

**CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EQUALITY AND
YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES**

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

Date: Monday, 16th January, 2012

Time: 11.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the matters are to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with Part 1 (as amended March 2006) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered later in the agenda as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for Absence.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 5th December, 2011 (herewith). (Pages 1 - 4)
6. Youth Service Update (report herewith). (Pages 5 - 20)

Chris Brodhurst-Brown, Youth Services Manager, Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services, to report.
7. Localism Bill (report herewith). (Pages 21 - 28)

Asim Munir, Community Engagement Officer, Resources Directorate, and Paul Griffiths, Parish Council Liaison Officer, Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, to report.
8. Rotherham Compact Update (report herewith). (Pages 29 - 31)

Janet Spurling, Community Engagement Officer, Commissioning, Policy and Performance, Resources Directorate, to report.
9. Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 13th February 2012, to start at 11.30 am in the Rotherham Town Hall.

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**CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EQUALITY AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES
Monday, 5th December, 2011**

Present: - Councillor Hussain (in the Chair) and Councillor Beck.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Burton.

E37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

E38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER, 2011.

Reference was made to Minute E33 (Presentation on Community Cohesion) that involved the organisation of a workshop for stakeholders of the Rotherham One Town One Community project. It was noted that this would take place on Thursday 19th January, 2012, between 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm. Invitations would be extended to the Cabinet Member for Community Development, Equality and Young People's Issues and their Advisers.

An update was provided in relation to Minute E34 (One Town, One Community – Small Grants Fund) following the deadline for submission of funding requests on 23rd November, 2011. Shortlisting would shortly take place to determine successful applicants. It was proposed that the Cabinet Member would meet with Partners to explore potential partnership funding options.

Resolved: - That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th November, 2011, be approved as a correct record.

E39. LGBT COMMUNITY PROFILE.

The Cabinet Member introduced Elena Hodgson, Research Analyst, Commissioning, Policy and Performance, and Janet Spurling, Community Engagement Officer, Commissioning, Policy and Performance, who attended the meeting to provide an update on the recently completed community profile of Rotherham's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGB&T) community.

This document was produced in-line with other profiles on Rotherham's various communities of interest to provide information about local people which would form part of a needs assessment that informed services, policies and strategies. Whereas other community profiles had been based largely on quantitative data, such as statistics from the Census and benefits information, there were no statistics of this type on LGB&T people. Therefore this profile was mainly based on surveys, focus groups and input from those working in relevant fields to gain some feedback about how LGB&T people feel about Rotherham as a place to live in, work in or visit. The profile features sections on demographics, family and living characteristics, health, economic characteristics and personal safety.

Discussion ensued about the content of the profile and the following issues were raised for consideration:

- Comparison of Rotherham data to national in relation to hate crime statistics;
- Distinguishing between issues and concerns which were specific to the LGB&T community and ones which were shared by the wider community;
- In neighbouring Authorities, LGB&T Pride events had been organised and delivered by a number of different organisations, which included the Local Authority, voluntary sector and community groups.

The future uses of the LGB&T community profile would include:

- Training and awareness raising across agencies;
- Informing service provision;
- Informing the development of a new inter-agency action plan.

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

(2) That the full LGB&T community profile be circulated to the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Community Development, Equality and Young People's Issues for discussion and final feedback prior to publication.

(3) That a further report is submitted to the Cabinet Member for Community Development, Equality and Young People's Issues following the production of the new LGB&T inter-agency action plan.

E40. DIVERSITY FESTIVAL.

The Cabinet Member introduced Lizzy Alageswaran, Principal Officer, Planning and Regeneration, Environment and Development Services, and Waheed Akhtar, Community Engagement Officer, Commissioning, Planning and Performance, who had prepared an update presentation following Rotherham's 2011 Diversity Festival.

Lizzy Alageswaran was representing the Chair and Vice Chair of the Management Committee that acted on behalf of the Rotherham Cultural Group. Unfortunately neither the Chair or Vice Chair had been able to attend the meeting. The Management Committee organised and delivered the Diversity Festival as part of the annual Rotherham Show.

A background to the Rotherham Cultural Group and previous Diversity Festivals was shared; the Group had grown out of the Heritage Lottery Fund and was managed by Rotherham MBC's Cultural Services. In addition to monies from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Festival had previously been funded by Arts Council England Funding, and RMBC match funding. In the past a full-time RMBC Officer was available to support the project, although this had now reduced to general support provided by the Community Art Service.

Other events supported by the Rotherham Cultural Group included:

- Holi 2011 – Festival of Colour;
- Chinese New Year celebrations;

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- Black History Month;
- Women's Arts Groups.

In 2011, the Group had been unsuccessful in their funding bid to the Arts Council England. This was combined with the end of Neighbourhood Regeneration Funding. Therefore, the 2011 Diversity Festival was delivered for a minimal sum of funding received from Rotherham MBC's Community Cohesion and Community Art Services.

Photographs of the activities, stalls and performances available at the Festival had been shared. Activities and performances were delivered in conjunction with local artists and performers, and many communities were represented.

Following the event, a number of lessons learned were noted and would improve the organisation of the Festival in future years. It was noted that:

- Audiences for performances had varied but had probably been reduced due to a less favourable position and poorer publicity than in previous years;
- Some key roles had not been fulfilled by the Festival's Management Committee, leading to difficulties as a result of information not being available when required. A future priority would be to increase the capacity of the Management Committee, which would be bolstered by the inclusion of a representative from Rotherham College of Arts and Technology and Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance;
- Some groups would not get involved with the Diversity Festival once they knew less funding had been available compared to previous years.
- Lack of funding also led to the increased use of free acts, which had an impact on quality;
- The Liability of the Management Committee was not limited, RMBC Community Arts has requested that Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance support the group to be a Charity or Limited Company to limit liability of the Management Committee;
- Ideas for new fusion projects and partnerships had been formed, which would assist in the development of bids to the Arts Council England;
- There had been a suggestion that there should be some integration of the Diversity Festival into the main Rotherham Show in terms of layout and theme;
- New fundraising methods and income generation schemes were being considered;
- Methods to reduce the cost of procurement of materials and resources were also being considered.

