40%	4	57%	0	0%	6	21%
Total Number of Indicators		2		9		3		5		3		22	
Total Number of Components		4		9		5		7		3		28	

No.	Ref	Definition	Good Perf	09/10 Perf	10/11 Target	10/11 Q1 Perf	10/11 Q2 Perf	10/11 Q3 Perf	On Target	DOT	Year to Date	Latest Comparative Data					
												Stat Neigh.	Perf against Stat. Neigh.	National	Perf against National		
BEING HEALTHY																	
1	NI 52	Take up of school lunches															
a	a	Primary	HIGH	43.9%	41.9%	45.9%	44.8%	49.8%	✓	↑	★	48.60%	●	41.40%	★	41.9%	42.3%
b	b	Secondary	HIGH	35.0%	34.2%	35.1%	32.3%	38.9%	✓	↑	★	43.70%	▲	35.80%	★	34.2%	34.5%
2	NI 53	Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth															
a	a	Prevalence	HIGH	28.9%	30%	28.7%	26.6%	30.2%	✗	↑	●	27.40%		45.20%		32%	
b	b	Coverage	HIGH	94.2%	95%	96.3%	98.1%	97.5%	✓	↓	★	96.90%		93.60%		95%	
STAYING SAFE																	
3	NI 59	Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral	HIGH	74.6%	87.0%	84.1%	81.2%	82.2%	✗	↑	▲			67.30%	★	81.0%	82.0%
4	NI 60	Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement	HIGH	79.0%	87.0%	87.3%	87.1%	82.8%	✗	↓	▲			78.10%	★	87.0%	87.5%
5	NI 61	Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	HIGH	72.0%	85.0%	25.0%	68.4%	61.3%	✗	↓	▲			65.20%	▲	85.0%	86.0%
6	NI 62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements	LOW	11.1%	10.5%	8.9%	7.3%	8.2%	✓	↓	★			10.10%	●	10.5%	10.0%
7	NI 64	Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more	LOW	4.0%	4.0%	0.0%	3.5%	5.2%	✗	↓	▲			4.90%	▲	4.0%	3.5%
8	NI 65	Percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	LOW	13.8%	10-15%	7.4%	6.9%	8.5%	✓	→	★			15.60%	★	11.0%	10.5%
9	NI 66	Looked After Children cases which were reviewed within required timescales	HIGH	97.1%	97.0%	97.0%	96.7%	93.9%	✗	↓	▲			92.00%	●	93.0%	94.0%
10	NI 67	Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	HIGH	100.0%	100%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	✓	↑	★			98.40%	●	100%	100%
11	NI 68	Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	HIGH	59.5%	70.0%	64.5%	81.7%	84.2%	✓	↑	★			70.40%	★	67.0%	60.0%
ENJOYING AND ACHIEVING																	
12	NI 86	Secondary schools judged as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour	HIGH	69%	90%	69.0%	69.0%	69.0%	✗	→	▲			73.80%	▲	78.60%	100.0%
13	NI 89	Reduction of number of schools judged as requiring special measures and improvement in time taken to come out of the category															
a	a	Number	LOW	2	0	5	5	5	✗	→	▲			N/A	N/A	0	0
b	b	Time	LOW	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	N/A	0	0
14	NI 103	Special Educational Needs – statements issued within 26 weeks															
a	a	Excluding exceptions	HIGH	100.00%	95%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	✓	↑	★			97.20%	★	91%	95.0%

The service continues to increase the take up of meals such that the annualised percentages are 47 %and 35%, respectively which exceeds the annual targets. Take up is normally maintained at similar levels to quarter 3 in quarter 4.

Whilst there has been a slight increase in the timeliness in completing initial assessments, the challenges in meeting the target remain. Despite the improvement in the recruitment and retention of social workers a number of vacancies continue to be covered by agency workers. This has been particularly problematic in quarter 3 as a number of agency social workers and team managers have left at short notice. In addition to this incident weather conditions had a negative impact on performance. Having taken action to complete outstanding IA's there is an expectation that performance will continue to improve.

Due to the ongoing problems with agency team manager leaving the authority at short notice, a number of assessments had been left incomplete. The work to remedy this situation has been undertaken but along with adverse weather conditions has caused the dip in performance. It is anticipated that we will meet the end of year target of 87% will be met.

The performance continues to be off target for the family finding reasons. A number of adoption orders made recently are for children who exceeded the 12 month target in the period before family finding returned to the adoption team. These children will work their way through the system in due course and will continue to adversely affect performance.

