

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**22nd January, 2016**

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Beck, Cowles, Hamilton, Hughes, Mallinder, Pitchley, Reynolds, Sansome, Julie Turner, Whelbourn and Wyatt.

**82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**83. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

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

**84. SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

Further to Minute No. 111 of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 24h April, 2015, consideration was given to a report presented jointly by the Council's Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Manager/Safer Rotherham Partnership Manager and by Chief Superintendent Jason Harwin (Rotherham District Commander, South Yorkshire Police), providing an update on the structure and governance of the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

The Board also received a presentation about the Safer Rotherham Partnership's performance against priorities and also the Rotherham Policing Model. The presentation highlighted the following matters:-

- in response to criticism written in the report by Louise Casey, about the role of the Safer Rotherham Partnership, a cross-agency task and finish group had been commissioned to undertake a review of the Partnership;
- the agreed Purpose and Vision document (appendix 1), the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board's Terms of Reference (appendix 2) and the revised Structure and Governance Chart (appendix 3) were all included with the submitted report; there was now much improved joined-up working between the various agencies;
- the review has provided clarity on the role and responsibilities of the Safer Rotherham Partnership in terms of dealing with Child Sexual Exploitation, which is a significant priority for the Partnership;
- work is currently taking place to develop an 'Outcomes Based Accountability Framework' for the Safer Rotherham Partnership; this work is being supported by Children and Young People's Services, with workshops facilitated by consultants David Burnby and Associates; a report on the outcome of this process is expected to be available at the end of February, 2016;

- as a consequence of budget reductions, there is limited capacity for policing at electoral Ward level; however, a process of automated access to information is being developed; there was a record of crime data and mapping for each electoral Ward area;
- the importance of the Case Identification Meetings (CIM meetings) was emphasised, as well as the use of social media by the Police;
- information had been widely disseminated about the Rotherham Policing Model, including roadshows at meetings of the Area Assemblies;
- work had been undertaken to reduce and manage anti-social behaviour, which was now at its lowest level for five years;
- rates of criminal damage had been increasing and the fear of crime and of violent crime was still present;
- Domestic Violence is another priority of the Partnership and has received increased scrutiny;
- the Partnership monitors the provision of support for victims;
- the priorities of the Safer Rotherham Partnership in 2015/16 are:-
  - reduce the threat and harm to victims of child sexual exploitation;
  - reducing the threat and harm to victims of domestic abuse, stalking and harassment, honour-based abuse and forced marriage;
  - reducing and managing anti-social behaviour and criminal damage;
  - reducing the risk of becoming a victim of serious acquisitive crime;
  - improving confidence and trust;
  - improve the feeling of safety.
- Councillor Sims is now the Chair of the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board.

During discussion, Members raised the following salient issues:-

- : discussion of the difference between the old and the new structure of the Safer Rotherham Partnership; the improved accountability and higher profile strategic role alongside other agencies and partnerships; attendance and representation by senior-level officials; better allocation of resources; new appointment of a senior level manager within the Borough Council with responsibility for community safety; better links between local area meetings and strategic meetings; improved analysis and scrutiny of the performance of both the Borough Council and of the South Yorkshire Police;

- : the CIM system has been very helpful, especially in terms of the sharing of information; the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) role is very important as the 'visible' Police presence; in April 2016, Police officers will begin the trial of the use of the hand-held devices for recording information, reducing the need to return to a Police station to complete reports;
- : the 101 Police telephone service, although useful, is hampered by delays and by a lack of response; the importance of the public in having confidence in the Police response; the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner has commissioned a review of the 101 telephone service and the technology used; Members requested a report on the outcome of this review (it was noted that such report would be considered first by the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel); Members were invited to inform the Police of any known examples of difficulties with the 101 telephone service;
- : Members questioned the method of appointment of the consultants David Burnby and Associates; it was noted that this Company had a good track record of working with Police organisations;
- : a question was asked about the process of the review of a domestic homicide, which will be taking place;
- : the South Yorkshire Police is undertaking a process of locality planning, which may involve the Council's Area Assemblies;
- : it was considered that the PCSO system does offer value for money and allows for the provision of additional resources whenever an incident demands them, as well as good reaction and response times to incidents; the overall importance of community policing was emphasised;
- : Members asked whether the ease of reporting forced marriages and honour-based violence may be improved, as there may be a link with child sexual exploitation; it was acknowledged that this is a national problem; the Police does have a system of 'third-party' reporting; the South Yorkshire Police has dedicated officer for these issues; hate crime is investigated; support work is available from the voluntary sector; domestic violence is at the core of child protection (as highlighted in the report by Professor Alexis Jay); the Improving Lives Select Commission has recently undertaken a scrutiny review of domestic violence;
- : the revised Police structure allows for a 'five-team' pattern, providing round-the-clock coverage, including weekends; an explanation of the shift-work pattern was provided;

: Members suggested that every endeavour be made to improve Police response times to the various incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour.