Resolved: - [1] That the update be received.

[2] That Lizzy Alageswaran and Waheed Akhtar be thanked by the Cabinet Member and Advisers for their contribution to the organisation of the Diversity Festival 2011.

E41. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Community Development, Equality and Young People's Issues be held on Monday 16th January, 2012, at 11.30 am in the Rotherham Town Hall.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:-	Cabinet Member for Community Development, Equality and Young People's Issues
2.	Date:-	16th January 2012
3.	Title:-	Update on Rotherham Youth Service.
4.	Directorate:-	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

This report will provide an update on the following areas of work.

- (i) The publication of the Governments "Positive for Youth" Strategy and a brief overview of implications for Rotherham Youth Service.
- (ii) Funding issues re the Teenage Pregnancy and Health projects.
- (iii) An update on the Apprenticeship scheme.
- (iv) An update on the Mobile provision.

6. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member notes the contents of this report.

7. Proposals and Details

- (i) The publication of the Government's "Positive for Youth" strategy.

The Government published its promised Youth Policy "Positive for Youth: a new approach to cross government policy for young people aged 13 to 19" on 19th December 2011. The statement brings together for the first time all of the Government's policies for young people aged 13 to 19. It therefore covers a wide range of issues – from education and youth services, to health, crime, housing and more. Nine government departments have been involved in developing it – including the Department for Education, the Department of Health, the Home Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government. Young people and youth professionals have also been involved directly in developing the statement through extensive collaboration and consultation.

The overarching thrust of the work is to create a new approach to cross Government policy for young people aged 13 to 19 in England. It aims to bring together all Government policies for this age group aiming to create a single vision across at least nine government departments.

The executive summary is attached to this report and the whole report can be found on:

<http://www.rywu.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/positive-for-youth-executive-summary.pdf>

Implications for Rotherham Youth Service.

Overall the Service is well placed to meet the requirements of the strategy.

- It is well along the path in terms of Voice and Influence and the creation of Borough wide infrastructure to enable young people to have a voice in the use of resources and the creation of provision relating to them. This is reflected in the commitment of resources re the Voice and Influence workers within the recent Service restructure.
- The Service has had evaluation of provision by young people in place since 1999 via its Peer evaluation processes. This area of work has been long identified as good practice. This process is currently under review in order to offer improvements especially in terms of broadening its remit across all sectors.
- The service has been instrumental in the design and rolling out of the Voice and Influence principles which have been adopted across the Council and the Voluntary sector consortium.
- Youth Service also supports and facilitates the Youth Cabinet, the UKYP process and MPs and also the Looked After Children and Young People's council.
- The Service is also has well developed cross sector partnerships e.g. the MyPlace project and the CWDC graduate and Apprenticeship project with the Voluntary Sector Consortium. The Service is well placed to continue to support the development of a comprehensive Youth Offer across all sectors.

- The paper calls for the development of well supported Prevention and Intervention or “Early Help” strategies. With the continuing development of support pathways via the Youth Service Multi agency Early Intervention Team the service is again well positioned.
- There is specific reference within the paper to the role of Youth work, targeted provision and open access Youth Centres. The following quote outlines the governments approach to the role of Youth Service.

“The role of youth work, targeted provision, and open access youth centres”

Local areas will need to consider what balance of targeted services and open access services will best meet local needs. However services are provided, the Government believes that aspirational personal and social development programmes, including investment in young people’s capabilities and character through high quality youth work, can have a significant impact on young people’s life chances and be an important form of early intervention for young people at risk of poor outcomes. This is reflected directly in local authorities’ statutory duty to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, access to educational and recreational activities for the improvement of young people’s wellbeing – which includes explicitly a duty to secure access to sufficient activities for the improvement of young people’s personal and social development⁹¹.

The Government is committed to helping policy makers and local commissioners to better understand the impact that high quality youth work professionals and volunteers can have in the lives of young people – supporting and empowering them to achieve positive outcomes and avoid negative ones. In September 2011, it commissioned a group of national youth sector leaders to develop a narrative for the role and impact of youth work. Their draft paper has been published for comment on the Department for Education’s website.

The Government welcomes and endorses this narrative and hopes that it will help commissioners and providers of youth work to form a common view of the role and potential of both detached and centre-based youth work within the overall system of support for young people.The evidence shows that good quality open access youth clubs that provide structured activities (whether run by local authorities or local communities) can be highly effective in meeting priority needs, particularly where these are located in areas where disadvantaged young people are concentrated. They can be hubs through which to offer young people access to a wide range of advice and support services, and identify early those who may need additional help.”

*Page 69 “Positive for Youth” HM Government 2011.

- Other key points arising from the paper include reference to further consultation work on the nature of the statutory basis for Local Authority Youth Services working from the starting point that this is a positive thing.

- The paper is also very strong on the need for robust systems for impact analysis. Rotherham Youth Service is currently undertaking a range of initiatives around this area particularly in terms of CAF, Early Intervention and targeted work. This work will need to progress and develop in order to meet Government expectations.
- There are few, if any, new avenues for resources for RYS in Positive for Youth, MyPlace is already on stream in Rotherham, there may be small opportunities for gaining sub contracted work form Private sector Family Based initiatives. EIG is seen as the main resources vehicle for targeted provision.

In conclusion it is relatively early days in terms of the Positive for Youth strategy, however Youth Service is reasonably well placed to meet its expectations.

(ii) Funding issues re the Teenage Pregnancy Girls and Young Women's Targeted projects.

These projects have been operating over the last four years initially in Wentworth Valley and subsequently at Rotherham North and Wentworth South. The workers are situated within the Early Intervention Teams. The projects have been extremely successful in targeting vulnerable young women and working intensively with them in order to enable them to progress in their education and raise their levels of self esteem thus preventing early unwanted conceptions.