We are pleased to report that this performance once again reflects better matching process. Also the stability of social worker in long term LAC and their ability to support children and young people in their placements.

The performance on this target has dipped in the last quarter. Children on a plan for over 2 years remains a priority for audit purposes both by the safeguarding board and chairs in the safeguarding unit. This will be prioritised for the next quarter.

The third quarter shows an increase in the number of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for a subsequent time, this increase is closer to the nationally recognized good performance in this area of 10 - 15 %. However, more rigorous auditing by the conference chairs, their manager and the Performance & Quality sub-group will ensure close monitoring of this indicator.

There have been some challenges in the quarter in question, including IRO capacity and staff changes, also under capacity in admin, all at a time when the number of LAC is increasing.

Performance remains good in this area, the business support team provide a key support in monitoring this area and work closely with the service manager, assistant manager, and area social workers/managers to maintain this good performance.

Stability of staffing has resulted in increased proportions of referrals being assessed.

Behaviour judgements of the 3 schools with published inspections from Autumn Term remain the same therefore this indicator is unchanged.

Position remains the same. Monitoring visits in Spring 2011 may prompt early inspection and release from SMs in some of the 5 schools, others are more likely to achieve Satisfactory in summer 2011

103a) Of the 16 total number of statements issued this quarter, if we exclude exceptions 1 was issued within 26 weeks.

No.	Ref	Definition	Coed Perf	08/10 Perf	10/11 Target	10/11 Q1 Perf	10/11 Q2 Perf	10/11 Q3 Perf	On Target	DOT	Year to Date	10/11 Q2 Commentary	Stat. Neigh.	Perf against Stat. Neigh.	National	Perf against National	10/11 Target	11/12 Target
b		Including exceptions	HIGH	97.4%	92%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	✓	↑	★	103b) Of the 16 final statements issued this quarter, all were issued within 26 weeks.	94.40%	★	82%	★	92.0%	94.0%
MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION																		
15	NI 19	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	LOW	0.28	0.97	0.61	0.47	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	We are unable to provide data for NI 19 as we are awaiting information from the police about those who have re-offended post 18. Our system does not capture this data as they would have appeared in adult court.	1.1	N/A	1.1	N/A	0.97	
16	NI 43	Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody	LOW	11.0%	5.0%	7.1%	7.9%	9.1%	✗	↓	▲	Although First Time Entrants have increased these are mainly at the lower end of the spectrum not requiring an official Court section. Actual custodial sentences have remained static at 6 per quarter, but the decline in cases going through Court means that our target has increased as a proportion.	4.50%	▲	5.90%	▲	5.0%	
17	NI 45	Young offenders engagement in suitable education, training and employment	HIGH	71.0%	78.0%	66.2%	56.6%	74.2%	✗	↑	▲	These figures are unverified as a number of cases are still awaiting closure and confirmation of status. However they are an encouraging sign of some progress being made.	70.60%	★	73.30%	●	78.0%	
18	NI 111	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 – 17																
a		Number	LOW	212	514		97	125	✓	↓	N/A	This quarter has seen a further rise in First Time Entrants, mainly at the lower end of the offending spectrum. To some extent this can be anticipated as a small number of those who have benefited from diversionary activities re-offend and are dealt with more formally.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	514	
b		Per 100,000 10-17 Population		784	1,900		365	470	✓	↓	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1900	
19	NI 113	Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 24 year olds										The target is now recognised as unachievable given that there are only two months of the year left, and we will be aiming to achieve a higher percentage screened this year than last (2009-10). Last year screens - 25%. The Government is reviewing the future of the programme and is planning to move it to a more targeted programme, based in core services. Terrence Higgins Trust from March will no longer provide the screening programme and NHSR are presently engaged in developing a new model to provide screens in the future.						
a		Coverage	HIGH	25.0%	35.0%	7.5%	14.7%	20.7%	✗	↑	▲		24.10%	▲	N/A	N/A	35.0%	
b		Prevalence	LOW	-	-	-	-	-			N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	
ACHIEVING ECONOMIC WELLBEING																		
20	NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)	LOW	7.9%	7.10%	7.7%	7.7%	6.6%	✓	↑	★	November 2010 capture point shows continued progress NEET at 6.6% (715 young people) in comparison to the same point last year when NEET was 8.1% (867 young people) and we are on target to achieve the required outcome of 7.1%. Participation in learning stands at 85% shows an improvement on last year when the figure stood at 81.3%. Not known stand at 3% in comparison to last year when they stood at 5.2%.	8.10%	★	6.40%	▲	7.1%	
21	NI 147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	HIGH	100.0%	92%	87.5%	92.3%	95.0%	✓	↑	★	All care leavers this quarter are suitable houses. 1 young person from Q1 remains in custody.	88.80%	★	90.30%	★	92.0%	
22	NI 148	Care leavers in employment, education or training	HIGH	63.6%	67%	87.5%	84.6%	82.0%	✓	↓	★	In Q3 2 young people not in EET. 1 due to illness 1 does not wish to engage at this time. Target is still being met	56.90%	★	62%	★	70.0%	