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

(2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board notes the progress made by the Safer Rotherham Partnership during 2015, including:-

(a) the review of the Partnership's structure and governance arrangements;

(b) the Partnership's performance against priorities;

(c) the new 'Policing Model' which had been introduced in October 2015;

(3) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board shall receive a year-end report on the Safer Rotherham Partnership at the meeting of the Board scheduled to take place on Friday, 27th May, 2016.

(4) That a progress report on the operation of the South Yorkshire Police 101 telephone service be submitted to a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in six months' time.

## **85. BUDGET 2016/17 TO 2017/18 - CONSIDERATION OF SAVINGS PROPOSALS**

Further to Minute No. 78 of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 15th January, 2016, consideration was given to a report of the Head of Policy, Improvement and Partnership, entitled "Budget 2016/17 to 2017/18 – Consideration of Budget Savings Proposals and Forecast Financial Implications of Adult Social Care Development Programme (referred to this Board from Commissioner S. Manzie's meeting held on 7th January 2016). Appended to the report was a summary of the forecast financial implications of the Adult Social Care Development Programme (totalling £9.18 millions). The various budget proposals for Adult Social Care were:-

- Focused Enablement Service – review of in-house service (reference was made to the continuing discussions with the trades union representatives); Members also discussed the Shared Life Scheme, organised on a national basis;
- Developing alternative provision for In-house Learning Disability residential care and respite care;
- Review all high cost Learning Disabilities residential care placements – Members discussed the need to ensure value for money and the

need to reduce the cost of these packages; there are regular case reviews and it is important to assess the costs of service provision during those reviews, in the light of a client's changing needs;

- Developing alternative community based services to Day Care for Older People;
- Increase capacity in local communities – review of all supporting people contracts for the provision of housing related support;
- Review Adult Services Management and reduce by two posts. Reduce Adults Training budget by 15% and review Assessment and Care Management teams;
- Review in-house day care for Learning Disabilities. The Board suggested that community assets were very important in terms of the provision of Adult Social Care and a list of such assets would be prepared.
- Review provision of in-house residential and intermediate care for Older People advocacy. Reference was made to the Age UK report on the network of support for older people.

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

(2) That the revenue budget savings proposals for Adult Social Care, as now detailed in the submitted reports, be accepted and referred for further consideration by the Commissioners and by the Council.

(3) That a report detailing the availability of community assets in each electoral Ward of the Borough be submitted to a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board within next three months.

**86. CYPs BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30TH NOVEMBER, 2015**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services, stating that, as part of its performance and control framework, the Council is required to produce regular reports for the Directorate Leadership team and advisors to keep them informed of forecast financial performance on a timely basis such that where necessary, actions can be agreed and implemented to bring spending in line with the approved budget for the financial year. The submitted report contained details of spending against budget by the Children and Young People's Services Directorate covering the first eight months of the 2015/16 financial year, April 2015 to November 2015, as well as the forecast costs and income to 31st March, 2016. Members' discussion of this report highlighted the following salient issues:-

- Children’s Safeguarding costs – the increase in costs, with high numbers of children in residential care and some in out-of-authority placements;
- Post-abuse support for victims of child sexual exploitation; even though victims may be adults, the cost of support is met from the Children and Young People’s Services budget;
- Foster care and family placements;
- Social Workers - agency staffing and employment costs are much higher than for permanent employees;
- the Social Worker recruitment campaign;
- the importance of the Early Help Services;
- closure of children’s homes – the outcome of the review of residential care will be reported to Commissioners and to Elected Members from February 2016 onwards;
- longer term budget projection - affordability of services balanced against the need to protect children, in a way which means that the Borough Council moves out of intervention (forward planning over five years).

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

(2) That the following recommendation, as contained in the report now submitted, be supported by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:-

To re-affirm the Directorate Leadership Team Resource Management Group will drive forward actions which are already in place (without causing any significant adverse impact on service delivery):

- An ongoing review of vacant posts to determine which can be ‘frozen’;
- A review of agency and interim staff contracts to determine if any planned end dates can be ‘brought forward’;
- A review of the financial commitments assumed in the forecast to determine if any are overstated;
- Continue negotiations with partners about commissioning and joint levels of funding;
- Tight control of non-staffing budgets;
- Implement any 2016/17 budget savings proposals at the earliest appropriate opportunity (i.e. subject to clearance through

appropriate approval mechanisms) both to guarantee full year effect of the saving in 2016/17 and contribute to mitigating the forecast overspend in 2015/16;

- consider further measures which may be implemented to help mitigate the current forecast overspend for 2015/16, and
- Implement a scheme of delegation that is 'fit for purpose' to allow for appropriate budget controls and compliance with deadlines for the submission of monthly budget monitoring returns.