The projects have been entirely funded via NHS Rotherham since its inception. However we have notice that this funding will conclude on March 31st 2012. A bid has been developed for submission to NHS Rotherham in order to continue the funding. In the interim the project workers have been served notice. If this funding cannot be continued then there could be severe Implications re support for young women and subsequently for the levels of Teenage Pregnancy in Rotherham.

(iii) An update on the Apprenticeship scheme.

Following the successful recent Integrated Youth Support Services post Graduate and Apprenticeship programme a new piece of joint working has Been developed which will create Apprenticeship opportunities for 17 local young people. This is again an IYSS approach with funding coming from Coalfield Regeneration funding, IYSS and Youth Service. RCAT will deliver the training.

The Apprentices will be offered placements within Youth Service and IYSS and partners including MyPlace and Safe Havens.

The course will begin in February. There are still places available, they can be accessed via the National Apprenticeship website.

(iv) An Update on Mobile provision.

All 7 Mobile Units should have arrived by early February. There will be a launch event which is currently being planned.

The relevant strategic and operational planning with accompanying protocols for use will be in place by the end of January. February will be a test month with published programmes of delivery from the beginning of March.

8. Finance

No unexpected implications re finance.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There are risks and uncertainties in relation to the future work and subsequently the outcomes of the Young Women's Targeted Projects.

10. Background Papers and Consultation

- **Positive for Youth:** *A new approach to cross-government policy for young people aged 13 to19.*

HM Government 2011.

- **Contact Name:** - Chris Brodhurst-Brown. Youth Service Manager.

Christine.Brodhurst-Brown@Rotherham.gov.uk

Positive for Youth

Executive Summary

Positive for Youth - Executive Summary

Introduction

The Government is passionate about creating a society that is positive for youth. Young people matter. They are important to us now, and to our future, and we need them to flourish.

Positive for Youth is a new approach to cross-Government policy for young people aged 13-19 in England. It brings together all of the Government's policies for this age group, presenting a single vision across the interests of at least nine departments.

It has been produced with young people and youth professionals through extensive collaboration and consultation.

Positive for Youth sets out a shared vision for how all parts of society – including councils, schools, charities, businesses – can work together in partnership to support families and improve outcomes for young people, particularly those who are most disadvantaged or vulnerable.

This means working towards a common goal of young people having a strong sense of belonging, and the supportive relationships, strong ambitions, and good opportunities they need to realise their potential.

Young people must be in the driving seat to inform decisions, shape provision, and inspect quality.

Councils are accountable primarily to local people for how well young people do, and how well their services support them.

The Government will publish annually national measures of young people's positive outcomes, and an audit at the end of 2012 of overall progress towards creating a society which is more positive for youth.

Context

The teenage years are a critical period of growth and change. They are an important time for making significant life choices and decisions.

Young people need to try new things, take on responsibility, and be allowed to learn from their failures and mistakes.

Adolescence brings significant physical and emotional changes and teenagers naturally grow in independence. This can lead to changes in the nature of the relationship between young people and their parents or carers, often making it more difficult. These difficulties are for the most part the normal pressures of growing up and do not lead to detrimental outcomes for young people involved.

Most young people make the transition successfully to adulthood through a combination of supportive families; good schools, colleges and training providers; access to opportunities for personal and social development outside the classroom; and the vision and belief that they can succeed.

While most young people are doing well and are enjoying life, there is no room to be complacent.

The current global economic situation has created concern among many of today's teenagers about their future – particularly their future employment prospects.

Many young people are also concerned about local services as councils face difficult decisions, and charities struggle to sustain provision.

Disadvantaged and vulnerable young people, including those in care, those with disabilities, and those struggling in education can be at risk of poor outcomes. They need additional and early help to overcome the challenges they face.

A very small minority of young people feel no sense of belonging and as a result do not respect the communities in which they live. The vast majority, however, do make a positive contribution and feel misrepresented and undermined by negative images of, and attitudes towards, young people.

We need to work together to create a society that is more positive for youth.

We all have a role to play

Government cannot create a society that is positive for youth on its own. Real progress depends on everyone playing their part:

- **Young people** – taking responsibility, making the most of every opportunity available, and speaking up on issues they care about.
- **Parents, carers and families** – having the primary responsibility and influence to nurture young people through to adulthood.
- **Other adults** – taking an interest in the lives of their young people and being positive role models.
- **The media** – taking responsibility for the impact of the images of young people that they promote.
- **Businesses** – building partnerships through which to give time, expertise, and money to projects to support young people.
- **Teachers** – helping young people aspire and attain, and working in partnership with other services to address early any barriers they face.
- **Youth workers** – supporting young people's personal and social development and helping them develop strong aspirations.
- **Other professionals** – providing specialist early help to young people to address issues and stop them escalating and causing harm.
- **Local authorities** – having the primary responsibility for improving young people's outcomes and commissioning appropriate services.
- **Other commissioners** – having a responsibility for specific outcomes such as crime and health outcomes for young people.
- **Government** – promoting new ways of working, facilitating reform, and monitoring overall progress.

Helping young people succeed

Raising young people's aspirations and driving up participation and attainment in learning is the best way to help young people realise their potential and get ready for work.

The Government has already introduced significant reforms to education to drive up standards – including further empowering teachers, reviewing the curriculum, and providing additional funding for the most disadvantaged pupils.

It is raising the age to which young people must participate in education or training to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015 to help prepare them for adult life and employment.

It has also recently announced a Youth Contract to address youth unemployment and published a new strategy for supporting young people aged 16-24 to participate in learning and work.

The Government's health reforms offer exciting potential to improve young people's health and wellbeing by developing more coordinated and preventative approaches, involving young people in shaping local services, and making it as easy as possible for them to get early advice.

Young people's experiences outside the classroom at home and in their community are also crucial in helping them form and pursue their ambitions.

Promoting youth voice

Young people have energy, enthusiasm, and valuable ideas for shaping and improving the world around them. Yet young people generally get a bad press.