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
Friday, 18th February, 2011

Present:- Councillor License (in the Chair); Councillors Ali, Dodson, Falvey, Fenoughty, Kaye and Sims.

Also in attendance were:- Councillor Paul Lakin (Cabinet Member for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children).

Apologies for absence were received from:- Councillors Buckley, Donaldson, Rushforth, G. A. Russell and Sharp and from co-opted members Mrs. J. Blanch-Nicholson, Mr. M. Burn, Mr. C. A. Marvin, Mrs. L. Pitchley and Dr. S. Warren.

99. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

100. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

101. MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE YOUTH CABINET

The Scrutiny Panel discussed the following issues:-

(1) Members are invited to attend the Youth Service showcase bonanza (part of the Youth Service annual conference), to be held at the Thornhill Youth Centre on Tuesday, 22nd February, 2011;

(2) the UK Youth Parliament is launching the 'carers' card' for use by young people who are carers' for relatives; the card contains and explanation of the circumstances of the young carer (eg: for use in dealing with schools);

(3) the Youth Cabinet has asked that work be undertaken to examine the availability of certain Internet web sites for study purposes on schools' computers.

102. COMMUNICATIONS

Members noted the following issues:-

(1) Looked After Children – the number of children in the care of the local authority had increased since the legal action taken as a consequence of the death of baby Peter in the London Borough of Haringey.

(2) Scrutiny Panel members would be provided with the Internet web site link about the Local Government Improvement and Development publication "10 Questions to ask if scrutinising services for looked after children"; the Senior Scrutiny Adviser had been asked to contribute to the document on the basis of Rotherham's previous scrutiny reviews into corporate parenting arrangements.

(3) A report had been published by the NHS Specialist Services concerning proposals to restructure Children's congenital cardiac services in England; a regional health scrutiny committee will meet to discuss the proposals and respond to the consultation; a working group of Elected Members has been set up to look at the proposals and feed into the joint committee; further details will be provided to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Panel.

(4) The dates of the next two meetings of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel are:-

Friday 18th March 2011 commencing at 9.30 am
Tuesday 26th April 2011 commencing at 9.30 am

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

Further to Minute No. 93 of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 21st January, 2011, consideration was given to a report presented by the Performance, Information and Quality Manager providing an overview of the progress made since the update in December 2010. The action plan identifies a Red-Amber-Green rating and a direction of travel for the areas of improvement, and key risks and issues to meeting the stretching targets set for this Council and its strategic partners. Three additional actions have been added following the removal of the Notice to Improve and the receipt of the annual CSA letter in December 2010. There are now thirty-one individual actions covering the key performance measures (including the three 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 meeting held with the Department for Education in December 2010.

The Scrutiny Panel's discussion of this issue included the following salient items:-

: the increase in the number of common assessment framework cases being completed each month;

: improved performance in dealing with referrals of children and young people;

: recruitment and case loads of social work staff.

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

(2) That the progress being made by Children and Young People's

Services against the targets in the Notice to Improve action plan be noted.

104. SCRUTINY REVIEW - SCHOOL CLOSURE DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER

Further to Minute No. 48 of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 15th October, 2010 and Minute No. 159 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9th February, 2011, consideration was given to a report presented by the Risk and Regulation Manager outlining the progress made by the Children and Young People's Services' Directorate in response to the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review of school closures due to extreme weather. The scrutiny review had investigated:-

- : 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 ?
- : the way in which school closures are communicated to parents.