(3) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board notes:

- The basis, including caveats, on which the current forecast is based;
- The Children and Young People's Services Directorate Leadership Team Resource Management approach to budget control and efficiencies;
- The implementation a 'fit for purpose' scheme of delegations to allow for the timely submission of budget monitoring returns each month to inform the Directorate's financial monitoring position.

(4) That a further report detailing the specific budget pressures in respect of the Authority's Looked After Children be submitted to a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in two months' time.

#### **87. RESPONSE TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY**

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Planning Policy Manager, concerning the Council's suggested response to central Government on proposed changes to national planning policy. A copy of the suggested response was appended to the submitted report.

The report stated that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in March 2012, set out the Government's planning policies for England, and how they are to be applied. The Framework reinforces the central role of local and neighbourhood plans in the planning system. It promotes sustainable development, and the protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment.

During December 2015, the Government published proposed changes to national planning policy. The deadline for consultation responses is 22nd February, 2016. The consultation sought views on some specific changes to national planning policy. Changes are proposed in the following areas:

- Broadening the definition of affordable housing, to expand the range of low cost housing opportunities for those aspiring to own their own home;
- Increasing the density of development around commuter hubs, to make more efficient use of land in suitable locations;

- Supporting sustainable new settlements, development on brownfield land and small sites, and delivery of housing allocated in plans; and
- Supporting the delivery of starter homes.

Members discussed the following issues:-

- emphasising the 'brownfield first' approach, in terms of the use (and re-use) of land for future development;
- the importance of affordable housing and Council-owned (social) housing;
- further detail is required in respect of the protected characteristics as defined in the Equalities Act 2010

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

(2) That the Council's response to the consultation on proposed changes to national planning policy (attached as an appendix to the report) be endorsed, subject to the inclusion of the 'brownfield first' emphasis and referred for further consideration by Commissioners and by the Advisory Cabinet, prior to its submission to central Government before the consultation deadline of 22nd February 2016.

## **88. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS INTO CAR PARKING IN ROTHERHAM TOWN CENTRE**

Further to Minute No. 30 of the meeting of the Improving Places Select Commission held on 25th November, 2015, consideration was given to a report presented by Councillor Beck (Chair of the Improving Places Select Commission) concerning the work of that Select Commission's Task and Finish Group into car parking in the Rotherham town centre. The report stated that the purpose of the Task and Finish Group's preliminary investigation is to provide:-

- (i) recommendations to the Advisory Cabinet and to the Commissioners on car parking in the Rotherham town centre; and
- (ii) information and recommendations to the Improving Places Select Commission to inform discussion on whether a detailed review is required.

Members noted that the range of differing priorities across the various Council Directorates was hindering the formulation of a clear line on parking provision and currently the Council had no overall written policy for car parking. It was considered important that the views of all town centre businesses should be sought on this matter, which would be considered further by the Improving Places Select Commission, at its meeting to be held on 24th February, 2016.



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

(2) That the recommendations of this preliminary investigation, as contained in the report now submitted, be supported.

(3) That the report be forwarded to the Government-appointed Commissioners and to the Advisory Cabinet for further consideration.

**89. ISSUES REFERRED FROM THE AREA ASSEMBLIES**

There were no issues to report.

**90. YOUTH CABINET/YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES**

Planning meetings continue to be held with the Youth Cabinet, in advance of the Children's Commissioner Take-over Day meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, scheduled to be held on Tuesday 23rd February, 2016.

**91. WORK IN PROGRESS**

**Improving Places Select Commission:-**

Councillor Beck, Chair of the Improving Places Select Commission, reported on the progress of the Select Commission's Task and Finish Groups (Waste Management and Litter and Fly-tipping) and on the Select Commission's recent consideration of the Rotherham town centre masterplan.

**Health Select Commission:-**

Councillor Mallinder, Vice-Chair of the Health Select Commission, referred to the risk assessments for the 1.8% efficiency savings for providers of Public Health commissioned services considered by the Health Select Commission, together with the continuing monitoring of the impact of service changes. The Select Commission had received a report, at its meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016, from the Public Health team and questions had focused mainly on Sexual Health Services. The Rotherham Foundation Trust is still working on the detail as they are reviewing the use of the Sexual Health clinics and demand patterns. The Rotherham Foundation Trust is also considering the savings through management costs in the 0-19s programme, vacancy management and oral health promotion and is confident that the savings will be achieved with minimal negative impact.

**92. CALL-IN ISSUES**

Further to Minute No. 117 of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 24h April, 2015, Members noted that, with the imminent return of decision-making powers to the Council's Executive (Cabinet), the call-in arrangements are to re-commence in respect of scrutiny of such Executive decisions by Elected Members. It was also noted that decisions made by the Government-appointed Commissioners continue to be outside the scope of the call-in arrangements.

**93. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are to be held as follows:-

- Friday 12th February 2016 – scrutiny of the Council's 2016/17 budget proposals;
- Tuesday 23rd February 2016 – Children's Commissioner Take-over Day meeting;
- Friday 26th February 2016 – scheduled meeting.