Young people have a right to have their views taken into account in all decisions that affect their lives. We must give them a stronger voice and celebrate their positive contribution and achievements. We must also encourage and support them to speak up when they see media reporting that they believe is unbalanced or unfair.

There are many ways to involve young people locally. The Government urges relevant bodies in every area to involve young people in making decisions about council, health, transport, and other relevant services. It wants to see every area having arrangements for young people to audit the quality of these services.

To support this, the Government is providing funding of £850,000 to the British Youth Council in 2011-2013 to:

- set up a new national scrutiny group of representative young people to advise Ministers across Government directly on how policies affect young people and their families;
- advise councils and others on how to involve young people in decision making and auditing services;
- make sure there are young people able to represent youth voice in the national media; and
- sustain the UK Youth Parliament and support its influence.

In addition, each local authority area will soon have a new organisation called Local HealthWatch to make sure that young people will have a voice in shaping local health services.

Putting families first

Parents, carers, and families, have the primary responsibility and influence to nurture young people through to adulthood.

Nearly all parents find parenting teenagers difficult at times. They need to feel society and public authorities support their efforts to take responsibility for their teenage children, transmit positive values to them, and set appropriate boundaries.

Parents need to know where to go for advice and help if they are worried or having problems.

Services for young people need to support families while respecting and nurturing young people's growing sense of independence and personal responsibility.

Many charities, faith groups, and other voluntary and community organisations play a significant role in supporting families, including through parenting classes.

In addition to significant support for families in the early years, the Government continues to support families of teenagers through a range of free online and telephone advice services.

It also provides funding to councils that can be used to support parents.

The Government has launched a specific programme to turn around the lives of the 120,000 most troubled families by the end of this Parliament.

Strengthening communities and the voluntary sector

Strong communities which take responsibility for their young people will help them to feel a strong sense of belonging.

All young people benefit from relationships with adults they trust. Youth work has a key role to play in supporting young people and strengthening their relationship with their communities. Many young people can also be inspired particularly by adults from the world of work.

We can be proud of the uniformed organisations, faith groups, and other charities and community and voluntary organisations that already make a huge difference in the lives of many young people and their communities. They are responsible for a significant proportion of the youth work and other activities and services available to young people. Many of these have particular expertise in helping disadvantaged young people to do well.

To restore common-sense and proportionality, the Government is reducing unnecessary burdens related to vetting and checking adults who come forward to volunteer to work with young people.

It is also providing funding to ensure around 5,000 Community Organisers are trained over the lifetime of this Parliament to act as a catalyst for more community-led social

action.

The Government wants to see innovative and enterprising voluntary and community organisations. This means them demonstrating what difference they make for young people and attracting income from a wider range of sources so that they are less dependent on state funding.

It has recently given community groups the right to bid to take over the running of local council services. It is also helping providers find ways of measuring what difference they make to young people which are credible with funders, and making it easier for charities to get access to the capital they need to grow.

To identify new ways of helping disadvantaged young people to succeed, 18 voluntary organisations are benefiting from a share of £31.4m from the Department for Education over the two years 2011-13. They are pioneering and evaluating innovative approaches to early help, such as targeted support to help young people stay and succeed in learning who would otherwise drop out of school, college or training.

In addition, alongside providers in the private and social enterprise sector, voluntary and community sector organisations will also have a key role in delivering new intensive support to engage some of the most vulnerable 16-17 year olds in education and training. This follows the recent announcement of a new performance based scheme worth £126m in England over the next three years, as part of the Youth Contract.

Businesses and other employers are key members of the community. Like many in the charity sector, an increasing number of them understand the benefits to them and their employees of developing partnerships at the corporate level to support young people – who may be their current or future customers or employees.

The Government will provide funding of £320,000 over the period to March 2013 to a consortium led by Business in the Community to broker the engagement of more businesses with charities to support work with young people.

The valuable role of services for young people

Some young people don't get the support or opportunities they need through their families or communities. To help counter this disadvantage, youth workers and other services for young people have an important role to play in:

- supporting young people's personal and social development – which includes developing important skills and qualities needed for life, learning, and work;
- making sure all young people are able to participate and achieve in education or training; and
- raising young people's aspirations and thereby reducing teenage pregnancy, substance misuse and crime.

The Government will therefore retain the duty on councils to secure young people's access to sufficient activities and services to improve their wellbeing, including their duty to seek and take account of young people's views in decisions about these activities.

It will consult shortly on new much shorter and clearer statutory guidance.

In addition to activities and services funded by councils, the Government is investing directly to improve services and opportunities for young people.

- By March 2013 there will be 63 state-of-the-art Myplace youth centres in disadvantaged areas acting as hubs for a wide range of activities and services for young people. The Government will help centre leaders to promote the network nationally, share effective practice, and build local business and community ownership.
- A wide range of organisations are being funded to develop and test National Citizen Service. The aim over time is to offer every 16 year old the opportunity to mix and learn from peers from different backgrounds in a challenging programme of character-building activities and to create a legacy of social action in their communities. Over 8,000 young people took part in 2011 and up to 30,000 more will take part in 2012 with the aim of expanding to 90,000 young people in 2014 making it one of the largest personal and social development programmes for young people in the world.
- The Government is seeking to provide more young people with exciting personal development opportunities by exploring opportunities to expand the MOD-sponsored Cadet Forces.

The importance of early help

Supportive families and good schools are key, but young people who are particularly disadvantaged or vulnerable need effective additional early help.

Providing early help is not just about intervening early in a child's life. The teenage years are another critical period of growth and change, and not all problems in these years can be predicted.

It is therefore essential to identify when additional help is needed in the teenage years, and to provide it to young people and their families promptly to prevent issues escalating and causing further harm.

Local authorities can draw on funding from the Revenue Support Grant, the non-ringfenced Early Intervention Grant worth £2.365 billion in 2012-13, and from 2013 the public health grant, to respond to the priority needs of young people and their families.