The Scrutiny Panel's discussion of this issue included the following salient items:-

- : the severity of weather during the past two Winters (December 2009 and January 2010 and December 2010 and January 2011);
- : schools' undertaking a risk assessment prior to the decision being made on whether to close a school during inclement weather;
- : communications with parents about school closures;
- : use of the Internet for remote learning;
- : use of local contractors to clear snow from school sites and from access routes near to schools;
- : teachers' reporting to schools near to where they live, if they are unable to travel to their place of employment (nb: this issue is still under discussion on a County-wide basis);
- : awaiting a reply from the Department for Education to the request to relax performance targets during school closures because of inclement weather;

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

(2) That the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel notes (i) the actions taken by the Children and Young People's Services' Directorate in response to the scrutiny review report and (ii) the progress made with those actions.

(3) That the issues raised as part of this scrutiny review of school closures shall be used to inform the scrutiny review of the Council-wide response to the difficulties caused by the inclement weather of the past two Winters, proposed to be undertaken by the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel and the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel.

105. KEY STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT RESULTS - SUMMER 2010

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Lead Adviser (Targeted Intervention and Support) informing Members of performance in Rotherham primary schools at the end of Key Stage 2, in 2010.

The Scrutiny Panel's discussion of this issue included the following salient items:-

- : the reasons why a small number of primary schools had boycotted the Key Stage 2 tests;
- : there are fewer primary schools in Rotherham not achieving the Department for Education national floor targets for pupil achievement;
- : higher standards being set by the Government for 2011;
- : the action being taken to effect improvement at Key Stage 2;
- : federations of primary schools, each supporting the other to raise standards;
- : the importance of the leadership/management role of school head teachers and of the governance of schools;
- : training of and support for school governors;
- : the level of preparation required for Key Stage 2 tests which, occasionally, leaves little room for pupils to learn other aspects of the national curriculum;
- : the performance of pupils from black and minority ethnic communities;
- : the outcome of the Key Stage 2 performance clinic held on 17th February, 2011.

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

(2) That the improvements in performance in important areas of Key Stage 2, as detailed in the report submitted, be noted.

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

(4) That this Scrutiny Panel endorses the drive to:-

(a) 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; and

(b) improve boys' attainment and that of black and minority ethnic pupils and Looked After Children.

(5) That this Scrutiny Panel shall include a review of school governance in its 2011/12 scrutiny work programme.

106. KEY STAGE 4 (GCSE) EXAMINATION RESULTS 2010

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Head of the School Effectiveness Service 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 the Council's statistical neighbours.

The Scrutiny Panel's discussion of this issue included the following salient items:-

: the continuing improvement in Key Stage 4 results, with a further improvement projected for 2011;

: appointment to the part-time post of Head Teacher of the Virtual School for Looked After Children;

: comparative performance of the same cohort of pupils at Key Stage 2 and at Key Stage 4;

: future emphasis on pupils studying the national baccalaureate;

: pupils learning vocational and life skills, as well as academic subject content;

: a trend towards Key Stage 4 studies beginning during Year 9.

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

(2) That the continued improved 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 the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel endorses the drive to:-

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

(b) continue to improve boys' attainment;

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

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

107. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 21ST JANUARY, 2011

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 21st January, 2011 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

108. 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.

109. 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

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 19th January, 2011 and on 9th February, 2011, be noted.

110. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 14TH AND 28TH JANUARY, 2011

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 14th January and on 28th January, 2011 be noted.

**SAFEGUARDING AND DEVELOPING LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN - 23/02/11****CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFEGUARDING AND DEVELOPING LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN
23rd February, 2011**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Currie and Havenhand

D118. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2011

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th February, 2011 be approved as a correct record.

D119. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2010/2011

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Finance Manager stating that the Children and Young People's Services' capital programme budget for 2010/2011 has reduced by £4.215 millions to £17.515 millions. The programme is forecast to be fully spent by 31st March 2011. The submitted report shows the capital programme's actual expenditure to 17th January 2011 and projected expenditure to 31st March 2011.

Members requested further details about specific projects.

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

(2) That Members note that:-

(a) the Children and Young People's Services' Capital Programme for 2010/2011 is now £17.515 millions;

(b) capital programme expenditure to 17th January 2011 is £11.297 millions; and

(c) the Capital Programme is expected to spend to the revised budget by 31st March 2011.

D120. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2010/2011 - QUARTER 3

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Performance Management Officer outlining the performance of the Children and Young People's Services' Directorate at the end of 2010/2011 quarter three against targets, with direction of travel against previous year's performance and comparisons with statistical neighbour and national data.

Members discussed:-

(a) issues concerning forthcoming inspections by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted); and

(b) the implications of budget reductions for performance targets.

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

(2) That the third quarter performance report for Children and Young People's Services be received and performance noted.

(3) That the recommendations regarding performance clinics, as detailed in the report submitted, be approved.

(4) That this performance report be submitted to a future meeting of the Children and Young People's Trust Board.

D121. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

D122. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR A FOSTER CARER

Further to Minute No. D108 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children held on 19th January, 2011, consideration was given to a report submitted by the Service Manager (Long Term Looked After Children 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:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That, subject to the conditions detailed in the report submitted, a grant up to a maximum sum of £18,000 be made to the couple identified in the report, enabling them to undertake the necessary building alterations in respect of their foster caring role.

D123. EARLY YEARS SINGLE FUNDING FORMULA

Further to Minute No. D70 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children held on 6th October, 2010, consideration was given to a report presented by the Resources and Business Strategy Manager stating that the previous Government had announced in June 2007 that local authorities would be required to design and implement a single local funding formula for funding the Free Entitlement to early years provision for 3 and 4 year olds across all sectors.

The aim was to improve fairness and transparency in the way that funding is allocated to providers who deliver the Free Entitlement and thereby support its extension to 15 hours, to be delivered more flexibly from September 2010. From April 2011, all local authorities must fund providers from all sectors on the basis of single, transparent, locally defined, participation-led funding formulae: the Early Years Single Funding Formula.

During consideration of this item, Members were informed of the imminent retirement of Mr. David Ashmore, Resources and Business Strategy Manager, Children and Young People's Services. Members placed on record their appreciation of Mr. Ashmore's services to the Council and wished him a long and happy retirement.

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

(2) That the Early Years Single Funding Formula as proposed by the Early Years Funding Formula Working Group shall be implemented, subject to approval by the Rotherham Schools Forum.

(3) That the hourly rates (as detailed section 8.1 of the submitted report) be approved subject to finalisation of the Dedicated Schools Grant and agreements in respect of central expenditure.

(4) That, as the Standards Fund Grant 1.10 for 2010/11 ends at 31st March 2011, any residual funding remaining shall be added to the Dedicated Schools Grant in 2011/12 for contingency purposes.

D124. EARLY INTERVENTION GRANT

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services concerning the Early Intervention Grant, a new concept from the coalition Government bringing together funding strands most of which had been Area Based Grants. The Early Intervention Grant of some £14 millions in 2010/11 has been subjected to a 12.9% reduction for 2011/12. Children and Young People's Services have spent a considerable time examining the best way to prioritise the funds available against the corporate priorities, particularly prevention and early intervention. The proposals detailed in the submitted report signal a shift to allocating resources against the Children and Young People's Plan and corporate priorities.

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

(2) That the proposed grant reductions, as detailed in the report now submitted, be endorsed.

(3) That a bid be made to the proposed Invest to Save fund, for intervention work with sexually exploited young people and for family support targeted at keeping children and young people out of care.

(4) That the move to realign resources to provide family support services, as now reported, be noted.

**1DCABINET MEMBER FOR SAFEGUARDING AND DEVELOPING LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN - 09/03/11**

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

Present:- Councillor Lakin

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

D125. RETIREMENT OF MRS. JULIE WESTWOOD

Members were informed that Mrs. Julie Westwood, Director of Resources, Planning and Performance, would be retiring on 31st March 2011. Members placed on record their appreciation of Mrs. Westwood's services to the Council and wished her a long and happy retirement.

D126. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23RD FEBRUARY, 2011

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd February, 2011 be approved as a correct record.

D127. NATIONAL CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES CONFERENCE - 'TOUGH TIMES, GOOD DECISIONS' - ICC LONDON EXCEL - 19TH TO 21ST OCTOBER, 2011

Resolved:- That Councillor Lakin be authorised to attend the above conference.

D128. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/12 TO 2013/14

Further to Minute No. 105 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children held on 19th January, 2011, consideration was given to a report presented by the Capital Projects Officer concerning the announcements of capital allocations, made by the Department for Education during December, 2010. There was a significant reduction in the allocation to Rotherham, when compared with previous years (ie: £17,400,863 for 2010/11 compared to £8,233,139 for 2011/12).

The report stated that the Department for Education has indicated that the level of funding will be comparable for the spending review period of three years and, with the carry forward of 2010/11 monies, there is a substantial allocation to be spent on Rotherham schools.

This report indicated the levels of funding and the proposed schools' capital projects from 2011/12 to 2013/14.

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

(2) That the schools' capital projects, as detailed in the report now

submitted, be supported.