Community Budgets will be available in all local authorities over the next two years to allow areas to pool funding locally to support families with multiple problems.

The Government has a wide range of policies to support early help. These relate to specific issues such as safeguarding young people from harm or neglect as well as to particular groups of young people, such as those in care.

Stronger local partnership

The *Positive for Youth* vision relies on all sections of society working together in stronger partnership to help more young people to feel a strong sense of belonging and to realise their potential.

Councils have a key strategic role, but they cannot realise the vision on their own.

They will need to work with young people, families, and communities, and with local partners such as charities, schools, health services, and the police to assess needs and co-ordinate local resources. Health and wellbeing boards offer exciting potential for them to do so.

The country's financial situation creates significant pressures. Working together to integrate services, reduce duplication, and share resources, is a better approach than simply cutting existing services to fit reduced budgets.

The Department for Education is providing funding of £780,000 in 2011-13 to the Local Government Association to make sure that local authority commissioners get the support they need to improve local services for young people.

This will include access to the lessons from a number of pioneering 'youth innovation zones', and support to reform how services are delivered locally – including increasing the role of charities and other organisations. The first four youth innovation zones are Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Knowsley, and a consortium led by Devon.

Local people are best able to make decisions about local services in response to local needs. The Government won't tell them what services to deliver or how to deliver them.

However, it will not hesitate to intervene against any well-founded concerns about long-standing failure to improve outcomes and services for young people.

Monitoring progress

The Government will work with young people and those who fund and deliver services for them to review progress in realising the *Positive for Youth* vision and in improving outcomes for young people.

It will focus wherever possible on measures of the positive outcomes achieved rather than negative outcomes prevented.

It will use data that is already available to publish a set of measures that is more positive than any previous set of performance measures.

A new Youth Action Group is bringing together government Ministers from nine departments with key voluntary sector leaders to discuss the needs of disadvantaged young people.

The Government will publish an audit of progress at end of 2012.

Summary of commitments

Action the Government is taking that will support the *Positive for Youth* vision includes:

- **empowering young people** by enabling them to inspect and report on local youth services and setting up a national scrutiny group for them to help 'youth proof' government policy as part of funding of £850,000 to the British Youth Council in 2011-2013;
- **funding support to parents** of teenagers through national helpline and website services to offer support and advice;
- **empowering communities** through the Localism Act which gives them the Right to Challenge to take over the running of council services;
- **funding improved business brokerage** with projects for young people through funding of £320,000 to April 2013 to a consortium led by Business in the Community;
- **promoting a Business Compact on social mobility** to set out practical ways businesses can avoid talent and ability going to waste and ensure that young people from all backgrounds have a fair chance to get ahead;
- **reforming education** to raise standards, particularly for the most disadvantaged young people;
- **reviewing the National Curriculum and Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE)** – to define the essential knowledge young people need to move confidently and successfully through their education and define the core outcomes PSHE should achieve;
- **raising the age to which young people must participate in education or training** to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015 to help prepare them for adult life and employment;
- **supporting young people to participate in learning and work** including through its Youth Contract worth over £1bn to support more 16 and 17 year olds to participate in education or training, expand opportunities for young apprenticeships, and help more young people find work;
- **targeting Apprenticeships more on young adults**, ensuring consistently high quality across all Apprenticeships, and cutting back on bureaucracy to encourage more employers to join the programme;
- **transforming vocational education** following the Wolf review to ensure that vocational qualifications are high quality and enable progression to higher education and sustainable employment;
- **promoting work experience**, including by launching a consultation on programmes of study for 16 to 18 year olds, which includes a vision that work experience should become an important part of many 16 to 18 year olds' experience in school or college;

- **providing capital investment to complete 63 Myplace centres** by March 2013, and developing a national approach to exploiting their potential to be hubs led by communities and businesses for transforming local services;
- **expanding National Citizen Service** to offer 30,000 places to young people in 2012, 60,000 in 2013, and 90,000 in 2014;
- **exploring opportunities to expand Cadet Forces**, particularly in maintained schools;
- **encourage volunteering for all age groups including young people**, including through funding of £4 million over 2011-15 to v; over £40 million over 2011-13 through the Social Action Fund, Innovation in Giving Fund, Challenge Prizes, and Local Infrastructure Fund; and over £1 million over 2011-13 to YouthNet;
- **promoting the School Games** to ensure that every young person can experience the excitement and benefits of competitive sport;
- **promoting early intervention**, including through the Early Intervention Grant worth £2.365 billion in 2012-13 to local authorities for services for vulnerable children, young people and families;
- **making Community Budgets available in all local authorities over the next two years** to remove financial and legal restrictions on how services intervene early to avoid poor and high cost outcomes for vulnerable families and young people;
- **funding 18 innovative voluntary organisations** with £31.4m over the two years 2011-13 to pioneer and evaluate innovative approaches to early help;
- **reforming health services** including setting up health and wellbeing boards to enable more strategic and coordinated planning and delivery of health services and a Local HealthWatch in each local authority area to make sure that young people will have a voice in shaping local health services;
- **addressing the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood** by continuing to work actively with businesses and regulators to ensure Reg Bailey's recommendations are implemented;
- **developing a new social marketing strategy** to promote young people's public health;
- **promoting young people's mental health**, including through the *Time to Change* campaign, capacity building in the voluntary and community sector, staff training, and helping local areas develop evidence-based practices;
- **taking action to reduce smoking, substance misuse and obesity** among young people;
- **making far-reaching changes to the safeguarding system** in response to Professor Eileen Munro's review, ensuring that arrangements for older children and young people are addressed explicitly in these changes;

- **giving children in care extra support at every stage of their education**, including through the Pupil Premium and through £1,200 per year from the new 16 to 19 Bursary;
- **promoting work to prevent and tackle youth homelessness** including through strengthening the Homelessness Safety Net to include young people under the age of 21 who are vulnerable as a result of leaving care and 16 and 17 year olds who find themselves homeless;
- **setting up a new Troubled Families Team** by the end of the 2011 to work alongside local areas to ensure that these families are supported;
- **establishing an Ending Gang and Youth Violence Team** to provide practical advice and support to up to 30 local areas with a gang or serious youth violence problem;
- **running the *This is Abuse* campaign** to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of abusive relationships;
- **running a body confidence campaign** to tackle negative body image amongst young people;
- **clarifying its expectations on local authorities** through revised statutory guidance to be published shortly for consultation on their duty to secure activities and services for young people;
- **supporting local authority commissioners** to improve local services for young people by providing funding of £780,000 in 2011-13 to the Local Government Association – including for a small number of ‘youth innovation zones’ to test radical new system-wide approaches to involving all local partners in supporting young people – the first four are Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Knowsley, and a consortium led by Devon;
- **funding a strategic partner for the voluntary youth sector** to give them a voice in Government policy, promote access to social finance, and support workforce development;
- **funding a Mutuals Information Service** to provide a comprehensive package of support for public sector workers to create new independent public service mutuals;
- **helping services for young people to demonstrate their impact** by funding the Centre for the Analysis of Youth Transitions to develop standards for evidence, and Catalyst to develop an outcomes framework;
- **working across departments** through a Youth Action Group that brings together Ministers from nine departments with key voluntary organisations to discuss the needs of the most disadvantaged young people;
- **publishing annually a positive set of national measures** to demonstrate progress in improving outcomes for young people; and
- **committing to a ‘one year on’ audit** at the end of 2012 to take stock of progress in achieving the *Positive for Youth* vision.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Community Development, Equality and Young People's Issues
2.	Date:	16 th January 2012
3.	Title:	Localism Act 2011 – Update on Communities and Parish and Town Councils
4.	Directorate:	Resources & Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

The Localism Act 2011 (c. 20) received Royal Assent on 15th November 2011. This report gives an overview of the 'community empowerment' provision of the Act together with an initial assessment of issues for consideration by the Council, and policy areas that the Council will either need to, or may wish to review as a result.

The report also sets out the proposed courses of action for the Council in moving forward towards commencement of the provisions of the Act and implementation in Rotherham.

6. Recommendations

That Members:

- a) **Receive the update on the Act and give consideration the issues identified;**
 - b) **Note the proposed course of action towards implementation including further reports and members' seminars; and**
 - c) **Consider how they would wish to be involved in the process towards implementation and identify any specific areas for consideration in further reports.**
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7. Proposals and Details

The Localism Act 2011 (c. 20) received Royal Assent on 15th November, the Bill having started in the Commons on 13th December 2010. Details of the original Bill proposals have been set out in previous reports and briefings, however, a number of amendments have been made during the passage through Parliament. The main amendments include the following:

- Extension of the general power of competence to Integrated Transport Authorities; Passenger Transport Executives; Economic Prosperity Boards; and Combined Authorities;
- Inclusion of provisions for the transfer of functions from other public bodies to local authorities. This follows the Government statements about transferring functions to elected mayors, but as drafted would include all local authorities;
- Changes to existing provisions for changing local authority election arrangements;
- Changes to the Bill's original proposals to now require every local authority, including parish councils to adopt a code of conduct, and to have arrangements for enforcing the code. There are also enhanced provisions for declaring interests;
- Changes to provisions for pay policy statements including the lowest paid employees;
- Expansion of the provisions relating to imposing EU sanctions. These amendments put on the face of the Act many provisions that the Government had intended to set out in Regulations;
- The provisions for petitions for the calling of local referendums have been withdrawn;
- More details included on processes for the Community Right to Challenge and Assets of Community Value;
- Further details on arrangements for and use of Community Infrastructure Levy;
- Various amendments to development control provisions including devolved decisions and enforcement;
- Several technical amendments relating to housing tenancies including amendments to other Acts of Parliament.

7.1 Localism Act 2011 Overview

The Localism Act is an extensive Act running to 483 pages of 241 Sections in 10 Parts and 25 Schedules. There are provisions that apply to London and Wales only that are not covered in this report. The overview focuses only on the provisions of the Act that are relevant to Rotherham.

Most provisions of the Act will come into force on a date to be decided by the Secretary of State. It is expected that the Act will be fully in force in April 2012.

Many detailed provisions will be set out in Orders and Regulations that have not yet been published; however, these will be within the powers provided by the Act.

7.2 Local Government

The Standards Board for England is abolished along with the model code of conduct and requirements for Standards Committees. Every authority will be under a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct. There will be a requirement for each authority to adopt a code of conduct and for arrangements to be in place to consider complaints and recommend actions. The arrangements will have to include the views of an independent person. Parish councils will be able to adopt the code of the district council. Every Monitoring Officer will be required to maintain a register of interests. In district councils, this will include registers for parish councils. There are various provisions for declaration including on taking up office and in relation to specific decisions. Breaches will be able to lead to criminal conviction and disqualification.

The provisions to abolish the Standards Board for England and related actions came into force on the day of the Act. Any outstanding investigations will be returned to be dealt with locally. Discussions are already underway with parish councils on how the new standards requirement may work locally. The Council will need to decide its code of conduct and standards arrangements.

7.3 Community Empowerment

Local referendums abandoned

The clauses that created a general power for the electorate and local communities to trigger a local referendum were withdrawn as the Bill reached its final stages in the Lords. In separate provisions the Act introduces referendums on council tax, right-to-build and neighbourhood planning. The Act also repeals the duty to promote democracy.

Council tax referendums

The Act provides that each year, as part of announcing the local government provisional finance settlement the Government will set out principles and calculations that will determine an amount of Council Tax to be raised by each authority, above which the increase will be regarded to be “excessive”. The Government will be able to apply different principles to different classes of authority. Where an authority proposes to adopt a budget that would require an “excessive” increase in Council Tax, that increase would require approval in a referendum. Where an “excessive” increase is proposed by a “major precepting authority (County; Fire; Police etc); or a local precepting authority (parish council) it would be for the Council as the billing authority to make arrangements for the referendum. In all cases, a reserve budget meeting the Government’s principles and calculations would need to be in place to be implemented should a referendum reject an “excessive” increase in Council Tax. Regulations will make provisions about the holding of referendums.