D129. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2010/2011

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Finance Manager 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 on 31st January 2011 and the projected year end outturn position for the 2010/11 financial year. Currently, the Directorate is forecasting a balanced outturn.

Members noted the continuing pressures upon the budget for Looked After Children.

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

D130. 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 of both the Local Authority and private sector contractors].

D131. EDUCATION CATERING SERVICE

Consideration of this item was deferred pending receipt of further information.

D132. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FOSTER CARERS

Further to Minute No. 89 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children held on 1st December, 2010, consideration was given to a report concerning the Council's decision to provide financial support to a Rotherham couple who are guardians of a child, enabling them to alter their home and provide a bedroom for the child referred to in the report. The report stated that a further application has been received from the couple, because they have been advised that the originally-envisaged loft conversion is not possible and that a single storey bedroom extension is required.

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

(2) That consideration of this matter be deferred pending receipt of further details about the costs of the proposed construction project.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
11th February, 2011

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Gilding, Jack, License, Steele, Swift and Whysall.

Also in attendance were Councillors Akhtar, Atkin, Dodson, Doyle, Fenoughty, Gosling, Lakin, Nightingale, Pickering, St. John, Sharman, Smith, Thirlwall and Wootton.

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor McNeely) and Councillors J. Hamilton, N. Hamilton, Middleton, G. A. Russell, P. A. Russell and R. S. Russell.

120. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

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

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

122. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th January, 2011 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

123. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor Jack reported that yesterday's meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel had considered:-

- update on assistive technology review
- 2011 Health and Social Care Bill
- Healthy Lives, Healthy People : Public Health White Paper Consultation

(b) Councillor Austen reported that the latest meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel held on 3rd February had considered :-

- scrutiny review of the Council's website, incorporating a practical demonstration
- review of overview and scrutiny in a focus group session

(c) Councillor Whysall reported that the latest meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel held on 12th January, 2011 had considered a comprehensive report on the response to snow events in November/December, 2010

The Panel was to look at issues regarding the provision of pedestrian crossings.

124. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.

125. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

126. BUDGET 2011/12

Andrew Bedford, Strategic Director of Finance, gave a presentation relating to the above entitled :

“Rotherham’s Budget 2011/12 Onwards- Principles and Challenges”

The presentation covered:-

- Budget Proposals

- developed to :
 - address the unprecedented financial challenge ahead
 - address the priorities of elected members
 - protect front line services
 - ensure a focus on the customer
 - safeguard the most vulnerable
 - deliver key investment priorities across the borough

- developed having regard for:
 - severe funding constraints within which the Council must operate
 - statutory v discretionary services provided by the Council
 - service performance compared to similar councils
 - current service spending pressures
 - unavoidable costs and demographic pressures
 - budget consultation outcomes
 - risk, impact and deliverability of proposals

- developed with the aims of :
 - reducing bureaucracy
 - joining up services
 - achieving economies of scale
 - emphasising early intervention and prevention
 - making “up-stream” investments and investing to save
 - protecting services rather than structures

- The Challenge : Funding Gap
- Other Savings Opportunities
- Directorate – specific Savings Proposals
- Budget Proposals Provision
- Revenue Budget 2010/11 – 2011/12
- 2011/2012 Savings as a percentage of Present Policies Budget
- Budget Timetable

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

- comparisons with other councils
- risks on delivering the proposals
- library provision
- the future of Area Assemblies
- requirement for savings beyond 2011/12
- cost to the Council of newly arrived people
- figures behind the headline figures
- reduced provision for liabilities - good risk management
- capital investment in schools
- Building Schools for the Future funding
- proportion of the revenue budget for schools delegated budget, RBT and PFI schemes
- PFI value
- Independent Remuneration Panel recommendations and elected Member budget savings proposals
- Housing Revenue Account
- Council Tax levels and resultant eligibility for grant funding
- job losses over the next four years
- status of proposals regarding staff pay

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

(2) That the presentation be sent to all Members of the Council.

(3) That the requested information regarding the PFI value be sent to all Members of the Council.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
25th February, 2011

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

Also in attendance for item 132 below was Councillor Wyatt (Cabinet Member for Resources and Commissioning)

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

127. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

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

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

129. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Colin Earl, Director of Internal Audit and Governance, presented the submitted report which set out details of the current corporate risk register summary showing the risks associated with the Council's most significant priorities and projects and actions being taken to mitigate those risks.