The provisions for Council Tax are clearly designed to enable the Government to limit authorities’ ability to raise revenue. The provisions on the face of the Act are supplemented by several provisions for Orders, Regulations and Directions. These provisions came into force on 3rd December

It is not yet known what the Government will see as an acceptable Council Tax increase in each year, but the issue for all local authorities will be to consider if the public would be likely to vote for what will be legally described as an “excessive” increase in a referendum, should the Government’s effective “cap” be insufficient. The further prospect for the Council would be arranging referendums for major or local precepting authorities. In theory, there could need to be four referendums on the same day in parts of Rotherham if there were “excessive” increases proposed by:

- ***The Borough Council;***
- ***Fire and Rescue;***
- ***Police; and***
- ***Parish.***

It is likely that local authorities will avoid referendums, meaning that the Government will effectively set a “cap” but will be able to say that the decision was local. There will be a need to view the provisions for Council Tax alongside other proposed changes to local government finance. These are expected to be set out in a Local Government Finance Bill in the near future.

It is worth noting that the government are not exercising their powers to set a precept increase referendum trigger for parish councils (local precepting bodies) for 2012/13. They have, however, indicated that they may use the power in future years.

7.4 Community Right to Challenge

The Act provides that the Council will have to consider challenges from charities; community and voluntary organisations; any two members of staff; parish councils; and anyone else permitted through Regulations by the Government, to take over the delivery of services provided by the council.

On receipt of an application, the council will consider whether to accept or reject the proposal (with possible modifications). An application may only be rejected on specified grounds. In reaching a decision, it will be necessary to consider the social, economic or environmental implications of the proposal. In the case of acceptance, the council will carry out a normal procurement exercise for the service - on a scale proportionate to the value and nature of the service - again taking account of its social, economic or environmental potential.

Councils will be responsible for setting the timetable, taking account of budgetary and decision-making requirements, though the factors to be considered will be covered in guidance. It will be a requirement to publish details of the local framework, and of certain stages in the process of an application.

Much of the detail of how the right to challenge will work in practice will be set out in regulations and guidance. The government estimates that this power should come into effect in October 2012. No date has yet been given for publication of regulations and guidance. A decision is pending on which if any services may be exempted from the scheme.

The Council will need to consider the implications arising from these provisions as part of the strategic approach to commissioning.

It is not known what level of interest will be generated by these new provisions, however, there have been some national charities that have welcomed the changes and would appear to be ready to bid. The provisions clearly link to the Government's aspirations set out in the Open Public Services White Paper, published in the summer, which would divest the public sector of virtually all direct service provision.

There could be a detrimental impact for local voluntary organisations with a risk of them being squeezed out in the required procurement processes. There is also a risk of "stalking horses" being used to meet the criteria for challenge to get the procurement process started, only to be followed through by a national body or private company. Some detail in relation to these provisions will be set out in Regulations. These will include criteria that the Council will have to use in considering a challenge; and that the Government will be able to extend the categories of organisations that can put in a challenge.

7.5 Assets of Community Value

There will be a requirement for the Council to maintain and publish a list of "assets of community value". Regulations will set out what qualifies or otherwise for inclusion in the list. Parish councils and community and voluntary organisations with a local connection will be able to nominate land and buildings to be included in the list. Regulations will establish the definition of "local connection". Owners will be able to appeal against inclusion in the list. Assets will be included on the list for five years and may be removed after that.

Where land nominated crosses local authority boundaries, there will be a requirement for those authorities to co-operate.

A second list will be required to include land which was nominated, but failed to meet the criteria to be included on the list of "assets of community value".

Where an owner of an asset included on the list intends to dispose of the asset, they will be required to notify the authority. Whilst there are exceptions, a six week moratorium will apply to most proposed disposals pending a proposal to purchase by a "community interest group". The moratorium may be extended to six months at the request of the "community interest group". What constitutes a "community interest group" is to be set out in Regulations. Regulations will also make provision for the payment of compensation under the Act including calculating how much and who will be required to pay.

The Government has taken powers in the Act to provide advice and assistance, including financial, to organisations taking forward the right to challenge and taking over assets.

To what extent this enables community organisations to protect community facilities; pubs and post offices remains to be seen, however, it could prove to be a bureaucratic burden for the Council. The issue of paying compensation could prove to be a risk if the Regulations provide that it is the local authority that pays.

7.6 Neighbourhood Development Orders

A key component of the Planning changes in the Act relate to neighbourhood planning including “Neighbourhood Development Orders”. These will provide that such Orders may be developed by parish councils, or where there is no parish council, a “Neighbourhood Forum”. A “Neighbourhood Forum will need to open for membership to residents, business owners and elected members for that neighbourhood and will need a minimum of 21 members.

“Neighbourhood Development Orders” will be able to provide certain types of planning consent. Additionally, “Neighbourhood Development Orders” qualify as “Community Right to Build Orders” where they are proposed by a community organisation that is incorporated for the purpose and where at least half of its members live in the neighbourhood. The provisions for “Community Right to Build Orders” apply the same to parished and non-parished areas.

“Neighbourhood Development Orders” will have to go through the process of inspection and adoption including approval by referendum. The local Planning Authority will be able to charge the parish council or community forum or organisation for costs. Regulations will make provision for levying charges and the Government will be able to make grants to meet these costs.

Neighbourhood Planning is one of the Government’s key policy objective’s delivered by the Act. It is seen as streamlining planning, replacing targets for housing and alike with locally driven motivation for new house building aligned to the new homes bonus and other developments. However, the Government have already had to respond to allegations that their proposals will bring about development of “green belt” land. In practice, “Neighbourhood Development Orders” that involve controversial plans for new development, including housing, are not likely to be less controversial just because they are promoted by a parish council or community organisation.