It was noted that there were four red residual risks relating to delivery of the Children's Plan, Use of Resources for Children's Services, Social Care Commissioning and achievement of the Cultural Quarter aspirations. This had reduced from six residual red risks in the previous quarter's report, as positive progress relating to Children's Services (intervention) and capital investment in schools had improved risks in those areas from red to amber.

This version of the corporate risk register was reported to the Strategic Leadership Team and Audit Committee in mid-January and did not reflect the letter sent to the Council on 13th January, 2011 from the Minister confirming Children's Services were no longer in intervention. This development would be reflected fully in the next update of the risk register.

The report set out information relating to the latest position, changes since previous report, the corporate risks at a glance, risk assessments prior to mitigating actions and risk assessments after allowing for mitigating controls.

It was important to review the effectiveness of the approach to capturing, managing and reporting corporate risks on an ongoing basis, to ensure risks relating to the Council's key projects and priorities were effectively monitored and managed by the Strategic Leadership Team and Members.

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

- managing budget adjustments
- cultural quarter
- use of the document as a management tool to manage risk
- commissioning
- process leading to inclusion in the register
- need to scrutinise management's use of the risk register

Resolved:- (1) That the updated corporate risk register summary, attached at Appendix A to the report, be noted.

(2) That scrutiny chairs and advisers identify any issues which may need further consideration at their respective scrutiny panels.

130. PAYMENT OF INVOICES WITHIN THIRTY DAYS

Sarah McCall, Contracting Officer, presented the submitted report setting out details of the former Best Value Performance Indicator 8 which measured the payment of undisputed invoices within 30 days. The Council had agreed an average annual target of 96% for performance of BVPI8 for 2010/11.

Outturn performance for recent years had achieved:-

2006/07	91%
2007/08	94%
2008/09	92%
2009/10	94.65%

Performance against BVPI8 was not as consistent as it should be and it had been recognised that the Council should act to instil and embed good practice in this area and work was ongoing to that effect.

Recent performance for the new financial year had achieved:-

April	98.15%
May	96.90%
June	94.87%
July	94.84%
August	94.21%
September	94.47%
October	93.12%
November	95.55%
December	94.47%
January	90.36%
Year to Date	94.69%

If the Council under performed on BVPI8 then this may have an effect on any Corporate Assessments. Vulnerable smaller suppliers may also experience financial difficulties due to delayed payment which went against our commitment to the SME Friendly Concordat.

Making late payments to suppliers could damage relationships between the Council and suppliers and could potentially cause cash flow difficulties for suppliers, dependant on invoice values and suppliers' turnover. It was possible that late payments could result in suppliers putting our account 'on stop' which could cause delays to Council projects. Ultimately late payment could result in the matter being referred to court.

Resolved:- (1) That the current position in respect of BVPI8 be noted.

(2) That procurement champions only be required to attend and address this Committee should particular problems arise.

131. PROCUREMENT LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Sarah McCall, Contracting Officer, presented the submitted report setting out details of the local indicators developed in 2007 to measure the Council's procurement function in terms of delivery of the Procurement Strategy and day-to-day management of the procurement function. The suite of indicators was updated in 2009 to ensure effective monitoring.

The report set out details of the indicators, targets and performance for quarter three of the financial year 2010/11.

Performance against these LPIs would reflect how the Corporate Procurement Strategy was being implemented and embedded across the Council which could impact on the Council's ability to evidence value for money.

Resolved:- That current performance be noted.

132. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY ACTION PLAN REVIEW

Sarah McCall, Contracting Officer, presented the submitted report setting out details of the purpose of the Procurement Strategy which was to set out how the Council intended to procure its goods, works and services in order to support the Authority's overall aims and objectives over the life span of the Strategy. It outlined the Council's current position and clearly pointed to areas where we needed to improve, with a supporting action plan to deliver those areas. The action plan would be managed by the Council's Procurement Panel.

The Strategy was aligned with the Council's Corporate Commissioning Framework which examined how the Council strategically could pull together all commissioning activity to ensure maximum gain from any efficiencies that may be generated.

In light of the recent restructuring in the Council, the action plan was in the process of being reviewed to ensure that actions were still relevant and limited resources were focused on the Council's priorities.

Although former Best Value Performance Indicator 8 (BVPI8) was no longer a national indicator, the Council valued performance against the measure as it was important to pay suppliers promptly. However, in the light of recent restructures within the Council, it was proposed that, as the level of resources required to manage actively performance in this area were proportionately high, performance management be scaled down.