It may be that some proposals for neighbourhood planning come forward, however, notwithstanding the localism claim of the provisions of the Act, any parish council or community organisation will have to manage their way through a mass of Government Regulation and bureaucracy to get their “Neighbourhood Development Order” approved. They will also have to meet the costs, and there can be no certainty that any Government grant would meet the full costs.

7.7 Addressing the Act in Rotherham

Given the cross-cutting nature of this legislation, the Council has taken a co-ordinated approach to assessing the issues arising whilst the Bill was passing

through parliament. This has involved a series of reports and members seminars to highlight the provisions and enable early discussions, including with parish councils and the voluntary & community sector.

There will continue to be a whole Council approach now that the Act has been passed, facilitating detailed reports and briefings to be made in the New Year in a co-ordinated way. Within a timetable of measures these will include:

- Detailed reports to Cabinet Members on the issues arising within their portfolio;
- Reports to Standards Committee;
- Reports to Cabinet as required;
- Reports to Scrutiny as required;
- A further programme of members' seminars, this time each one focussing on part of the Act; and
- Information sessions for managers.

The timing of some reports will be dependant on the publications of further details in Orders; Regulations; and Guidance.

8. Finance

There will be financial implications arising from the proposals in the Act. The most critical is likely to be the arrangements for any increase in Council Tax. The provisions for Council Tax have commenced from 3rd December but it is not yet clear when they will fully take effect. However, transition provisions are being made for the financial year beginning on 1st April 2012.

There could also be considerable costs if the Council were required to undertake several procurement exercises in accordance with the provisions under "Community right to challenge". There will also be costs associated with maintaining of a list of "assets of community value" and associated functions. The Government has given a commitment to comply with the "new burdens principle" whereby they will fund additional costs arising from any new requirements placed on local authorities. There has not yet been any indication that additional money is likely to be received by the Council to fund additional costs arising from the Act.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Whilst the Act sets out detail in respect of many of the provisions, and there is certainly far more detail than was set out in the original Bill, there are still a significant number provisions for the Secretary of State to determine the detail, and to make changes to the detail, by Orders and Regulations. This provides a degree of uncertainty until such Orders and Regulations are published.

The programme of reporting will mitigate any risks arising from the uncertainties by ensuring that fully detailed reports are made in a timely manner, providing for informed decisions in good time.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Government's policy direction is driven by its statements about the "Big Society", pushing powers to communities and doing away with big government. This is reinforced by the Government's policies on public service reform, The Open Public Services White Paper, setting out the objective for non-public providers to run schools, hospitals and council services such as maintaining parks, adult care, special schools and roads maintenance. The Government also clearly believes that local communities will drive the planning process, bringing forward proposals to shape their neighbourhoods; including the building of new houses, tempted by the receipt of "New Homes Bonus".

The provisions of the Act do not directly impact on the objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan. There are some policy and strategy requirements, especially in relation to Planning and Housing. The Council may also wish to review policies around community engagement; partnership working; and commissioning in light of the provisions of the Act. There will also need to be amendments to the Council's constitution.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Localism Act 2011 (c. 20)

The Localism Act 2011 (Commencement No. 1 and Transitional Provisions) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011 2896 (C. 103))

LGiU Essential Policy Briefing Localism Act: Community Rights

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Community Development, Equality, and Young People's Issues Delegated Powers
2.	Date:	16 th January 2012
3.	Title:	Rotherham Compact update
4.	Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary

To update Members on developments with the Compact and seek endorsement for the adoption of the revised Rotherham Compact based on the National Renewed Compact.

6. Recommendations

Elected Members are asked to:

- 6.1 Adopt the revised Rotherham Compact and Introduction to the Rotherham Compact based on the National Renewed Compact.**
- 6.2 Note that there will be a programme of awareness raising within the Council.**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 What is the Rotherham Compact?

The Rotherham Compact is an agreement between public sector organisations who are members of the Local Strategic Partnership and voluntary and community organisations in Rotherham (referred to collectively as the voluntary and community sector: VCS). It sets out commitments on both sides to improve the way in which public organisations and the VCS work together for the benefit of communities and citizens.

The Compact enables the public sector and the VCS to get the most out of partnership working by meeting their respective commitments.

Implementing the Rotherham Compact will help partners to achieve:

- Equity in relationships
- Informed policy decisions, based on the expert knowledge of groups working directly with local people
- More appropriate funding that more closely reflects the needs of users
- Progress towards a more equal society, by identifying and tackling inequality and discrimination
- Value for money.

A local Compact dispute resolution procedure was approved in July 2011.

7.2 Revised local and national Compact

During 2010 a number of local Compacts, including the Rotherham Compact, were updated to take account of the revised national Compact, which simplified, clarified and did away with some duplication. It now consists of three sections:

- involvement in policy development,
- allocating resources and commissioning, and
- achieving equality

Following the change of government in May 2010 the Coalition Government published a Renewed National Compact, together with a supplementary document entitled 'The Compact Accountability and Transparency Guide', in December 2010 after a national consultation exercise.

The substance of the renewed national document remained unchanged, and did not necessitate a major revision of the local compact. Voluntary Action Rotherham has produced a Rotherham Compact (Appendix 2) and an Introduction to the Rotherham Compact (Appendix 1), based on the text of the Renewed National Compact, and it is recommended that this is now adopted as the Rotherham Compact. Paragraph 19.7 has been updated to reflect the

recent change which removed the requirement to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

A programme of awareness raising will be developed within the Council to ensure wider knowledge and understanding of the Compact and compliance with Compact principles.

8. Finance

None arising directly from this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Future guidance is awaited following the reviews of the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) and the broader criminal records regime, which has implications for paragraph 19.7 regarding a single check covering more than one volunteering position. There is also uncertainty over funding for CRB checks which may impact on future provision of free checks.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

As in paragraph 7 above.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Introduction to the Rotherham Compact (Appendix 1)
Rotherham Compact (Appendix 2)

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