If the actions in the above plan were not met the refreshed Corporate Procurement Strategy may not be implemented fully and embedded across the Council which could impact on the Council's ability to evidence value for money.

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

- deleted actions
 - VCS training to be provided for procurement officers
 - investigate whether we should use the carbon disclosure project as a way to measure and manage carbon in our supply chain
- staffing resource costs
- ensuring the use by default of Fairtrade products in all Council owned cafes
- BVPI8 exception reporting

Resolved: (1) That the current position in respect of the action plan be noted.

(2) That the proposals to scale back the level of management of BVPI8 (payment of invoices within thirty days), as now reported, be approved.

133. RBT QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE

Sarah McCall, Contracting Officer, presented the submitted report summarising the performance of RBT against contractual measures for October, November and December, 2010 and key areas of work for the year 2010/11 across the areas of Customer Access, Human Resources and Payroll, ICT, Procurement and Revenues and Benefits.

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

- Customer Access :
 - overall performance
 - externalisation of repairs and severe weather impacts
 - registration service
 - complaints

- Human Resources and Payroll :
 - server refresh
 - recruitment portal
 - shared services
 - achievements
- ICT :
 - Riverside House planning and server virtualisation
 - ICT for shared services
 - Government Connect reassessment
 - wireless networking and agile working
 - support for members
 - electronic document records management system
- Procurement
- Revenues and Benefits

Resolved:- That RBT's performance against contractual measures for October, November and December, 2010 be noted.

134. HEALTHY LIVES, HEALTHY PEOPLE: PUBLIC HEALTH WHITE PAPER - CONSULTATION

The Chairman, welcomed Alison Iff, Public Health Specialist. Kate Taylor, Policy and Scrutiny Officer, presented the submitted report outlining the key proposals and consultation questions which the Government was seeking views on in relation to the Public Health White paper.

Also submitted were the questions and draft responses so far to two supporting documents referring to the commissioning and funding of public health services and the new outcomes framework.

The deadline for all consultation responses was 31st March, 2011.

The Committee considered all the consultation questions and draft responses in turn and the following issues were covered:-

- references to the requirements for the promotion of road safety and adequacy of resources to achieve
- ring fenced public health monies
- recruitment, retention, transferring of staff
- approaches to developing an allocation formula for ACRA to consider and need to ensure the group involved was not exclusively health professionals

- need to incorporate parish councils (same power of wellbeing) in considerations regarding the outcomes framework
- indicator D4.14 Health related quality of life for older people and whether this should be removed as an indicator
- holding budget holders to account and scrutiny arrangements

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

(2) That this Committee's views, as now discussed, be forwarded to inform the finalised response.

(3) That Miles Crompton be requested to provide information in response to the approach to developing an allocation formula.

(4) That any further comments be forwarded to Kate Taylor by the afternoon of Tuesday, 1st March, 2011.

135. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

Further to Minute No. D102 of the meeting of this Committee held on 17th December, 2010, Deborah Fellowes, Policy Manager, Commissioning, Policy and Performance, presented the submitted report proposing a way forward for dealing with forthcoming Government consultations.

Key principles outlined in the approach were :-

- Strategic and Council wide consultations to be considered by PSOC and Cabinet
- service specific consultations to be considered by the appropriate scrutiny panel and cabinet member
- timeframes allowing, the route would be via scheduled meetings
- where Government deadlines dictated a faster approach, a flexible approach would be required which would include the following options:
 - PSOC to be used for service specific consultations as it met more regularly
 - special meetings called to appraise responses
 - clearing responses via chairs of scrutiny panels and cabinet members
- PSOC to maintain an overview of the programmes of consultations, forward planned as much as possible

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

- feeding into the process on receipt of a consultation with the Corporate Policy Team acting as a conduit
- role of the LSP in potential joint response consultations

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

(2) That the Corporate Policy Team should be the first point of contact for incoming Government consultations.

(3) That the proposals now submitted be supported and referred to Cabinet for approval.

136. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th February, 2011 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

137. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor Jack reported that next week's meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel would be considering the Public Health White Paper consultation and there would be a session for diabetes testing.

(b) Councillor Whysall reported that this week's meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel had been held at the Advanced Manufacturing Park with an excellent tour of the site.

(c) Councillor License reported that the latest meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel had considered:-

- CYPS Notice to Improve removal
- review of school closures due to extreme weather
- Key Stage 2 assessment results
- Key Stage 4 GCSE results

(d) Councillor Austen reported that the next meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel was to be themed on community cohesion and equalities and diversity issues.

138. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.